

Rodney Stoke Parish Council

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

Minutes

Draft Minutes of the Video Conferenced Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held via Zoom on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Dollins, Dudden, Gladman, Haskins, James, McGovarin and Ward. Also present was District Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 5 members of the public were present.

244.1 Apologies for absence: PCSO Chinnock and Mr R Head

244.2 Declarations of Interest None

244.3 Public Participation A resident discussed the Speed Indicator Device (SID). He thanked Cllr Gladman and the Clerk for providing SID data. The frequency of siting the SID in the Parish was discussed. Cllr Gladman explained that the SID was moved on a rolling basis staying in each location for 3 weeks. The resident offered to help with moving the SID. Cllr Gladman explained that specialist training is a requirement.

244.4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

Resolution: Cllr Ward proposed that the Minutes should be approved as a true record, for signature at a later date. Cllr Dollins seconded. Agreed.

244.5 Matters arising from the Minutes:

- i. The Memorial Hall application to the **Somerset Climate Emergency Fund** was unfortunately not successful. The fund was oversubscribed by 3 ½ times.
- ii. **Parking Review:** the Council requested that the speed roundels, zebra crossing and the road entrance markings in the Parish are repainted.
- iii. **Ash dieback** Cllr Gladman reviewed discussions at a recent Mendip Forum. A number of local roads are closed due to removing trees suffering from Ash dieback. Landowners are asked to cut back trees with the disease within 4 years of any signs. District Cllr Wyke added that it was very serious on this side of the Mendips. A leaflet will be circulated soon.
- iv. **The roundabout** net in the play area is slow to turn. The suppliers, Kompan, have arranged for an engineer to adjust the collar. A firm date is awaited.
- v. **Water on the road, Millway, Rodney Stoke:** Highways can't put up notices warning of ice, as Millway does not form part of the precautionary salting network. However, they will arrange for the location to be inspected to determine if there is an underlying issue that requires investigating.

244.6 Roads Report: Speed Indicator Device (SID): Cllr Gladman reviewed the position in Rodney Stoke in both directions, noting the average speed was around 24mph and recommended that the Council need take no further action at this time. It was proposed that following requests to view the data, reports should be available on the website. Council reviewed the privacy implications.

Resolution: To upload SID data to the website. Unanimous.

Cllr Gladman will forward the data to the Clerk.

It was noted that Cllr Gladman has been in demand from other Councils to review the SID. Local road closures were reviewed. All details are available on the website and one.network

244.7 Planning: The **report** was updated to include: application **2021/0128** has been Granted permission; application **2021/0126** has been withdrawn.

The following **New applications** were noted:

2021/0468/FUL Erection of agricultural building for use as a fodder/machinery store & extension to an existing hard-core access driveway. Land At 347749 151410 Vicarage Lane Draycott Cheddar

2021/0501 Erection of garage 3 Smiths Close Wells Road Rodney Stoke Cheddar Somerset BS27 3XF

The next Planning Committee Meeting is on Thursday 8th April 2021.

Enforcement Update: Camping and Caravan Site, Rodney Stoke Inn The Chairman had postponed **public participation** on this item and invited the members of the public to speak. A resident raised a query regarding consultation dates. District Cllr Wyke advised that as Rodney Stoke is subject to current phosphates issues, affected applications will be paused until they can demonstrate that they can mitigate for phosphates. District Cllr Wyke was not able to advise on a specific application as she had not consulted the case officer. The resident asked who planning issues should be referred to. The Chairman responded that members of the public can raise matters with any member or the Clerk. Ideally the Cllr would be from the relevant village. District Cllr Wyke noted that you can put a tracker on applications on the District Council website. A resident discussed the static caravan. Legislation was discussed regarding the site. The Chairman reviewed guidance from the enforcement officer that the unit is permitted. Cllr James is to consult with the District Cllr regarding the legislation in the Caravan Act 1960 with a view to reviewing the situation at the site. A resident discussed speaking directly to the enforcement team; the use of the warden's accommodation; lighting issues and the planning conditions; the large drain at the bottom of the site. The Chairman requested that the Council be kept in the loop if any matters were reported. **Honeyhurst Lane:** the formal enforcement letter has been issued, with a compliance date. The **Enforcement Team** will no longer be updating on outstanding matters due to GDPR constraints. The Council will contact enforcement regularly to keep outstanding matters live. **Phosphates:** The District Cllr reviewed the situation: This is a national issue; there must be mitigation when a site is affected; The phosphate calculator informs what needs to be mitigated; Rodney Stoke is affected but the water coming out of Draycott does not flow onto the moors; planning applications that have an impact on water flowing on to the levels will be held in abeyance; human and Ramsar impacts; further information is received it will be shared with the Council.

