

Rodney Stoke Parish Council

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

Minutes

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 15th July 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Dudden, Gladman, James, McGovarin and Ward. Cllr Daynes joined the meeting following co-option. Also present was District Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 3 members of the public were present.

246.1 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Haskins, family commitment; Hele Kergozou, ill health; Dollins, ill health. The apologies were accepted. PCSO Chinnock, received after the meeting.

246.2 Declarations of Interest None

246.3 Public Participation: The new editor of the Parish Newsletter introduced himself. The applicant for the position of Parish Councillor introduced herself and discussed her background including family and work history and involvement in other organised groups.

246.4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved unanimously.

246.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: The inspection of the drain on Moor Lane has been arranged and any safety defects identified will be actioned. The Clerk is to check the status of the actions. The **surface repairs of the road on Latches Lane** has been actioned. The **dog bin on Barrow Wood Lane**, Rodney Stoke has been installed and it was noted that residents have made positive comments on social media. The benches and plinths for the childrens play area have been ordered.

246.6 Co-option to fill the 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors: An application having been previously circulated, Cllr Ward proposed Marie Daynes for the role, Cllr Gladman seconded. The vote in support was unanimous. The Chairman declared Marie Daynes a Councillor and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. Having received an agenda prior to the meeting, Cllr Daynes joined the meeting. One vacancy for the position of Councillor remains.

246.7 Roads Report: New Road, Draycott: Access to Conduit House, Rodney Stoke: issues having been raised by a resident, the Chairman reviewed problems with speeding and the difficulty joining the road, planning applications at the site and the Councils concerns, and the lack of objections from highways, the refusal of a previous request to move the speed limit, the need to reduce the signage on the roads. District Cllr Wyke noted that highways may have reviewed their approach.

Resolution: To request that the speed sign is moved beyond Bucklegrove given the increased volume of traffic joining the road at Bucklegrove and Millway; to request that a concealed entrance warning sign is added.

The Clerk is to add consideration of **the narrows, Draycott** to the next agenda; A question regarding responsibility for the **roundels on the road** was raised and answered as County Highways; **Lines painted near Hill Lane** were raised, but no information had been received;

Missed collections and inconsiderate Parking on The Street, Draycott: It was discussed that parking has contributed to missed collections. Parking, passing and safe access to the A371 are ongoing issues, access to the shop was raised and Cllr Ward will contact the shop to discuss concerns, a survey will be drafted to consider residents thoughts and views. Suggestions and options including yellow lines or a one-way street and concerns over access onto A371 will be included; **Speed Indicator Device Risk Assessment** Having been previously circulated members unanimously supported adopting the risk assessment; **Hedge at A371/Latches Lane junction** concerns had been raised by a resident. Councillors investigated and considered that the hedge did not greatly impinge visibility being well behind the pathway. The hedge will be cut back at the usual time. Members noted that the junction lines were very poor and reported the matter. County Highways have now added

them to the refurbishment schedule. **Visibility at Junction of Eastville Lane and Bay Lane** was reported and will be investigated. Should there be no action the Clerk will contact the landowner. The **hedge at Bridge Farm** was raised as being very overgrown. The Clerk is to contact the landowner. **Millway signpost:** Following investigations, the missing fingerpost cannot be found.

Resolution: Cllr Sealey proposed ordering a replacement at a cost of £375 for installation. Cllr James seconded. Unanimously agreed.

The following **road closures** were noted: **Swans Lane** 27th July 3 days, **Stoke Moor Drove**, Rodney Stoke 5th July 26 days, **Milking Lane and Back Lane** from 15th July for 5 days, **Barrow Wood Lane**, Rodney Stoke 3 days 13th July 202, **Cheddar Moor Road** 9th to 11th August (new date).

