

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
15th January 2026 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Dan White, John McEntee (Chair), Phil Howard, Peter Rhodes, Matthew Rice, Anna Mearns, 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 Simon Collins and Keith Hambly

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 two members of the public in attendance. Requests were made regarding the reduction of the hedges in Green Lane to allow for large vehicles to pass safely, help with addressing the flooding issues and some dumpy bags of grit to be deposited to help during icy weather. Cllr Anna Mearns will report the flooding to Somerset Council. A form was handed out to Councillors enabling residents to report any heavy goods vehicles causing issues whilst driving through the village, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal update on the financial situation at Somerset Council, the possible increase in council tax and a further government grant. Additional staff have been appointed to the enforcement team at Somerset Council along with a new head of Planning.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2025, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2025 as a true record, these were signed and dated 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) 2026/0037/FUL** Retrospective application for the extension of a solar site. Land at 366731 146471, Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael.

Due the late receipt of the above planning application, any recommendations will be made under the Scheme of Delegation approved in December 2025.

9. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council.

There were no responses in relation to planning applications to be noted from Somerset Council.

10. To Be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) To consider the Parish Council Budget for 2026-2027**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2026-2027.

- (b) To consider the Precept for 2026-2027**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the precept for 2026-2027 at £31,125.

- (c) To consider any Ear Marked Reserves for 2026-2027**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Ear Marked Reserves for 2026-2027.

- (f) To consider contacting the owner of the hedge along Green Lane to obtain permission to reduce the height of the hedges and to obtain quotes to carry out the works.**

The owners of the hedges have agreed to cut back the hedges in February following a couple of hedge laying courses.

It was also mentioned that during the recent public consultation information was omitted stating some roads within the village have a 7.5 weight limit in place, with an exception for access. The council would like to apologise for this omission.

- (d) To consider any further action on the clearance of Moonshill Green and improving the area of open space.**

The new rubbish bin is currently being installed and should be complete by the weekend. The location will be submitted to Somerset Council to be added to the weekly emptying of rubbish bins within the village. Cllrs Anna Mearns and Matthew Rice will talk to residents about future ideas for Moonshill Green and put together a questionnaire. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

- (e) To consider the quotes for tree works on Moonshill Green – still awaiting quotes.**

Quotes for the works have not been received. Cllrs John McEntee and Matthew Rice will speak to other potential tree surgeons and report back at the next meeting.

- (g) To consider removing the speed camera on Mendip Road as it is currently not working and the licence has not been renewed.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to remove the speed camera on Mendip Road, although the sign will remain. Cllrs Simon Collins and Peter Rhodes will look at the camera to see whether it can be repaired, it will then be placed in storage with the aim of possibility installing it at another location in the future.

11. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a)** Following a request received in July from the developer regarding the naming of the new properties on land to the south side of Frog Lane, including a suggestion of “Whitstone Park,” residents were consulted via social media and at community events. Two alternative names, “Fosse Meadow” and “Harridge View,” were subsequently submitted to the developer. The developer has confirmed that “Harridge View” has been selected as the official address for the new properties.

12. Finance**Bank Balances as at: - 8th January 2026**

Unity Current Account – £5,407.58

Unity Savings Account – £48,137.17

To note the Quarterly Budget Review

The Council **NOTED** the quarterly budget review.

To consider the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation up to 31st December 2025

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation up to 31st December 2025, it was signed by Cllr Matthew Rice.

Receipts

(a) Unity Trust Bank – Quarterly Interest – £287.23 – received 31.12.2025

Payments

(b) Stoke St Michael War Memorial – hall hire - £88.50 (two invoices)

To Note: Woodstock Homes will be contacted to cover the cost of hiring the hall for the Public Meeting on 5th February.

(c) SLCC – Annual Membership – £50.56

(d) Clerks Salary / Expenses – December - £418.60

(e) Ionos – Website Hosting - £13.80 – pd by DD

(f) Unity Trust Bank – Monthly bank charges - £6.00 – pd by DD

13. Correspondence

Councillor Training Events Winter 2026 – forwarded 23.12.25

14. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) Following the notification of a potential housing development off Fosse Road.

Woodstock Homes will be holding a public meeting on Thursday 5th February starting at 6pm. This will include an introduction to Woodstock Homes and details on the proposal. Time will be allowed for questions and answers. This will be published via the Parish Council Facebook Page and posters on the noticeboards.

(b) Jackson Roofing have informed the Council that the repair to the roof on the Lychgate will commence on the 5th February with the scaffolding being erected on the 2nd of February.

15. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 26th February 2026 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 8.41pm