244.8 District Council Report: Matters discussed included: the focus is on releasing staff to support vaccinations and testing; the new site in the car park behind Haskins in Shepton Mallett; the cycle path from Cheddar to Wells is now prioritised; grass cutting is to be as green as possible; @£36m in grants have been paid out during the pandemic; recovery work is being stepped up, particularly around the food and hospitality industries; the consultation on the Unitary bids is open. A question was answered: The Council is working with the Chamber of Commerce.

244.9 County Council Report: The latest report had been circulated and a copy was placed in the Minute book.

244.10 Local Government Review: Cllr James will attend a local Councils meeting hosted by St Cuthberts Out Council and will attend the SALC Local Government Reorganisation Event on the 7th April.

Resolution: The Council discussed the Unitary proposals including the size of the County and unanimously decided that at this stage the Council supported the Stronger Somerset proposal.

Cllr James and the Clerk are to respond to the Government Consultation.

244.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Field: The **Covid 19 risk assessment** was reviewed. No changes were recommended. **CCTV surveillance** Having been consulted, the Hall Committee and the Football Club supported surveillance at the site to combat vandalism and improve security. A further incident of damage to the football viewing structure was reported. Neither the Football Club nor the Playing Field Committee will be able to contribute to costs. Cllr Gladman is to liaise with the Chairman and Clerk to seek 3 quotes for consideration and to apply for funding. The system should have 4/5 cameras, a storage device and protection for the cameras. District Cllr Wyke noted a Community Fund to be launched in May, which it may be worth applying to. **Request for a further bench in the Play Area** Members felt that it would be a good idea to install 1 or 2 further benches as many families use the area. The Clerk is to seek quotes for metal benches. The latest **inspection rota** was noted as circulated.

Action: Cllr Gladman and the Clerk

244.12 New Memorial Hall Report: The hall will remain closed until 17th May, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Safety checks on the fire alarms and registration as a small lottery have recently been completed.

244.13 Burial Ground Report: There were no interments this period and no update was received on the Garden of Remembrance had been received from the Diocese; The new **grit bin** has been installed; All headstones are now in satisfactory condition.

244.14 Somerset Association Local Councils: Cllr Ward and the Clerk will be attending the **VAT training** in April, which was postponed last year.

244.15 Neighbourhood Watch: the report was circulated prior to the meeting. PCSO Chinnock also reported two incidents in the Parish: a Road Traffic Collision and a Road Related Incident being untaxed, no Mot & no insurance on a vehicle being used within the village. The police continue to patrol the village when on duty. PCSO Chinnock has been issued with an electric bike to carry out some cycle patrols around the villages. Residents are advised to continue to call in if they need help.

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

244.17 Footpath Walkers Report: Dolmeads Lane Following a complaint about the footpath, Cllr McGovarin investigated and gave a report. It was felt that the path has improved and is adequate for its purpose. Beyond the gates it is unmade but adequate. No further action will be taken at this time. **Rights of way review:** members discussed the points raised: It was felt that there were no rights of way missing or lost over the years and no response will be made. It was raised that a **stile on Butts Lane** is deteriorating. The stile has previously been reported. A **footpath** off Honeyhurst Lane impeded by loose dogs was raised. Cllr Gladman is to report the matter.

