

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
Thursday 2nd April 2026 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Dan White, John McEntee (Chair), Anna Mearns, Peter Rhodes,
Simon Collins, Phil Howard, and Amanda Taylor

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Keith Hambly 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 no members of the public in attendance.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th February 2026, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th February 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.

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

(a) To note the changes in how planning appeals will work from April 1st 2026. From 1st April 2026, new Planning Inspectorate guidelines will apply to all planning applications. Appeals will normally be decided by written representations, with hearings only if the inspector considers them necessary, and decisions will be based only on the information originally submitted to the council, no additional information or comments will be accepted.

- (b) **2026/0069/HSE** Demolition of existing side extension and erection of single storey side and rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer. 3 Moonshill Close, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (c) **2025/1911/FUL** Retention of existing mobile home on site for rural worker, erection of a hay barn and foaling stable. Land at 364927 147210 Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (d) **2026/0037/FUL** Retrospective application for the extension of a solar site. Land at 366731 146471 Burgess Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** The application has been withdrawn.
- (e) **2026/0111/APP** Application to discharge conditions 14 (Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Scheme), 18 (Disposal of Foul Drainage), 22 (Contamination Investigation and Risk Assessment) and 23 (Remediation Scheme) on planning consent 2020/0580/OTS (Outline planning permissions for the residential development of up to 47 dwellings, public open space, ecological mitigation land, landscaping, and associated works with access from Coalpit Lane (all other matters reserved)). Land South of Fairbanks, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (f) **2026/0362/APP** Application for approval of details reserved by condition 17 (Surface Water) on planning consent 2020/0580/OTS. Land South of Fairbanks, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (g) **Appeal APP/E3335/W/25/3375181 (Planning Application 2025/1607/PIP)** Erection of a detached bungalow. Land at The Hollies, Tadhill Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** The appeal was dismissed.

10. Grants

(a) Grant Application from Stoke St Michael Events Group for £180.00

A representation from the Events Group arrived and was invited by the Chair to speak about the grant. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant to Stoke St Michael Event Groups for £180.00.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To consider and approve the price list for the Cemetery for 2026.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the updated price list for the Cemetery for 2026.

(b) To consider the report on moving the website to a.gov.uk domain, creating a new website and new councillor emails.

The Council **RESOLVED** to commission a new Parish Council website, to be produced and hosted by Parish Online. The new website will operate under a new domain name – stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk.

(c) Proposal to set aside a separate evening for the Annual Parish Meeting and to discuss the format.

A range of ideas were considered, and the Council agreed to organise a meeting on Saturday 9th May from 10.00am to midday. Local community groups will be invited to attend and host a table to showcase their activities and services. Refreshments will be provided.

(d) Approval of the Community Emergency Plan.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Community Emergency Plan. Copies will be emailed to Councillors and a statement put on the website stating it will be available upon request.

- (e) **Members are asked to consider whether the implementation of Trief Kerbs within the village may be worth investigating and discussions started with Somerset Council as permission would be required.**

Information will be available at the meeting on the 9th May with ideas.

- (f) **To consider the report on Community Car Share Scheme and whether the Parish Council would like to run a scheme.**

Information will be available at the meeting on the 9th May asking for volunteers to take this forward.

- (g) **To consider the quote for the building of the new stone bridge on Millennium Green.**

Various companies were contacted for a quote but due to the specialist work only one company responded. The Council **RESOLVED** in principle to appoint SK Conservation Limited to dismantle the existing bridge structure and build a new bridge structure in accordance with drawings at a cost of £20,149.00 + VAT. The timescale is to be discussed as it is required for the item below.

- (h) **To approve an application to Somerset Council for consent to work on an ordinary watercourse, cost £50.00.**

The Council **RESOLVED** in principle to apply to Somerset Council for consent to work on an ordinary watercourse at a cost of £50.00. A time frame is required first as this is required within the application.

- (i) **To consider the report and approve the recommendation to move the accounts across from a spreadsheet to an accounting system.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to move the accounts across from a spreadsheet to an accounting system. The Council **RESOLVED** to use Scribe Accounts with a one-off setup fee of £299 and £37 per month. Once installed the accounting system will be used for the financial period 2026-2027.

Cllr Amanda Taylor left the meeting at 8.37pm.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) Update from Anna Mearns on Traffic Management within the Parish. **Update** There are currently no updates.
- (b) Residents are asked to forward any incidents at Beacon Crossroads to support the case in improving the junction.
- (c) Update from the survey to Moonshill Close and to note any responses received. **Update** Only a couple of responses were received, further responses will be requested at the meeting on 9th May. The unwanted items on the green have now been removed.
- (d) The Parish Council would like to thank Al Stewart for replacing the hinge on the gate to the playing field.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 25th March 2026

Unity Current Account – £5,916.37

Unity Savings Account – £33,137.17

To note the end of year Budget Review

The Council noted the end of year Budget Review; the minor changes were noted as it was published before the end of the financial year.

To approve the end of year Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the end of year Bank Reconciliation.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £229.59 – received 31.03.2026,

(b) Exclusive Memorials Ltd – Burial Fees - £154.00

Payments

(c) Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall – Hall Hire - £46.50

(d) Clerks Salary and Expenses – March - £418.60 – pd 27.03.2026

(e) Somerset Council – Emptying of Bins (Oct-Dec)- £631.80 – pd 04.03.2026

(f) Somerset Council – Emptying of Bins (Jan-March) - £631.80 pd 25.03.2026

(g) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges February and March - £12.00 – pd DD

(h) Ionos – Website Hosting - £13.80 – pd DD

(i) Jackson & Dix – roof repairs to the Lychgate - £9834.00 – pd 10.03.2026

(j) Amanda Taylor – refund for printing of leaflets - £25.00

Transfers

(k) Transfer of funds from the reserve account to the current account £15,000 – transferred 10.03.2026

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the receipts and payments above and also **RESOLVED** to approve the additional payment below.

(l) SALC – Annual Membership - £455.04

To note the items 13 (e) and (i) were approved by the Chair and Vice Chair via email between meetings to ensure the payments were made during the financial year 2025-2026. 13 (f) was received on 20.03.2026 and was set up as a payment by the RFO to ensure payment was made during the financial year 2025-2026.

14. Correspondence

(a) Somerset Council Briefing Sheet for Parish and Town Councils March 2026 – forwarded 02.03.26

(b) SALC Councillor Training Events Spring 2026 – forwarded 02.03.26

(c) March Newsletter from SALC – forwarded 06.03.26

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Cleaning of the bus shelter.
- (b) Additional litter bin within the village

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 14th May 2026 starting at 8.00pm, to be held at the. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall. This will follow the Annual Council Meeting which will start at 7.30pm.

17. 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.

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 the encroachment of vehicles on to Parish Council land.

The situation will be monitored.

Meeting closed 9.04pm