

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
26th February 2026 starting at 7.30pm

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

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)

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

Cllrs John McEntee and Keith Hambly requested a dispensation regarding item 10(a). The dispensation was granted to allow them to speak but not vote.

5. Public Session.

There were three members of the public in attendance. Questions were raised about Millennium Wood, as this belongs to Stoke St Michael and is separate to the Parish Council. Cllr Anna Mearns spoke to them, contact details were exchanged and a meeting was arranged to discuss the issue.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke provided a verbal report covering several key issues. He raised ongoing concerns about the condition of local roads and encouraged continued reporting and persistent follow-up with officers at Somerset Council to ensure matters are addressed. In relation to finance, he acknowledged the challenging budget position but confirmed that the Council has received a further capitalisation grant from national government, with council tax capped at 4.99%. He also confirmed that funding has been secured for bus services and that a previous proposal to cancel certain routes has been reversed. A means-tested Hardship Fund remains available, alongside grant funding running until the end of March, and a Health and Wellbeing Fund offering grants of up to £1,000 available until the end of September. Finally, he referred to proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), currently out for consultation and expected to become local legislation, under which smaller planning applications will be determined by planning officers under delegated powers, while developments of between 10 and 50 dwellings will be referred to planning boards for decision.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2026, previously circulated.

The paragraph for Item 10(c) was amended; the new paragraph will be added to the formal minutes. Following the amendment the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th January 2026 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. **Recommendation** This was considered under the scheme of Delegation and the recommendation was to recommend approval.

(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. **Recommendation** This was considered under the scheme of Delegation and the recommendation was to recommend approval.

(c) SCC/4079/2023, SCC/4080/2023, SCC/4081/2023, SCC4082/2023 SCC4079/2023B. Planning Applications relating to the Extension of Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael. The above application will be reported to the Planning Strategic Committee on 19th February 2026, starting at 2pm at Somerset Council, The Council Offices, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet. The Planning Committee will be run as a hybrid (virtual/physical) meeting meaning that, while Planning Committee Members will need to attend in person, members of the public can join virtually. If you wish to attend the committee in person, please arrive at the reception area at least 10 minutes before this starting time so that you can be seated before the meeting commences. If you wish to attend virtually, please notify Democratic Services so they can send you the link for the meeting and admit you on the day. A request to speak must be made to the Council's Democratic Services team no later than 5pm two clear working days before the committee meeting by email to democratic@somerset.gov.uk or by telephone on 01823 357628. For those speaking to object or support the proposal, the speaking slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If there are numerous members of the public wishing to speak in one slot it is advisable to decide for one person to make a statement on behalf of all. The meetings are hybrid and you can speak either in person at the meeting or virtually. If you wish to speak at the meeting virtually, please inform Democratic Services so that they can advise you of the details. If you have registered to speak, the Chair will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting. **Update** All five applications were approved by Somerset Council,

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

(a) 2025/1377/LBC Replace existing tiles to ground floor extension. Raise existing parapet by 250mm. Remove section of stonework and install a cavity tray with weep holes and rebuild cavity wall with removed stone. Remove 2 existing windows to the kitchen and replace with double glazed timber units. The Manor House, Church Street, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

- (b) **2025/1377/HSE** Replace existing tiles to ground floor extension. Raise existing parapet by 250mm. Remove section of stonework and install a cavity tray with weep holes and rebuild cavity wall with removed stone. Remove 2 existing windows to the kitchen and replace with double glazed timber units. The Manor House, Church Street, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (c) **APP/E3335/W/25/3373901** Planning Application 2025/0100/PAA Prior approval for the change of use of 3 agricultural buildings, land to 3 dwellinghouses. Mendip Farm, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Although the Council's officer report is dated 19 March 2025, the Decision Notice is dated 3 April 2025 and issued accordingly. The decision was therefore issued after the 56 days application period had expired. As the Council did not provide the written notice within the prescribed timeframe set out in Paragraph W.(11)(c) development could commence.
- (d) **2025/1670/HSE** Replace the existing tiles to the ground floor extension. Raise the existing parapet by 250mm. Remove a section of stonework and install a cavity tray with weep holes and rebuild the cavity wall with the removed stone. Remove two existing windows to the kitchen and replace with double glazed timber units. The Manor House, Church Street, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

10. Grants

(a) **Grant application from Stoke St Michael Woodland for £2,000**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from Stoke St Michael Woodland for £2,000.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) **To consider approving the Community Emergency Plan – due to the size paper copies will be brought to the meeting.**

This was deferred as Cllr Phil Howard was not in attendance.

