

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 29th September 2022 at 7pm

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

253.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Dollins ill health; Cllr Gladman previous commitment; Cllr Haskins ill health, received during the meeting.

253.2 Declarations of Interest None

253.3 Public Participation:

The football club representative sent apologies, due to a family emergency.

A proposal to lay a drainage pipe through the driveway and field

The landowner discussed planning application 17/22/00003 including: the proposed drainage route to connect the Strawberry Fields site pipework to the Wessex Water access point on the field at the border of Cross Farm Road; that the pipe would mirror the route of the pathway; an alternative route through the overflow car park which would still cross the field; it was raised that the field is a 'Field in Trust'; consultation of the hall and field committee; easements on Council property and valuation of the land; formal deeds; that the hall pump is connected to the manhole which may affect the route; an alternative but more costly route to lay the pipe along the A371 Wells Road; that a formal proposal will be drawn up for consideration by the parties involved.

The **Draycott Jubilee Committee** asked the Clerk to raise that they were considering putting a **flagpole** at the top of the playing field near the main road and will contact the playing field committee. It was discussed that there is already a flagpole outside of the hall. The Clerk will report back to the Committee.

253.4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and unanimously approved.

253.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: The **Bench in Burial Ground** will be installed at the top of the path on a concrete plinth; **Card Memorial Replacement of the railings** A highways permit is to be coordinated with the installation, having considered alternative costs the financial regulations had been met, Mendip planning department confirmed that the work would be considered permitted development; **Rejuvenation project for area at top of Back Lane**, an update had been given to the Clerk: funding for insurance cover has been secured and a committee has been formed, but more members are sought to provide longevity, the layout has been modified to accommodate the slope and further funding is being pursued; **First Aid Course**, this was a huge success for the Parish with all 28 spaces filled. Letters of thanks from participants were read out; **Bus stop at Rodney Stoke** the safety team are investigating the access to the village and shelter at the stop; **Barnetts Well** District Cllr Wyke will investigate the status of the green with the District Council.

253.6 Roads Report: Caravan signage for New Road, Draycott the Council considered advisory and restrictive signage, including enforcement and cost to the Parish.

Resolution: Contact Priddy Parish Council and if they support signage at their end of New Road, request advisory signs.

The **Grit bins** have been reported for filling on the next schedule; Recent **diversion and road**

closure signage in the Parish was raised as being unclear and poorly placed, District and County

Cllr Wyke is to take the feedback to the highways department.

253.7 Planning: The report was reviewed. An **enforcement** complaint regarding a listed building was reviewed. The conservation officer and the enforcement officer are investigating. District and County Cllr Wyke is to report back on the Council's comments regarding **application 2020/2493**, which is under consideration.

253.8 County Councillor Wyke gave a report including the following matters: The new Chief Executive joins the Council on the 3rd October; assets under the new Council are being considered; planning and licencing will initially continue at the Mendip offices; there will be one number for customer services from vesting day; increasing demands on adult social care; homelessness and prevention; child care and local support; the new 126 service and funding for 6 months; rebranding and expenditure. Questions were asked and answered regarding communication from the County Council including the 126 bus service.

253.9 District Councillor Wyke gave a report including the following matters: Business continues as usual until vesting day; continuation of outdoor café culture.

253.10 Local Government Reform. The response to some questions regarding **highways stewards** had been circulated, including that stewards would be instructed by Parish Councils then the County; they could deal with byways if instructed; the pilot area was chosen as they had a form of local governance in place; The **Local Community Network consultation** was discussed including costs if more LCNs are formed; no funding, resources or assets but they may attract funding over time; local influence; voting and 1 vote per council.

Resolution: to support 18 LCNs, as a small Parish, this would give us a bigger voice. The Clerk is to request a copy of the slides for the Parish Conference in Yeovil.

253.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report: The tree report was considered, with no urgent matters raised, Cllr Bullen is to visually inspect the trees as outlined in the report; the Clerk will make arrangements to trim back the base growth as outlined in the report; recent incidents of vandalism to football club property were raised and additional security measures such as motion activated lights and additional CCTV equipment were discussed.

Resolution: to check recent CCTV footage and consult the football club on what they feel should be done.

Complaint about the fence to the rear of the wildlife zone. The matter was reviewed including that a letter has been sent in response noting the fence replaced a pre-existing fence that predated the bungalows, the fence seeks to protect the bungalows from the users of the field amongst other purposes, as it is a security measure the Council will not be putting in an access; **The Hedge Cutting Contract:** 3 quotes were invited, the 2 quotes received were considered, including public liability cover.

