

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 20th January 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Daynes, Dollins, Dudden, Gladman, James, McGovarin and Ward. Also present was the Parish Clerk. 2 members of the public were present.

249.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Haskins, family commitment; The apology was accepted. District Cllr Wyke and PCSO Chinnock also sent apologies.

249.2 Declarations of Interest None

249.3 Public Participation: The Cheddar Fire Station Crew Manager reviewed proposed changes to the service and the answered questions. Topics included the updated truck and the changes to capacity; the difference in the range of equipment carried; the age of the current truck; rural roads; public consultation; the use of foam in the open; capacity of water for compartmental use; equipment; access to hydrants; the Council's correspondence and the introduction of a reporting system for 6 months; larger trucks at local stations and average time for call outs of 15 mins and upwards; trainees on trucks. It was discussed that the Council would include an item in the newsletter and will write to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service with their concerns.

249.4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved as a true record.

249.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: item 85/21 of the Planning Minutes of 16th December 2021: Due to the increased risks of the Omicrom variant and recent updates to the guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils the Coronavirus measures were updated.

Resolution: To ratify the following decisions: To revise section (c) of the Business Continuity Motion to include the following: 'The consultation should take place remotely via zoom, which members of the public may attend.' To update risk assessments to ask Councillors and members of the public to take a lateral flow test before attending meetings of the Council and to include this on agendas.

Road Closures Responses to queries received from Truespeed, having been circulated, were noted including that special signage will be prepared to notify which end of the Street can be used to access the shop during works. No further action will be taken. 'The **Application to the Mendip AONB fund** towards the repair of Scaddens Lane footpath was unsuccessful. The application to the **Mendip Community Fund** towards the CCTV system was unsuccessful.

A note of thanks was received from Strawberry Tots for the grant. The Parish has a new **bus partnership representative** who can be contacted through the Clerk. Cllr Bullen raised that the **light in the bus shelter** in Rodney Stoke doesn't work. The Clerk will seek quotes to replace the light.

249.6 Co-option to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor: No applications had been received.

249.7 Roads Report: The Chairman reviewed a meeting held with the County Highways Traffic Engineer when local sites were visited, and outstanding issues discussed. **The Street, Draycott:** The engineer is to advise on a scheme to address the issues raised in the Parish survey, but the scheme was not felt to be a priority. The Chairman asked that pictures of poor parking causing a problem on The Street should be submitted to the Clerk to evidence the problem. **To consider extending the speed limit extent from Rodney Stoke to Bucklegrove:** Accidents, signage, other priorities for County funding were discussed. Although a 30mph limit would not be supported as the area did not meet highways criteria, a reduction to 40mph may be considered if the Parish funded the works at a cost of up to £5000. The Chairman is investigating a contribution from a local business.

Resolution: Cllr Ward proposed approving a maximum budget of £1000 towards the project if further funding could be secured. Cllr Dollins seconded. Agreed unanimously.

Stoke Street Visibility Splay, Rodney Stoke: The bollards to protect the visibility splay will be installed in the summer. **New Road Draycott** the new signage has been installed, Priddy Council were thanked for their support. **SID report:** The top speed from Draycott to Cheddar was recorded at 111. The police will be informed. **Stoke Street water course, Rodney Stoke** Highways report that the channel has been cleared and the majority of the pipes under the drives have been checked and cleansed, although they are the responsibility of the householders to maintain. The owner of a collapsed pipe will be notified. **Hill Lane Silt trap** has been cleared and the **damaged grate and fence** on Butts Lane has been mended. The **bridge at Barrow Wood Lane** has further deteriorated. Historic Railways will be notified. The **belisha beacon** on the zebra crossing will be reported as not working.

Action: Councillors, Chairman, Clerk

249.8 Planning: The planning report was reviewed. It was noted that **Mendip Local Plan Part II 2006-2029: Sites and Policies** was adopted by the Council on 20th December 2021 and now forms part of the development plan for Mendip district.

249.9 County Councillor's report: The January briefing had been received and a copy is available in the Minute book and the website.

249.10 District Councillor's report: No report was received.

249.11 Local Government Reform: Cllr James is to attend the **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Advisory Board Meeting** on February 3rd. **St Cuthberts Out** are holding meetings with county and the Council Association and requested a comment on the local networks proposed in the LGR. Members felt that currently the Parish is more aligned towards Mendip and Wells than Sedgemoor and Bridgwater.

249.12 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report: The Secretary of the Playing Fields Committee gave the report noting that the hedges have now been cut. He is to chase the 'verti' draining report.