244.18 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins reported that the plan should be up and running in the summer.

244.19 Community Matters: Flagpole for The Pound: Further to previous discussions it was proposed that residents be invited to comment on the project by placing an item in the newsletter. The draft policy is to be made available on the website. Responses will be considered at the next meeting. Unanimous. **Registration of The Pound as a Village Green:** Cllr James reported that very few applications of this sort are made. The process would initially be to apply and put up notices. Cllr James is to progress the application and will advise Council of the next step. Cllr James and the Clerk are to investigate the land registry for registration of the bus stop. **Brambles at The Pound** were cut back this year, but will need repeated cuts.

Resolution: Request that these are cleared annually as part of the grass cutting at the Pound

Draycott First School and School Numbers: A member of the public had raised concerns over school numbers but gave their apologies for the meeting following further developments. The resident may contact the Council at a later date. The matter was not discussed. **Annual Parish Meeting:** The meeting will take place **in the Memorial Hall on the 20th May 2021** followed directly by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk is to confirm the booking.

244.20 The Council policies Having been previously circulated, and being available on the website, the policies including the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders, were reviewed. No revisions or updates were recommended.

Resolution: Unanimously approved.

District Cllr Wyke left the meeting.

Statement of Internal Control The requirement from the Internal Auditors for a policy stating the Councils procedures was discussed. Cllr Ward is reviewing a draft document which will be distributed to the Council for consideration at the next meeting.

244.21 The asset register, produced using the new Accounting Software, was reviewed. The register has been updated to include the grit bin at the Burial Ground and the signage at the play area; the replacement dog bin on Milking Lane and the noticeboard in the church were also updated on the register.

Resolution: Unanimously approved

244.22 Correspondence All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. A recent invitation to a 'Power to your Parish' event was discussed. It was agreed that it should be circulated to members as it was open to all and did not require membership.

244.23 Newsletter: The following items are to be included: Flagpole consultation; Grit bin; Ash Dieback and road closures.

244.24 Statement of Accounts: Cllr Hele Kergozou had promptly verified the bank reconciliations for February and March. The accounts for the period were agreed as a true record.

244.25 Financial Report

- i. The **Payments Schedule** Cllr Ward proposed approving the payments schedule. Cllr Dollins seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Harry A Dudden	1699	Remove brambles & grass cutting	£342.00
Rev Cobley Playing Field Cttee	1700	Grant towards upkeep	£500.00
St Leonards Church PCC	1701	Grant: towards churchyard upkeep	£500.00
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Trust	1702	Grant	£100.00
St Margaret's Hospice	1703	Grant	£100.00
Children's Hospice South West	1704	Grant	£100.00
Rapide System Supplies Ltd	1705	Copier Paper	£14.34
HMRC	1706	Clerks PAYE	£43.20
H Marshall	1707	Clerks Salary & Mileage Feb	£755.07
A Chick	1708	Street Cleaning	£218.00
HMRC	1709	Clerks PAYE	£43.00
H Marshall	1710	Clerks Salary & Mileage Mar	£753.99
H Marshall	1711	Clerks Expenses	£130.31

- ii. **The reserves balance.** Cllr Ward circulated a recommendation prior to the meeting. It was proposed that the reserve bank account should hold the earmarked reserves and 6-month reserves in the amount of £29,155.

Resolution: To transfer the balance. Unanimously approved.

Cllr Dollins thanked the Clerk and Cllr Ward for their hard work on setting up the accounting system.

Action: Cllr Ward and the Clerk

244.26 Dates of future meetings subject to coronavirus restrictions.

20th May, 15th July, 16th September, 18th November **2021**

Time of closing meeting: 9.47pm