

# Stoke St Mary Parish Council

---

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Stoke St Mary Parish Council held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at Stoke St Mary Village Hall at 7.30pm

---

**1. Attendance and Apologies:**

**Members Present:** Cllrs Colin Fisher (Chair), Dan Fallance, Patricia Fallance (Vice Chair), Rob Hossell, Tania Watt

**In attendance:** Sarah Fisher (Clerk) – [stokeparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:stokeparishclerk@gmail.com)  
Cllr Sue Buller (SWT)  
Cllr Sarah Wakefield (SCC)

**Apologies:** None received

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None received

**3. Minutes of the last meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were APPROVED as a correct record and signed by the Chair

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were APPROVED as a correct record and signed by the Chair

**4. Finance**

**a) Balances (as at 10/03/2023):**

Current a/c: £2126.52 Confirmed by Cllr Watt

Deposit a/c: £7789.07 Confirmed by Cllr Watt

**b) Expenditure approval:**

- |      |   |                 |
|------|---|-----------------|
| i.   | SALC (Somerset Assn Local Councils) Essential Clerk Training (3 part) | £90.00 APPROVED |
| ii.  | SSM Village Hall hire inv 1024 10 hrs                                 | £70.00 APPROVED |
| iii. | Roy Rogers light on defibrillator repair                              | £44.00 APPROVED |

**c) Authorisations:**

The Parish Council APPROVED the purchase of a projector, up to the value of £160

**d) Earmarking Reserves:**

It was RESOLVED that earmarking of reserves should be completed at the May Parish Council meeting, alongside approval of end of year accounts.

Clerk to research best practice guidelines for earmarking

Minutes from Stoke St Mary PC 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed..... Date:.....

**5. Clerk's report/action from previous meeting:**

**a) Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported on options for refresher training for villagers. The Parish Council APPROVED funding of £240 for a three-hour session, preferably on a Saturday afternoon in May/June. Clerk to organise.

**b) Allotments**

The Clerk reported that both allotments were now let.

The Parish Council APPROVED one tenant's request to bring a dog on to the allotments. The use of the grant of £450 offered (as reported in the Parish Council meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023) was further discussed and it was RESOLVED that this should be used towards clearing the site. Clerk to progress.

The Parish Council APPROVED spend of £210 to meet the difference between the grant and the cost of refurbishment.

The Parish Council also APPROVED some remedial works proposed by the new tenant, provided those works were done in consultation with the Clerk and other tenant, and provided the costs were met by the tenants.

**c) To update on Platinum trees**

The Clerk reported that both trees had been planted on the cricket ground near the pavilion

**d) The Annual Parish Meeting**

It was RESOLVED that this would take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30pm, at the Village Hall. It was agreed that the agenda would focus on topical issues such as 20mph speed limit, Higher Broughton Farm (and possibly A358/Taylor Wimpey)

**e) The Annual Parish Council Meeting**

It was RESOLVED that this would be held immediately before the May Parish Council Ordinary meeting, at 7pm on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Village Hall.

**f) Update on Risk Strategy and Publications Scheme**

The Clerk reported that most key documents are now available on the SSM Community Website. A Risk Strategy and Publications Scheme will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

**g) Road Closure on Stoke Road, Pattens area**

The Clerk reported that a road closure in the Pattens area of Stoke Road will commence on Weds 5<sup>th</sup> April. Airband, who are carrying out the work, have informed us that they hope to finish the work on Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April, but if not, they will return after the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. Residents will be able to come and go as a barrier will be operated. Access for emergency services will be permitted.

Minutes from Stoke St Mary PC 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed..... Date:.....

## 6. Reports from Parish Council Portfolios

### Chair

**Local Community Networks (LCNs)** – Chair reported that the first meeting is likely to take place in May.

### Cllr Rob Hossell/Chair

**20mph speed restrictions** – It was reported that a request for 20mph speed limit (for Shoreditch, Haydon and Stoke St Mary) had been submitted to Cllr Mike Rigby but the reply received was similar to previous requests, requiring monitoring and expenditure on monitoring.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Watt would prepare a business case for 20mph.

Cllr Wakefield reported that Cllr Rigby is currently reviewing Council policy on speed limits in order to make it easier to implement 20mph restrictions. This is expected end April.

As it is clear that Somerset Council do not have resources to fund 20mph speed limit changes, funding will fall to local fundraising. It was RESOLVED to focus on the subject of 20mph at the Annual Parish Meeting. A petition to raise support for 20mph was discussed. Cllr Wakefield reported that Somerset Council may have flashing speed cameras available for loan and will investigate.

### Cllr Rob Hossell

**A358** – Cllr Hossell reported that the postponed Development Consent Order (DCO) will delay the whole programme for at least a year

### Cllr Pat Fallance/Cllr Dan Fallance

**Rights of Way** – a vehicle has been abandoned on the bridleway from Stoke St Mary church to Stoke Hill. A wooden post to prevent vehicle access from the top of Stoke Hill was discussed and will be considered at the May meeting.

**Playpark** – Cllr Dan Fallance confirmed he is preparing a sign warning against abusive behaviour, and that a sign barring dogs from entering the playpark has been erected

**Village Hall** – Cllr Dan Fallance reported that faulty exterior lighting is being investigated. Cllr Watt is looking at preferred social events for the village.

Cllr Dan Fallance suggested that “Horse Rider” warning signs be erected in the village, given the high number of riders. It was agreed that this would be considered as part of the wider 20mph/traffic management campaign.

Cllr Dan Fallance confirmed that the Village Hall would be made available free of charge for the Coronation Celebrations, subject to confirmation of the dates/times.

Minutes from Stoke St Mary PC 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed..... Date:.....

**7. Planning**

**Higher Broughton Farm** - Cllr Hossell reported that the application for change of use has been withdrawn by Savills. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would seek to engage with Savills following consultation with villagers at the Annual Parish meeting.

**Application no.s 37/23/0001 & 2** – replacement of no5 windows and doors at Aplens  
SUPPORTED

**8. Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Buller (SWT) reported that the business of SWT is winding down. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Buller for all her help and support during her term of office, and wish her well.

Cllr Wakefield reported that funding for grit bins will continue.

Cllr Wakefield reported that Somerset Council are in urgent need of volunteer drivers  
Cllr Wakefield reported that the planning application on Haydon Barn Farm will go to Committee.

(Cllr Wakefield left the meeting at 9.10pm)

**9. Adoption of Financial Regulations**

The Parish Council ADOPTED the draft Financial Regulations document, with minor amendments to be made at the May meeting.

It was also RESOLVED to;

- Give Clerk “read only” access to the two Parish Council Natwest bank accounts
  - Give Cllr Watt transactional access to the two Parish Council Natwest bank accounts
- Clerk to investigate Fidelity insurance

**10. Coronation Celebrations**

The Parish Council APPROVED a request from the Coronation Committee for a donation of £200 towards events. To be paid during current financial year.

**11.** Cllr Pat Fallance was confirmed as Chair of the Staffing Committee

**12. Clerks Hours** – as contracted

**13. Parishioners Forum** – no Parishioners were present

**14. Dates of next meetings:**

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting -Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Minutes from Stoke St Mary PC 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed..... Date:.....