

Stoke St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Stoke St Mary Parish Council held on Thursday, 21st March 2024, at Stoke St Mary Village Hall at 7.30pm

Public Session

A local tenant farmer wished to comment on items 23.89e) and 23.76, and made the following points;

- His vehicles could not exceed 24mph, which is well within the 30mph speed limit
- Damage to side of roads was inevitable due to having to negotiate parked vehicles
- He had cleared the recent landslide on Broughton Lane

And further, highlighted there is no right of way through Higher Broughton Farm Barns, and asked that parishioners be reminded of this. He reported that the Crown Estate/Savills will be erecting a fence to address this.

The Chair thanked him on behalf of the community for clearing Broughton Lane.

23.80 Attendance and Apologies

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

Apologies: Cllr Rob Hossell (accepted)

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Wakefield (Somerset Council)
Sarah Fisher, Clerk
One member of public

23.81 Declarations of Interest – Chair ref Item 23.89c and 23.92

23.82 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th January 2024, were circulated in advance of the meeting and these were approved and signed by the Chair.

23.83 Finance

a) Balances (as at 15/03/24):

Current a/c: £136.79

Deposit a/c: £32,617.24

Cllr Watt confirmed these balances as correct.


b) Expenditure approval:

None.

23.84 Play Area

Cllr Watt reported on a meeting between the Play Area Working Party group (PAWP), and Proludic, a potential contractor. Proludic are due to provide more detailed costings.

Successful grant applications will meet the cost of the project. The Parish Council congratulated Liz Fothergill and members of PAWP for raising the funding for this.

Signed:  (Chair)

Date: 16/5/24

The meeting was suspended at 8pm to receive an update from Cllr Sarah Wakefield;

1. Somerset Council (SC) will not declare bankruptcy financial year 2024/25 thanks to capitalisation directive which enables disposal of duplicate assets and commercial investments
2. Key services that affect the Parish under devolution is in Highways, where SC will be at best reactive, rather than proactive, in dealing with problems. Suggested we prepare an audit of services which can be taken to LCNs.
3. Has met with Contract Officer at Church Close to discuss roofing work. Delays caused by discovery of asbestos and rotted timbers. Project now progressing. Agreed that communication with residents could have been better.
4. Cllr Wakefield to identify our Village Agent for Stoke St Mary.
5. Cllr Fallance highlighted inadequacies of pothole repairs.

The meeting resumed:

23.85 Website

The Parish Council voted in favour of the Clerk's recommendation to develop a new website with Parish Online, as per paper circulated with the summons to the meeting. Anticipated delivery end 2024.

23.86 Devolution of Services from Somerset Council (SC)

This was discussed above with Cllr Wakefield.

23.87 To adopt Safeguarding policy

The Parish Council ADOPTED the draft Safeguarding policy document circulated with the summons to this meeting. This will be published on the website.

23.88 To adopt Equality and Diversity policy

The Parish Council ADOPTED the draft Equality and Diversity policy document circulated with the summons to this meeting. This will be published on the website.

23.89 Clerk's report/action list from previous meeting:

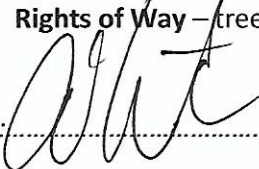
- a) Defibrillator/1st aid training – ongoing
- b) Resolved to transfer £500 from Reserve a/c to Current a/c until precept received
- c) Request by allotment tenant to erect shed and/or green house approved
- d) Format for Annual Parish Meeting (9th May) to cover key issues facing village; devolution/A358/Taylor Wimpey/Higher Broughton Farm/play area
- e) Complaint about damage to roads caused by agricultural vehicles – Clerk to correspond with resident.

23.90 To receive reports from Parish Council Portfolios

Chair – 1. Local Community Network (LCN); focussing on two areas – Transport & Highways, and the Environment. Working groups set up for both and will report to next LCN meeting. **2. A358;** reported that A358 project is believed to have been cancelled, but this has not been confirmed by National Highways. **3. Higher Broughton Farm –** Savills agent who met with Chair and Cllr Hossell has now moved on.

Cllr Dan Fallance – Village Hall will co-operate with Parish Council over access/parking during works on play area. **Police –** continue to receive regular updates, mostly about agricultural crimes. **Highways –** landslide in Broughton Lane, see Public Session above.

Rights of Way – tree down on T26 13 bridleway, this has been reported

Signed:  (Chair)

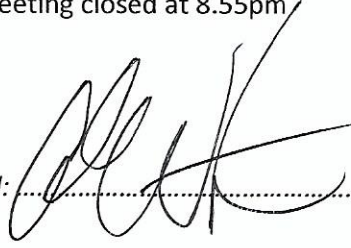
Date: 16/5/24

23.91 Planning – no new applications received since last meeting.

23.92 Clerk's hours
Nothing to report

23.93 Date of next meetings:
Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday, 9th May at 7.30pm
Annual General Parish Meeting – Thursday, 16th May at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: (Chair)

Date: 16/5/24