Action: Cllr Ward, Clerk

246.8 Planning: It was discussed that decisions on a few thousand applications have been held up across Somerset because of the **Phosphates and Nitrates** in water streams issue. A related **Planning consultation** on the Planning Validation List which closes on 19th July was noted. There were no comments to submit. The **report** was reviewed. There were no updates. **Enforcement: Camping and Caravan Sites:** Cllr James circulated a report on the powers available to the District Council to add, amend and delete conditions imposed on sites. The Clerk is to write to planning at Mendip to request clarification on planning permissions and licenses for sites.

Action: Clerk

246.9 County Councillor's report: No report had been received.

246.10 District Councillor's report: The following matters were discussed: The Secretary of State's decision on the **Unitary proposals** is expected before next Thursday; The **Community Grants and Green Projects grants**; Help to renew litter picking equipment; **Year-end accounts**, overspend will be taken from reserves. **Questions** were invited: Upcoming markets and festivals in Wells and a new scheme to help revitalise small businesses were discussed.

The upcoming **Parish Forum on Mendip's Community and Climate and Ecological Emergency Grants** on 22nd July was noted.

246.11 Local Government Reform: locality agreements were discussed. Mendip are inviting Councils to create local clusters to take on responsibilities or address a lack of resource or skills. No issues were raised for Rodney Stoke and will not be pursued at this time. It was noted that the majority of voters supported Stronger Somerset in local poll.

246.12 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report: CCTV Surveillance: Quotes are awaited. Concern over the temperature in the boiler room was discussed, a quote to install a vent will be sought.

Resolution: Cllr Gladman proposed that the **Annual external risk assessment** should be carried out by the Somerset Playing Fields Association again. Unanimously agreed.

Multi User Games Area The potential location was discussed, including siting away from residents homes.

Resolution: Arrangements for fund raising were delegated to the Playing Field Committee who will consult with other field users.

Beacons for the Platinum Jubilee: Local sites were discussed including Nyland Hill and Westbury. A resident will investigate the site on Nyland Hill. The Clerk is to contact the Westbury Clerk and Cheddar Clerk to enquire about arrangements and see if they need help.

District Councillor Wyke gave apologies and left the meeting.

Arrangements for a weekly litter pick following concerns raised over the volume of litter picking that is now being carried out on a weekly basis by Councillors carrying out safety inspections, a formal arrangement was discussed.

Resolution: Cllr Gladman proposed a 12-month trial contract to clear the field play area carpark and hall area on a weekly basis after the weekend. Cllr McGovarin seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Maintenance of the wildlife corridor and hedge adjacent to Cross Farm Road: Following concerns from a resident the height of the hedge and weeds on the corridor were discussed. **Resolution:** To maintain the hedge at a height of about 6ft. To request a quote from the grass cutters to trim the hedge down, remove the brambles and spray the weeds in the fence.

Brambles along the path.

Resolution: Request that the grass cutters cut back and tidy the path and access to the car park.

Youth Shelter: Following a further inspection of the shelter it was decided to seek a quote for a service and refurbishment. Grant funding will be investigated.

Action: Clerk and Play Area Committee

246.13 New Memorial Hall Report: Solar farm. A suggestion, forwarded by the hall committee, to use the land to the rear of the hall as a solar farm was discussed. Matters discussed included the life of the project, long term commitment and current use of the area.

Resolution: Cllr Gladman proposed that the matter should be taken no further. Cllr McGovarin seconded. Unanimously agreed.

246.14 Burial Ground Report: There were no interments this period. The levelling of plots has now commenced. A resident comment on how attractive the improvements to the burial ground looked were noted. No further updates on the garden of remembrance have been received.

246.15 Somerset Association Local Councils: The Queens's Platinum Jubilee Beacons were discussed in item 246.12; A **new online 'making rural housing more affordable' event**, 17th November 2021 was noted; An **invitation to participate in a survey** about rural network coverage (mobile) was noted.

246.16 Environmental Issues: the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

246.17 Neighbourhood Watch: the report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that PCSO Leann Chinnock will hold 2 further beat surgeries at the Memorial Hall on 2nd August at 12:00- 13:00 and 7th September at 12:00- 13:00. The dates are available on the noticeboards.