249.13 New Memorial Hall Report: The secretary of the Hall Committee gave the report. A copy is held in the Minute book.

249.14 Burial Ground Report:

Resolution: To ratify the increase in reserve plaque costs from £15 to £20, and to amend the wording to read 'charged at cost, currently:'.

There were no interments this period. **Safety inspection:** the trees and hedge at the top of the ground need cutting back. The Clerk is to write to the Vicarage to clarify who owns the trees and the plan to cut back the growth; a quote for the work will also be obtained. The Clerk is to contact the Diocese regarding the boundary path and trees and ask if a survey has been carried out; and to ask if they intend to maintain the area that is in dispute until they have resolved the situation. It was noted that all the memorials are sound. It was noted that the families of 6 planted plots have been contacted. 2 plots require levelling as a priority. The Clerk is to arrange for the work to be carried out.

Action: Clerk

249.15 Somerset Association Local Councils: Training courses were noted; Phase 3 of the reconnecting communities fund was discussed. An application will be made for first aid training for local groups. The proposal for a camera and screen for the hall will also be considered.

249.16 Environmental Issues: the report was circulated prior to the meeting and is available in the Minute book.

249.17 Neighbourhood Watch: the report was circulated prior to the meeting and is available in the Minute book. A report from PCSO Chinnock on a local vehicle collision and new dates for beat surgeries on Monday 14th February, 14th March and 11th April 11.00 - 12.00 at Draycott Memorial Hall was received.

249.18 Footpath Walkers Report: no matters were raised.

249.19 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins is adjusting the report regarding school numbers.

249.20 Community Matters: The Queens Jubilee: Beacons were discussed but will not be pursued. The Council will investigate planting a commemorative oak and will liaise with the Playing Field Committee. **A request to refurbish two signposts in the Parish:** The pre-Worboys signs were discussed including the cost of repair, ownership of the posts and the number of posts in the Parish.

Resolution: Not to pursue at this time, but to focus on the repair of heritage fingerposts.
Cheddar Fire Station service changes. The Council is to write to the Devon and Somerset Fire Service and seek the support of the County and District Councillors and the MP.

Action: Clerk

249.21 Correspondence: A vote of thanks was given to the Clerk for promptly circulating correspondence to Councillors. All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council, including: **Radiofrequency radiation** (5G masts) local groups have raised serious concerns about the proximity of these masts to property. The Council is to request that regulations are strictly adhered to; **Household Support Fund**, information was circulated on social media and will be included in the newsletter; **Mendip bulletin** featuring the Queen's Jubilee celebrations; **Climate Emergency Free Energy Survey for Community Buildings** the information was forwarded to the Hall Committee; **Service Cuts to Southwestern Railway Services**, circulated to Councillors for consideration.

249.22 Newsletter: The following **items** are to be included: Household Support Fund; Cheddar Fire Service.

249.23 Statement of Accounts: The statements for January, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record. Cllr McGovarin had verified the bank reconciliations for December and January.

249.24 Financial Report

- i. The **payments schedule** was updated and was unanimously approved.

St Andrews Press	1773	Newsletter printing	£55.00
GWB Services Ltd	1774	Grass Cutting	£177.00
BS1 Fire & Security Ltd	1775	CCTV installation & maintenance	£2860.80
H Marshall	1776	Clerks Salary & Mileage December	£752.17
HMRC	1777	Clerks PAYE December	£45.91
Somerset Assoc. Local Councils	1778	Training	£50.00
Probusiness Ltd	1779	Payroll Charges	£46.50
Draycott Memorial Hall	1780	Room Hire	£90.00
GWB Services Ltd	1781	Grass Cutting	£88.50
A Chick	1782	Street Cleaning	£302.94
HMRC	1783	Clerks PAYE January	£100.03
H Marshall	1784	Clerks Salary & Mileage January	£834.55
H Marshall	1785	Clerks Expenses January	£57.24

- ii. **Council email addresses:** A provider was discussed including costs for email addresses and a domain name, which would meet best practice in providing security and authentication requirements.

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that the email addresses and a .gov.uk domain should be acquired. Cllr Gladman seconded. Agreed.

- iii. The **request for a grant** towards churchyard upkeep from St Leonards Church was considered. Cllrs James and Bullen registered an interest and abstained from discussions and voting.

Resolution: To award £500 towards costs. Unanimous.

- iv. **Grant Requests:** A grant request from Citizens Advice and the budget were discussed.

Resolution: No further grants were awarded.

- v. The **Insurance** contract was discussed. Quotes for a 3-year contract will be sought.

249.25 Dates of future meetings subject to coronavirus restrictions.

17th March; 19th May; 21st July; 15th September; 17th November **2022**

Time of closing meeting: 9.55pm