

# Stoke St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Stoke St Mary held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, at Stoke St Mary Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

**Apologies:** None received

**In attendance:** Cllr Sarah Wakefield (Somerset Council) (SC)  
22 Members of Public (MOP)

1. The Chair welcomed all present
2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** (11<sup>th</sup> May 2023) were approved

**3. Review of 2023/24.**

Cllr Hossell and the Chair gave a slide presentation, covering;

- A358
- Taylor Wimpey
- Higher Broughton Farm Barns
- Traffic/speed management.

A copy of the presentation may be found on the village website; [stokestmary.info](http://stokestmary.info)

**Discussions arising from presentation:**

- Cllr Wakefield reported that SC will campaign for a bypass for Henlade if the A358 project is cancelled
- With reference to the proposed development by Taylor Wimpey at Ruishton for 150 homes (Brookfield Nursery), an MOP highlighted the issue of the absence of a 5 Year Land supply plan, and that without this, developers are able to promote developments which would normally be outside the local plan. Cllr Wakefield noted that the lack of a 5 Year land supply plan was a result of the phosphate ruling, and that the government will not allow SC to reduce the amount of land made available for development
- An MOP raised the issue of a recent planning application relating to the erection of a grain/machinery store on Taylor Wimpey land. The Parish Council will consider this at the next meeting (16<sup>th</sup> May 2024).
- An MOP questioned the Parish Council's pace of progress with regard to speed reduction and traffic management through the village
- There was an extended discussion about potholes and the state of roads generally. It was agreed that the Chair should organise an audit of road conditions using local people with local knowledge. Three volunteers came forward. Anyone willing to participate in this should contact the Clerk, in the first instance, at [stokeparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:stokeparishclerk@gmail.com)

**4. Issues facing the parish 2024/25**

The following issues were also covered as part of the slide presentation (3 above) which can be found on the village website; stokestmary.info;

- Play area - presentation of proposed redevelopment
- Local Community Networks (LCNs)
- Devolution

**Discussions arising from presentation:**

- Following her presentation about the development of the play area, Liz Fothergill appealed for volunteers to fill vacancies that exist on the Parochial Church Council, Parish Council and Village Hall Committee
- The Chair thanked Liz Fothergill and members of the Play Area Working Party for their hard work in securing funding, and for progressing this project.
- LCNs – the Chair reported that two working parties had been established within our LCN (18); Environment and Traffic & Roads, and that these groups are open to all (not just Councillors) and encouraged residents to get involved as they are an effective way to bring about change. Details of LCNs meetings are available on the SC website: [Local Community Networks \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://LocalCommunityNetworks(somerset.gov.uk))  
Cllr Wakefield pointed out that an equivalent LCN scheme in Wiltshire has taken five years to work well so we needed to be patient.

**5. Parishioners Forum**

- An MOP raised concerns about work to the bungalows in Church Close. Cllr Wakefield reported that she had met on site with the Foreman to discuss the work and delays. Delays were caused due to further problems discovered during the work, and agreed that communication with residents could have been better.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wakefield for all her hard work.

The Chair thanked all present for attending and the meeting closed.

*Signed:* .....(Chair)      *Date:* .....