

Stoke St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Stoke St Mary Parish Council held on Thursday, 18th July 2024, at Stoke St Mary Village Hall at 7.30pm

24.23 Attendance and Apologies

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

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Wakefield, Somerset Council (SC)

In attendance: Sarah Fisher (Clerk)

There were no Members of Public (MOP) present

24.24 Declarations of Interest – none

24.25 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2024, were circulated in advance of the meeting and these were approved and signed by the Chair.

24.26 Finance

a) Balances (as at 12/07/24):

Current a/c: £5095.13

Deposit a/c: £45,361.66

Cllr Watt confirmed these balances as correct.

The In Year Finance Report for 1st Quarter 2024/25 was received and reviewed.

b) Expenditure approval:

- | | | | |
|------|---|--------------|---|
| i. | Parsons Landscapes (17431 & 17486) | 291.69 | APPROVED |
| ii. | Somerset Assn Local Councils (SALC) training
'Cllr Refresh/Update' | 120.00 | APPROVED |
| iii. | SALC training 'Cllr Essentials' | 28.00 | APPROVED |
| iv. | Sainsburys, refreshments for APM
(spent under LGA 1972 S111(1)) | 22.70 | APPROVED |
| v. | Parish Online – new website/emails | 216.00 | APPROVED |
| vi. | Shoreditch speed limit reduction | 3200.00 est; | APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE,
to be negotiated by Cllrs Hossell and Graeme Watt. From allocated reserves. |

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

- a) **Website development/gov.uk Cllr emails** – development of website by Parish Online complete, but requires some further work by Clerk, hoping to go live early September. Log in details for new email addresses circulated to Cllrs.
- b) **Removed litter bin (opposite village hall)** – Somerset Council will replace but there may be some delay and it is unlikely to be like-for-like
- c) **Register of Interest forms** – Clerk now holds forms for all Cllrs
- d) **SALC training** – Clerk reported that three Cllrs were unable to attend booked training sessions (24.26ii above) so an element of fees wasted. Those Cllrs will seek to complete training on future dates.
- e) **Overhanging Shrubs Church End/opposite Horse Chestnuts Riding School** – MOP has contacted the Clerk about overhanging shrubs opposite drive to Horse Chestnuts Riding School (larger vehicles pulling out to avoid, presenting risk to oncoming traffic). The land is

- believed to be Highways responsibility (not privately owned). Cllr Graeme Watt will liaise with MOP about setting up a working party to tackle (and see **24.32** below)
- f) **Risk Strategy** – held over from last meeting. Cllr Graeme Watt is reviewing this document, in conjunction with **24.32** below. Agenda item for September meeting.
- g) Clerk to email Cllr Wakefield (SC) for update on ex Taunton Deane Nursery
- 24.28 Play Area Maintenance/Inspection** – Cllr Dan Fallance volunteered to take on maintenance of play area, post development, with, potentially, involvement from a third party - Cllrs Tania Watt and Dan Fallance to liaise. Clerk to ask SALC re next training sessions on playground maintenance.
- 24.29 To discuss the Half Moon Inn** – agreed to monitor and review at next meeting
- 24.30 To adopt new Financial Regulations** – adopted. Will be published on website.
- 24.31 To consider whether to adopt a Biodiversity Policy** – PC considers current safeguards in planning policy sufficient, but Chair will appeal to MOPs with a view to forming Biodiversity Group for the village.
- 24.32 To consider whether to adopt a Volunteer policy** – Volunteer policy considered necessary given upcoming devolution of services from SC to PC. Cllr Graeme Watt presented draft policy /framework, which was approved, and this will be trialled and developed further using shrub clearance work near Church End, see **24.27 e)** above. Draft version of framework will be posted on website. PC approved provisional budget of £500 towards Volunteer activities, to come from earmarked Devolution reserves. Volunteer activity to be standing agenda item.
- 24.33 To receive reports from Parish Council Portfolios**
- A358/Taylor Wimpey/Local plan** – Cllr Hossell reported no further updates
- Nexus 25** – Clerk to confirm with Cllr Wakefield (SC) that Local Development Order has been extended.
- LCNs** – next LCN meeting Mon 22nd July. Cllr Graeme Watt has joined Transport & Highways Group
- Higher Broughton Farm Barns** – Chair and Cllr Hossell met with Savills and Crown Estate earlier in July to hear about new proposals for the site – 2 x 2 bed dwellings, 2 x 3 bed dwellings and 2 x bungalows, with potential transfer of some land to PC. PC welcomes the proposals and looks forward to receiving more detail, at which point a Parish meeting will be called.
- Rights of Way** – complaint received from MOP about footpath between Watery Lane and Cherry Grove. SC due to clear in next few weeks (as part of annual maintenance programme).
- Traffic & Highways incl road audit** – Cllr Graeme Watt reported potholes in all SSM roads now repaired by SC, except section of Stoke Road between church and Haydon junction. Cllr Graeme Watt to follow up with SC on outstanding repairs. Cllr Dan Fallance volunteered to digitise the recently produced road audit.
- Village hall** – Cllr Dan Fallance reported the Village Hall Committee disputes that the Jubilee Garden is owned by Village Hall as there is no record of transfer, and suggests that maintenance should be jointly shared by Village Hall and PC.
- Police** – Cllr Dan Fallance reported some criminal activity, mostly agricultural crimes.
- Play Area Redevelopment** – Cllr Tania Watt confirmed first phase (main tower and swing set) due to be installed early August (assuming no problems with customs etc)
- Play Area maintenance/inspection** – see **24.28** above. ROSPA annual inspection completed but report not yet received.

24.34 Planning

Application no 37/24/0007T - Application to fell one maple and one rowan tree and to carry out management works to two hornbeams, one oak and one damson tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Stoke St. Mary No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2001 at Greystones, Stoke St. Mary (TD911) AMENDMENT - SUPPORTED

Application no 37/24/0008 - Conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation and erection of 3 No. single storey extensions to the front and both sides of Ballacraire, Ash Road, Stoke St Mary - SUPPORTED

Application no 37/24/0009 – Erection of a single storey link extension between house and barn at Tuckers, Stoke Road, Stoke St Mary - SUPPORTED

Application no 37/24/0010/LB - Erection of a single storey link extension between house and barn at Tuckers, Stoke Road, Stoke St Mary - SUPPORTED

24.35 Clerk's hours

Nothing to report

24.36 Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 19TH September 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:(Chair)

Date: