

# Rodney Stoke Parish Council

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

## Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Daynes, Dearden, Gladman, Haskins, James and Ward. Also present was District and County Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk. Three members of the public were present.

**252.1 Apologies for absence:** Cllr McGovarin, leave; Cllr Dudden, work commitment; Cllr Dollins, ill health. The apologies were accepted.

**252.2 Declarations of Interest** None

**252.3 Public Participation:**

**A proposal to reinstate the railings on the Card Memorial** was discussed by two residents. Matters discussed included: funds from the village 'lazy lunch'; supporting a local cause; a previous attempt by the Parish Council, when the quote had been too high; initial investigations with the planning department; an estimate for the work with a local company who had agreed to donate their time; roadside working and qualified Cllrs; a donation to the Parish Council.

The matter was brought forward from **item 252.20** on the agenda:

It was noted that the Parish Council maintain and insure the Card Memorial and had previously been in favour of the reinstatement. The budget and reserves were discussed.

**Resolution:** To investigate insurance, highways permissions and planning permissions. District Cllr Wyke offered to investigate the planning requirements. Cllr Gladman proposed contributing further funds of £700 to complete the project. Cllr Dearden seconded. Agreed.

**A request by a resident for permission to purchase and install a bench in the Burial Ground** was discussed. Cllr Gladman confirmed that there was room. It was noted that the depth of the soil is shallower the further up the site you are.

The matter was brought forward from **item 252.14** on the agenda:

**Resolution:** The project was supported unanimously. To delegate the approval of the arrangements with the resident to Cllr Gladman. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Gladman

**252.4 Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

**Resolution:** Cllr Ward proposed approving the Minutes as a true record. Cllr Dearden seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**252.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: Street cleaning schedule.** Further to an enquiry at the May meeting, the street cleaner's schedule was reviewed including that both villages are covered each week and the work is completed in the time approved.

**Reconnecting Communities Fund application:** a request had been received to see if in principle funds awarded could be redirected from the coach trips to a community project at the top of Back Lane. The project to install raised planted beds, with the support of residents and local groups was reviewed as being in early stages, although the District Council had given their support subject to further information.

**Resolution:** To place the funds in an earmarked reserve, pending progression of the project with a long-term plan and public support. The Clerk is to contact the group currently holding the funds.

**First Aid training** was reviewed, and the response has been very positive, with one trainee using her skills already. An extra date will be held on Saturday 24th September to make full use of funding. **Moving the barriers, off Cross Farm Road, for mobility scooter access.** It was reported that the works did not appear to have started at the site.

**252.6 Roads Report: Update on the Bucklegrove bus stop** Cllr Dearden has contacted the road safety team and the Clerk will draft a letter in consultation with Cllr Dearden requesting an investigation. **Request to add 'no caravans' to signage** on New Road Draycott. It was discussed that caravans are getting stuck on the narrow and steep lane; **Resolution:** The Clerk is to write to highways requesting 'no caravans' signage at both ends of the road. **Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council propose a working group of the City, Town and Parish Councils situated along the A371** The lack of solutions found by recent groups and meetings were reviewed. There were no volunteers for the group. Having been reported, **Eastville Lane/Bay Lane** visibility splay has been cut back. **A collapsed drain/drive** at a property along the A371 in Rodney Stoke is still under investigation. A report is awaited. **Bollards** have now been installed at top of Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke. **A large Pothole New Road, Draycott** has been reported for investigation. The road will also be top dressed this month.

**Road closure: The Street, Rodney Stoke:** An item will be included in the newsletter.

Action: Clerk and Cllrs Dearden and Ward

**252.7 Planning:** The planning report was updated to include: A pre application presentation on **The Laurels redevelopment** will be made to the Planning Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022. **New Planning application:** 2022/1400/CLE Mixed use of office and storage use ancillary to Lower Stoke Farm and agricultural use Lower Stoke Farm Barrow Wood Lane Rodney Stoke Cheddar Somerset, Certificate of Use Existing.

The Chairman reviewed his recent attendance at the **Planning committee** regarding application 2020/2628. It was noted that responses must be as detailed as possible.

**252.8 County Councillor Wyke gave a report including the following matters:** Business as usual and highways activity; the increase in demand on social care and government funding; inflation and building costs and increase in children's homes being built; the local government review (LGR) and challenges in achieving savings; the LGR and short term retention of planning services; consultation on Local Community Networks (LCNs) later in the year; assets will only be devolved to villages and towns not LCNs.

**252.9 District Councillor Wyke gave a report including the following matters:** Business continues as usual; progress of green initiatives including the installation of 43 ev charging units; courses available for small businesses; a national award for project to reduce waste in hospitality industry; a question regarding a change in licences was answered as being regulated by the government.

**252.10 Local Government Reform:** A press release updating progress had recently been circulated to members, a copy is held in the Minute book; Cllr James had submitted the Councils comments on the highways steward project but had not yet received a response.

**252.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report: The annual Play Area inspection:**

**Zip Wire:** It was agreed that the post is not rusty, and can be wiped off.

**Resolution:** to contact the manufacturer for the repair and replacements of the tyre, and request that the ratchet be replaced with a 24 part ratchet so that it can be re-tensioned.

**Youth shelter:** Cllr Gladman will take the light fitting to Glastonbury for repair. The graffiti will be addressed by powder coating. Cllrs Gladman and Sealey will resolve the issue with the proud bolts.