(b) **To consider adopting the form provided by haulage companies to report any heavy goods vehicles causing issues whilst driving through the village.**

It was felt that the form was too detailed, A social media post will be created and pinned to the top of the Parish Council Facebook page.

(c) **To consider the leaflet to be delivered to the at Moonshill Close about how the green can be used in the future**

Cllr Amanda Taylor will create a professional leaflet and print 100 copies. Cllr Anna Mearns will deliver the leaflets around Moonshill Close.

(d) **To consider the Asset List as at 31st March 2026.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Asset List as at 31st March 2026. Members of the Community Field queried the insurance amount for the pavilion; this will be investigated and updated if necessary.

(e) **To consider the quote from J Murtagh Tree Services to carry out tree Work at Moonshill Green. Cost to reduce the maple by approx. 30% and crown lift over road. Crown lift Lime tree over road - £450 + VAT.**

Two further quotes were received on the day of the meeting, these were discussed by the Council. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from J Murtagh Tree Services to carry out tree work at Moonshill Green.

- (f) **To consider the quote from Somerset Council for the emptying of the rubbish and dog waste bins within the village at a cost of £3380 + VAT.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from Somerset Council for the emptying of the rubbish and dog waste bins within the village at a cost of £3380 + VAT. The Council considered going out for tender at the end of the year for 2027-2028.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) **Update from Cllr Simon Collins on the LCN Meeting held on 26th January 2026.**

Cllr Simon Collins was not in attendance. Cllr Anna Mearns provided a verbal update on the Safer Routes for HGV meeting held on 19 February. She reported that the Local Government Association (LGA) has called for a ban on the use of car satellite navigation systems in articulated vehicles. This forms part of a national initiative to address ongoing issues with HGVs being directed along inappropriate routes by standard car sat nav systems, which are not designed to account for the size and weight restrictions of larger vehicles.

- (b) **Flooding issues on Green Lane were reported to Somerset Council, reference number 867827**

- (c) **The new bin has now been installed at Moonhill Green, it has been added to the weekly schedule for emptying by Somerset Council.**

- (d) **Somerset Council will be carrying out some work in the valley along to Cookwood. A remote flail will be deployed to cut back the brambles.** The work has now been completed.

- (e) **Update from Cllr Amanda Taylor following a meeting with the Wainwright Futures Foundations Trustees regarding help with funding to build a stone bridge on the Millennium Green.**

Following a meeting between Cllr Amanada Taylor and Wainwright Futures Foundations Trustees, a grant has been secured to fund the construction of a new stone bridge on the Millennium Green. This matter will be brought to the next meeting for approval of the quotation received.

- (f) Due to the weather repairs to the roof at the Lychgate have been delayed, as soon as the weather improves works will continue.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 12th February 2026

Unity Current Account – £4,873.62

Unity Savings Account – £48,137.17

Receipts

- (a) Woodstock Homes – hall hire for cancelled meeting - £43.50 – received 28.01.2026

Payments

- (b) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges - £6.00 – pd by DD 31.01.26

- (c) SLCC – Annual Membership – additional payment - £28.44

- (d) ICO Annual Membership - £47.00 – pd by DD 03.03.26

- (e) Clerks Salary and expenses – January and February 26 - £918.41

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and receipts and pre-approved the following payment to fall within the financial year 2025-2026

- (f) Clerks Salary and expenses – March 2026

14. Correspondence

- (a) Draft Minutes from the Shepton LCN Meeting held on 26th January 2026 – forwarded 05.02.2026
- (b) Somerset Council Briefing Sheet for Parish and Town Councils February 2026 – forwarded 05.02.2026

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Encroachment of vehicles onto Parish Council land
- (b) Traffic Management Update

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2026 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.05pm