

Draft minutes of the meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 7.44pm.

**Present:** Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Dudden, Gladman, Hele Kergozou, James, McGovarin and Ward. Also present were District Councillor Wyke, the Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

**232.1 Apologies for absence** Cllrs Dollins, Haskins and Hatherell.

**232.2 Declarations of Interest:** None

**232.3 Public Participation:**

A resident thanked the Council and District Cllr Wyke for their assistance with arranging the minibus during the road closure.

A group of walkers discussed the 2 stiles identified by Cllr Gladman in his report at the Annual Parish Meeting, matters discussed included: that there are no alternative routes; it is a struggle to use the footpaths; use of the stiles with visual impairment and a dog; help to make them user friendly. The stiles have been reported to Somerset County Council footpaths officer and a response to the problem is awaited.

Chairman of the Axbridge and Cheddar Valley Sea Cadets, Baz Hamblin discussed the cadets including: the activities and training offered; high levels of qualifications achieved; the recent assessment and the anticipated rating; Mr Hamblin gave a plea for volunteers to help with the cadets and requested that his contact details be made available. A copy of the presentation is held in the Minute book.

A resident raised the problem of the condition of the road by Bridge Farm, with running water on the road. The surface is very poor and on Moor Road the surface had completely deteriorated. The problem is the pipework and the drains.

**232.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, proposed as a true record by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Gladman. Agreed.

**232.5 Matters arising from the minutes:** There were none.

**232.6 Roads Report: Reinstatement of the Parish roads following the Wells Road closure:** The Parish Council and the District Cllr have written to the operations director for highways maintenance and infrastructure urging him to progress the reinstatement and addressing points that he made in his letter to the District Cllr. The Parish Council has received very little direct contact from the utilities or Somerset County Council but continues to pursue reinstatement. **Road Closures** on Stoke Street and Honeyhurst Lane for 10 days from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April were noted. **New Road, Draycott** A number of lengths of the shoulders of the road have been mended. **Community speed watch:** there is a team of 4 in Rodney Stoke. Training is currently being arranged. **Speed Indicator Devices:** The SIDS Advisory Group reported that: they are awaiting a response regarding approval of post sites; the cost will be around £2,000 Resolution: The Council unanimously approved purchase of a machine subject to approval by the County Council. **Back Lane speed signage** request: the resident is advised to report speeding to the police as they have the power to require that roundels are installed. The Council will investigate whether a post for a SID is available to monitor the area to support the request. **Stoke Street Visibility Splay:** The County Council are considering the wood effect bollards requested and are investigating legal agreements, and access requirements for the BT box **New Road signage** a response is awaited. **Latches Lane, School Lane, Short Lane and Bradley Cross Road, Draycott and Cheddar, request to reduce the speed limit:** The Chairman is to contact Cheddar Parish Council to discuss the request. **Grit Bins** the report on the grit available was received. Subject to a change in Highways policy, a tonne will be ordered in September. **Application for verge posts, Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke:** The Chairman will negotiate with the land owner next week regarding the extent of the posts. The PCC are awaiting the decision. It was noted that Highways have already discussed the extent of the posts. **Brangay Lane, blocked drains:** The Clerk is to report the problem **Action** Clerk and Cllr Sealey

**232.7 Planning Report:** Having been circulated the report was taken as read. A copy is held in the Minute book. Enforcement: It was noted that there is a new officer at Mendip District Council. It was decided to write again regarding Honeyhurst Lane reiterating the need to enforce all elements of the appeal. It was queried whether the Council could go to the Inspector who decided the appeal as a higher authority. The Clerk is to make enquiries.

**232.8 County Council Report:** The report was submitted prior to the meeting. A copy is available in the Minute book. Matters included: Winter gritting; schools funding; Ofsted visit to Somerset County Council; Time to talk – mental health initiative; Volunteering; Special Educational

Needs provision; one stop shops for education, health and social care information; adult social care; economic boost; major road investments.

- 232.9 The Rev Cobley Playing Field:** The following matters were discussed: **Grant applications** were updated by the Clerk; a grant has been received from the Shape Community Fund. **Annual Tree Works:** Cllr Gladman will review the inspection report for outstanding works and cut back any new shoots. **A feeder** on one of the trees was discussed. The Clerk is to write requesting the feeder and ropes are removed. **Annual Safety Inspection:** Cllr Dudden proposed an amount of £450 to cover refurbishment of the swings including parts and paint be approved. The inspection is to be arranged after the works have been carried out. Cllr Hele Kergozou seconded. Agreed. The Clerk is to submit the order.
- 232.10 New Memorial Hall Report:** It was noted that there is a lot of rubbish in the hedges. This will be addressed.
- 232.11 Burial Ground Report:** The report had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 232.12 Footpath Walkers Report.** The report had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 232.13 Neighbourhood Watch** The report had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was discussed that a meeting was to be held in Cheddar due to the lack of response by police to local crime, however, it was also noted that the police had responded quickly to a problem at the Memorial Hall.
- 232.14 Somerset Association of Local Councils:** the group now has 'limited' status.
- 232.15 Environmental Issues** The report had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting
- 232.16 Emergency Planning** The report had been circulated prior to the Meeting and is available in the Minute book.
- 232.17 Community Matters: Arrangements for death of a senior figure;** access and parking were discussed. It was unanimously decided that: a condolence book should be purchased; The Clerk should enquire whether the book could be placed in St Peters Church and tributes of flowers could be left in the porch and whether the vicar could announce the arrangements in the event of a death; notices should be published in the Parish and on the website; the contact details of the Clerk should be made available. After the next meeting the Council should write to the Jubilee Committee. **Bus Stop:** The Council considered the quotes received and decided to award to works to dig out and remove the build up of soil from the site and relay the gravel to A Brumfitt in the sum of £80. A receipt for the disposal of the spoil will be requested. It was discussed this may need reviewing every few years. **The Post Office,** Draycott: The recent closure was discussed. The Council decided to write to the Post Office requesting the urgent reinstatement of the vital service as soon as possible.
- 232.18 Correspondence** was brought to the attention of the Council.
- 232.19 Newsletter items** agreed for inclusion: Elections; Sea Cadets; Village Agent; Litter Nuisance; ongoing scams alerts.
- 232.20 Finance: Statement of Accounts,** having been circulated, the March Statement was noted and the January and March statements were approved as a true record by Cllr Hele Kergozou. It was noted that the Community Council for Somerset will no longer be charging Parish Councils a membership fee.
- Payment Schedule:** the schedule was approved.

Payee	Cheque No.	Service	Amount
Childrens Hospice South West	1561	Grant	£ 40.00
Citizens Advice Mendip	1562	Grant	£ 40.00
Mendip Community Transport	1563	Grant	£ 40.00
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	1564	Grant	£ 40.00
St Margarets Hospice	1565	Grant	£ 40.00
G Jeff	1566	Newsletter Printing	£ 66.91
GWB Services	1567	Grass cutting Burial Ground/Play area	£ 310.75
H Marshall	1568	Salary Mileage February	£ 638.51
Somerset County Council	1569	Design and install bollards	£ 588.06
H Marshall	1570	Salary Mileage Expenses January	£ 727.59
A Chick	1571	Street Cleaning	£ 195.75

**231.23 Dates of future meetings:**

16<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> November **2019**

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There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.16pm

Signed ..... Chairman Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019