**Gate:**

**Resolution:** Cllr Gladman will arrange for the top of the gate to have an inch removed and then be rewelded and a rubber rebound will be added. £100 was approved for the repair. Unanimous.

**The tree report**

**Resolution:** Instruct the report, as part of the existing tree contract.

**Jubilee oak sapling.** The Clerk is to obtain quotes for a large sapling, tree guard, plaque and stone and will discuss the siting with the Playing Field Committee.

Action: Clerk and Cllrs Gladman and Sealey

**252.12 New Memorial Hall Report:** A report by Cllr Dollins had been circulated and is available in the Minute book.

**252.13 Burial Ground Report:** There was 1 ashes interment this period The Clerk is to contact the Diocese again for a decision on the Garden of Remembrance land. Cllr Gladman and the Clerk will review the hedge and agree the works to be carried out.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Gladman

**252.14 Somerset Association Local Councils:** No matters were raised.

**252.15 Environmental Issues:** The report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book.

**252.16 Neighbourhood Watch:** The report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. The Clerk is to investigate dates for the mobile van.

**252.17 Footpath Walkers Report: Bay Lane to Wet Lane footpath** the condition of the footpaths are to be reported to the footpaths officer. The **stile at the bottom of Butts Lane** has been reported to the County Council; Cllr Gladman offered to repair the signpost on Butts Lane.

**Resolution:** To purchase a metpost. Unanimous.

**Dog Bin Eastville Lane** will be replaced as it is broken.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Gladman.

**252.18 Emergency Planning** No update had been received.

**252.19 Community Matters: The annual asset inspection:** Cllr Ward offered to discuss the placement of the **grit bin** by the community shop, which is too close to the wall; the **tree** growing through the fence at the playing field has been reported to the owner; the **overflow car park** has now been topped; **the lock** on the overflow carpark now works; a post will be inserted behind the pedestrian gate to make it close; the number on the CCTV signs will be rewritten; Cllr Gladman will swap the swings over when the bars are repainted to even wear on the surface; the hall committee will look into replacing the no dogs sign on the main gate.

**Barnetts Well Green:** The Clerk is to clarify the designation of the area with highways and investigate any restrictions on the land. **Offer of a 'talking bench'** the design of the bench and other benches on the playing field and possible locations were discussed.

**Resolution:** Cllr Gladman proposed that the Council say no thank you to the offer. Cllr Dearden seconded. Unanimous.

**Fingerpost at the bottom of Bay Lane** A resident had raised that this is in need of attention. Cllr Gladman agreed to repair the post. The Clerk is to contact residents who previously offered to help with the repairs.

Action: Clerk and Cllrs Gladman and Ward

**252.20 Correspondence:** All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council.

**Somerset Association of Local Councils: Consultation on short term holiday lets,** Cllr Bullen is to consult with Cllr James on a response. **Somerset Bus Partnership** on the decline of services and Catch the Bus Week, this will be included in the newsletter.

Action: Cllrs Bullen and James

**252.21 Newsletter:** The following **items** are to be included: **Somerset Catch the Bus Week; Home Library Service; The Street road closure, Rodney Stoke.**

**252.22 Statement of Accounts:** The statement for July, had been previously circulated. Cllr McGovarin had verified the bank reconciliations for June and July.

**Resolution:** Cllr Ward proposed approving the statement. Cllr Bullen seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**252.23 Financial Report**

- i. The **payments schedule** was updated. Cllr Ward proposed approving the schedule. Cllr Bullen seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Arthur J Gallagher Ins. Brokers	1809	Insurance Premium	£1029.91
GWB Services Ltd	1810	Grass Cutting	£187.60
St Andrews Press	1811	Newsletter Printing	£59.00
MJR Training Services	1812	Training	£650.00
GWB Services Ltd (reissue 1799)	1813	Grass Cutting & level graves	£1932.12
HMRC	1814	Clerks PAYE	£106.27

H Marshall	1815	Clerks Salary & Mileage	£799.55
GWB Services Ltd	1816	Grass Cutting	£225.12
Somerset Assoc. Local Councils	1817	Training	£25.00
H Marshall	1818	Clerks Expenses	£367.08
Mendip District Council	1819	Election Expenses	£100.00
Probusiness Ltd	1820	Payroll	£46.50
H Marshall	1821	Clerks Salary & Mileage	£845.94
HMRC	1822	Clerks PAYE	£92.09
A Chick	1823	Street Cleaning	£323.00
NEST	DD	Pension	£12.36
NEST	DD	Pension	£12.32
NEST	DD	Pension	£12.28
NEST	DD	Pension	£12.26
Information Commissioners Office	DD	Data Protection Fee	£35.00

- ii. **Pension Auto Enrolment** The Clerk became eligible for auto enrolment in April. The Council had previously approved NEST as their pension provider, Cllr Ward confirmed that they are reputable and currently good value for money. The Clerk was entered into the scheme at the minimum contribution levels. Payments will be collected by Direct Debit.
- iii. **Scribe accounting system** Cllr Dearden will be added to the system with read only access.
- iv. **Mobile/Internet Banking** the application has been approved and is progressing.

#### **252.24 Dates of future meetings**

15<sup>th</sup> September; 17<sup>th</sup> November **2022**

**Time of closing meeting: 9.39pm**