246.18 Footpath Walkers Report: Poisonous plants along footpaths including the path off Scaddens Lane, Rodney Stoke. The reports of Hemlock Water Dropwort at the Scaddens Lane footpath, were reviewed including responses from the agencies affected including Bristol Water, Environment Agency, Flood Management, and Highways. None of the agencies remove the plant which is not on the invasive plants list. Prior to responses from the agencies, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was decided to remove the plant from the area promptly. Initial contacts were unavailable, but a local contractor was engaged. A sign was also erected warning of the plant.

Members discussed the response from Bristol Water who note that Hemlock Water Dropwort is a common native plant and they do not kill or remove any native plants solely because they are poisonous.

Resolution: Having reviewed the response from Bristol Water, the Council will adopt a similar approach but will keep an eye out for reportable invasive plants.

Paths in Draycott a resident reported a number of complaints regarding the paths between Back Lane, The street, Wet Lane and Bay Lane. Cllr Gladman investigated and produced a condition report which was circulated to members. An item will be added to the newsletter requesting that adjacent landowners cut back overhanging vegetation. A letter will be sent to a landowner whose hedges are causing an obstruction. Members of the public should be encouraged to contact the Councillors or the Clerk directly.

246.19 Emergency Planning No update had been received.

246.20 Community Matters: Registration of The Pound as a Village Green Cllr James had circulated a report prior to the meeting. It was decided to continue the application, but not to increase the application to include a section of the path to Scaddens Lane. Concerns raised about the adjacent **bus shelter** will be investigated when the asset check is carried out. The **WI open gardens weekend on the 24th and 25th of July** was noted. **AONB works on the Brook.** The Council is awaiting confirmation of the start of the works following the exit from lockdown.

246.21 Correspondence All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council.

Further items received by the Council: **Somerset Waste:** Recycling Tracker report showing that all 137,146 tonnes of Somerset recycling in 2020-21 were recycled, most of it close or very close to home, with 97.8% reprocessed in the UK and 50.8% in Somerset itself. **Public Health leaders urge caution** as restrictions lift as Corona Virus has not gone away. **Census Output Consultation** has opened and closes on 5th October 2021 and is available via a link on our website.

Cllr James left the meeting.

246.22 Newsletter: The following **items** are to be included: Mike Kennedy has taken over as editor; thanks to Helen Dance the retiring editor; welcome new Councillor, Councillor vacancy; new dog bin; notice of the survey on The Street; cutting back overgrowth on the paths.

246.23 Statement of Accounts: The statements for July, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

246.24 Financial Report

i. **Video Conferencing Provider**

Resolution: the annual subscription will not be renewed as the Council no longer has the power to hold virtual meetings.

ii. The auditor has confirmed receipt of the **annual return**.

iii. **VAT:** The claim is now made on a payments basis which is supported by the accounting software. The reclaim for 2020/2021 has just been successfully received.

iv. **Statement of Internal Control:** This item was deferred to September meeting

v. **Resolution:** The Payments Schedule was unanimously approved.

St Andrews Press	1724	Newsletter printing	£50.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd	1725	VAT Training	£60.00
Harry Dudden	1726	Grass Cutting	£216.00
H Marshall	1727	Clerks Salary & Mileage June	£747.56
HMRC	1728	Clerks PAYE	£53.87
Glasdon UK Ltd	1729	Dog Bin	£325.93
Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd	1730	Affiliation Fees	£371.05
Probusiness	1731	Payroll Charges	£46.50
A Chick	1732	Street Cleaning	£222.75
H Marshall	1733	Clerks Expenses	£205.95
HMRC	1734	Clerks PAYE	£45.91
H Marshall	1735	Clerks Salary & Mileage July	£751.81
H Dudden	1736	Plant removal	£216.00

Action: Cllr Ward, Clerk

246.25 Dates of future meetings subject to coronavirus restrictions.

16th September, 18th November **2021**

Time of closing meeting: 9.55pm