

Rodney Stoke Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs H Marshall 3, Barrows Park, Cheddar BS27 3AZ Tel: 07423283940

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council Community Orchard Committee held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 14th May 2026, at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden and Massey. Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk. 0 members of the public were present.

005.1 Apologies for absence: None

005.2 Declarations of Interest: None

005.3 Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Orchard Committee held on 23rd April 2026, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and unanimously approved.

005.4 Updates: Members were very pleased to learn that the **grant from the Somerset Association of Local Councils health and lifestyle team** has been awarded in the amount of £1500 and a further grant through the **Somerset Community Foundation from Mendip Hills National Landscapes** for £1000 has been received.

005.5 Quotes for the pathway and central island: 4 quotes had been sought. 3 quotes were discussed, including that edging may be added at a later date.

Resolution: The work was awarded to G Sheldon. Unanimously agreed.

Subject to confirmation that edging can be added at a later date, and that the quote is still valid, Cllr Sealey will arrange for the work to commence as soon as possible.

005.6 Plaques dedications: The dedications were approved as submitted, subject to inclusion of the type of tree and 'apple tree' etc. The Clerk is to submit the order.

005.7 Monoliths were discussed, the clerk is to resend the regulations to Cllr Massey, it was agreed that a map of the orchard should be included and that Oak was a good choice of material. The drafts of the layout and wording were supported. Final arrangements for the number and type of boards will be agreed when the path, benches and second phase of planting are completed.

005.8 Benches: Cllrs Bullen and Dearden will investigate and try out benches. Metal benches were preferred, with a facility to include a plaque for sponsorship. The length and siting of the benches will be agreed when the hard standing is in place.

005.9 Clearance of brambles: The use of chemicals was discussed but not supported. It was agreed that cutting and strimming was preferable and should be continued until the Autumn. If necessary a topical alternative could be considered as the next step (such as Grazon 90 which kills brambles but not grasses). Cllr Sealey noted that he is licenced to spray. It was noted that mowing is helping the surface.

Resolution: The Clerk is to instruct Major Maintenance to carry out a further strim of the perimeter and bank at the agreed rate. Cllr Sealey will cut the grass with a topper. Further treatment will be reconsidered in the Autumn.

005.11 Financial review including grant fund allocation:

Having discussed the accounting software with the host, the Clerk is to set up project/area grant fund reserves. The Clerk is to confirm that there will be final approval of the plaque wording, prior to payment of the invoice in advance.

005.12 Next meeting: TBA

Time of closing meeting: 8.15pm

Signed Chairman

2026