

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
11th December 2025 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Dan White, Keith Hambly, John McEntee (Chair), Phil Howard, Simon Collins, and Amanda Taylor

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

Items were taken out of order from the agenda.

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Peter Rhodes, Anna Mearns, and Matthew Rice.

3. Absent

No Councillors were absent.

4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

(a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

Cllr Anna Mearns has a written request for dispensation in relation to the Millennium Wood for four years (expires September 2027). Cllr Amanda Taylor has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field, Stoke St Michael Community Events and Stoke St Michael Woodland Group for four years (expires January 2028)

(b) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5. Public Session.

There were three members of the public in attendance.

A representative of a haulage company requested that the hedges along Green Lane be trimmed to allow large vehicles to pass safely. Councillors agreed to speak with the local landowners regarding this matter. It was also noted that, following the reopening of the road after the collapsed culvert, the numbers of large vehicles using the route has not returned to the levels seen in previous years.

Two residents addressed the Council regarding access to Yellowgate following the approval of the reserved matters application. Several issues were raised, which were subsequently considered under agenda item 10(g).

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report on enforcement, planning, staffing and finance within Somerset Council.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th October and 23rd October 2025, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 16th October and 23rd October 2025, these were signed by the Chair.

8. **Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the next meeting, they may be considered.**
- (a) **2025/1911/FUL** For the existing mobile home on site for an essential rural worker, to be made permanent, erection of a hay barn and erection of an additional foaling stable. Land at 364927 147210 Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** This was considered under delegated authority and the recommendation was to leave the decision to the Planning Officer.
 - (b) **Appeal APP/E3335/W/25/3375181 – 2025/1607/PIP** Erection of a detached bungalow. Land at The Hollies, Tadhil Lane, Stoke St Michael. **To Note** No further comments were submitted by the Parish Council.
9. **Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council.**
- (a) **2024/1441/REM** Application for approval of Reserved Matters in respect of the Erection of 45 no. dwellings, landscaping, infrastructure and associated works pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 2020/0580/OTS. Land South of Fairbanks, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.
 - (b) **2025/1686/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use as mixed use of land for commercial and private equestrian and residential uses. Sycamore Farm, Stud Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have stated the development is not lawful.
10. **To Be Resolved / Discussed**
- (g) **Following the Planning Board Meeting on Tuesday 2nd December and the approval of the reserved matters, members of the parish Council have now been asked to consider matters they wish to be included within the Construction Management Plan (CMP) for Yellowgate.**
The Council considered the matters to be included within the Construction Management Plan (CMP). These included a vehicular route to and from the site, a requirement that all operatives' and visitors' vehicles be parked within the site, with all loading and unloading carried out on site. Wheel-washing facilities are to be provided, and adjoining roads always kept clean. Operating hours are to be restricted to between 8.00am and 6.00pm, with deliveries limited to between 9.30am and 2.30pm due to the proximity of the school and to avoid peak opening and closing times. In addition, a named contact and telephone number must be provided to enable any concerns to be reported.
 - (a) **To Note the amended Constitution from Stoke St Michael War Memorial.**
The Council **NOTED** the amended Constitution from Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.
 - (b) **Proposal to approve the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk.
 - (c) **To consider any further action on the clearance of Moonshill Green and improving the area of open space.**
This was deferred to the next meeting.
 - (d) **To note the report written by Cllr Anna Mearns following the public consultation regarding the repairs to the culvert.**
The Council **NOTED** the report written by Cllr Anna Mearns and agreed it could be forwarded to Somerset Council and various other parties.

(e) To consider appointing another company to complete the repairs to the roof on the Lychgate due to several postponements.

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Jackson & Dix Roofing to carry out the repairs to the roof on the Lychgate at a cost of £8,394.00 including VAT.

(f) To note the Section 106 agreement for Yellowgate.

The Council **NOTED** the Section 106 agreement for Yellowgate. Cllr Keith Hambley will contact the S.106 officer at Somerset Council for further information.

11. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a)** Update on the Emergency Plan Working Group. **Update** Cllr Phil Howard gave a verbal update. Contacts have now been received and will be added to the plan for approval at the next meeting.
- (b)** Quotes for tree works to be carried out at Moonshill Close have not been received, these will be chased.
- (c)** A social media post was published asking residents to keep Moonshill Green clear, the Council may wish to consider any further action that might be required. There have been no responses although several complaints have been received by email.
- (d)** The faulty gate between Stoke Hill and the Community Field has been reported again to Somerset Council, no response as when the repair might be carried out has been received. A notification was received on the 12th of November saying the stile had been cleared and the issue was now closed.
- (e)** Update on the Safer Routes for HGV's meeting held on 28th November and the LCN Transport Meeting held on 13th November. **Update** Cllr Simon Collins provided a verbal update. Somerset Council is in the process of preparing a Local Transport Plan, which will be subject to public consultation prior to approval. Beacon Crossroads was discussed, as the issues there affect several parishes. Local MPs are being lobbied to reinstate the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, with the aim of redirecting these funds towards road improvement costs.
- (f)** An email was received thanking all members of Stoke St Michael Parish Council for all the work they do trying to ensure the village is a safe and tidy environment for residents and visitors.

12. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 4th December 2025

Unity Current Account – £2,282.44

Unity Savings Account – £52,849.94

Consideration of the Draft Budget

The draft budget was considered and options will be brought back to the next meeting for approval. The Council also noted that the Precept will now be split into two payments – monies to be received in April and September.

Payments

(a) War Memorial Hall – Hall Hire - £45.00

(b) SALC – Councillor Training - £25.00

(c) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges – October and November - £12.00 – pd by DD

(d) Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £772.12

(e) Clerks Salary October and November - £797.84

(f) Somerset Council – emptying of bins – 30p – underpaid

(g) Auto Speed Watch – Annual renewal of the licences - £360.00

To note Following a discussion it was resolved to only renew the licence for one camera as the second one is currently faulty. Cost for one licence is £214 including VAT

(h) Ionos – Website Hosting – October and November - £27.60 – pd by DD

Transfers

(i) Transfer for £5,000 from the Reserves Account to the Current Account.

The Council **RESOLVED** the above payments and transfer from the Reserves Account to the Current Account.

13. Correspondence

(a) Councillor Training – events being held over the winter months – forwarded 05.11.25

(b) Briefing Sheet for Parish and Town Council from Somerset Council – forwarded 05.11.25

14. Matters to report / items for next agenda

There were no matters to report or items for the next agenda.

15. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 15th January 2026 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

16. Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

17. The Council RESOLVED Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(a) To consider raising the SCP points for the Clerk

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the SCP points for the Clerk.

Meeting closed 9.47pm