Resolution: Cllr Ward proposed awarding the contract to GWB Services. Cllr Bullen seconded. Unanimously agreed. To instruct the cuts to go ahead for this year.

A peg has been installed behind **the gate** to ensure it closes, but due to ground conditions the peg is not sound. Cllr Sealey offered to provide a metal post.

Memorial Oak sapling: the Playing Field Committee will consider the proposal for the tree at the next meeting. The budget, quotes for a sapling and tree guard were discussed.

Resolution: Cllr Dudden proposed purchasing a 30l sapling and large tree guard for installation at the beginning of December. Cllr McGovarin seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Cllrs Gladman, Bullen and the Clerk.

253.12 New Memorial Hall Report: The lottery application towards the projector equipment was unsuccessful but will be resubmitted; a safeguarding policy is underway; new booking software is in use; the website has been updated; maintenance projects are underway, and prices will be increased next year. An A4 poster showing hall events will be included in the Council noticeboards.

It was noted that the Overflow carpark has been cut by Cllr Sealey.

253.13 Burial Ground Report: There were 2 interments this period. The Clerk is to follow up with the Diocese for a decision on the ownership of the garden of remembrance land.

253.14 Somerset Association Local Councils: A second Climate Conference will be held on 5th November. No members were available to attend.

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

253.16 Neighbourhood Watch: The report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book.

253.17 Footpath Walkers Report: The County Footpaths Officer has offered to look at the condition of the **interconnecting footpaths in Draycott** but has not reported back yet. Landowners will be reminded that obstructing a PROW is an offence and any injury caused by such an obstruction may result in a claim on their house insurance; The **fingerpost on Butt's Lane** has now been restored and installed back on the footpath. A footpath where members of the public have been turned away was reported to the County footpaths Officer.

253.18 Emergency Planning No update had been received.

253.19 Community Matters: The **new 126 bus service** from Wells to Axbridge provided by Libra Travel with the support of Somerset County Council was welcomed; it was noted that the service must be supported to retain it; the service will pick up at recognised stops; The next **Beat Surgeries** are Thursday 11am-12 noon. 13th October 22, 10th November 22, 8th December 22 and 5th January 23.

253.20 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council including:

The Mendip Society Newsletter; Mendip District Council Climate & Ecological Parish Forum October 13th, Cllr Dearden will attend; the availability of warm spaces during the coming months, the Council will keep a watching brief on this issue; Somerset Day May 2023 Cllr Bullen will be part of the 'Communities Group'.

253.21 Newsletter: This was published prior to the meeting with the following items included: the 126 bus and Mendip Community Transport; the card memorial railings reinstatement; vandalism of the goal posts.

253.22 Statement of Accounts: The statement for September, had been previously circulated. Cllr McGovarin had verified the bank reconciliations for August and September.

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

253.23 Financial Report: The **Declaration of Compliance** to the Pensions Regulator has been submitted. The **VAT refund claim** has been submitted and received for 2021 2022. The **Bankline account** has been set up and is functioning well with payments being made in a timely cost-effective way. It was agreed to consider the increase in hall charges when planning the **budget**. No further items were raised.

i. The **payments schedule**. Cllr Ward proposed approving the schedule. Cllr Dudden seconded. Unanimously agreed.

St Andrews Press	1824	Newsletter Printing	£59.00
Rapide System Supplies	i1	Stationery	£25.50
GWB Services Ltd	i2	Grass Cutting	£112.56
MJR Training Services	i3	Training	£450.00
HMRC	i4	Clerks PAYE	£92.21
H Marshall	i5	Clerks Salary & Mileage	£846.74
PKF Littlejohn LLP	i6	Annual AGAR	£240.00
Glasdon UK Ltd	i7	Dog Bin	£354.64
Somerset Assoc. Local Councils	i8	Membership Fees	£371.48
Starboard Systems Limited	i9	Accounts software	£345.60
H Marshall	i10	Clerks Expenses	£169.73
A Chick	i11	Street Cleaning	£313.50
GWB Services Ltd	i12	Grass Cutting	£112.56
St Andrews Press	i13	Newsletter Printing	£59.00
O Frost Forestry Ltd	i14	Tree Report	£360.00
HMRC	i15	Clerks PAYE	£91.23
H Marshall	i16	Clerks Salary & Mileage	£844.92
MJR Training Services	i17	Training	£300.00
Somerset Playing Fields Assoc.	i18	Safety Inspection	£115.00
NEST	DD	Pension	£28.49
NEST	DD	Pension	£28.67
NEST	DD	Pension	£16.48
NEST	DD	Pension	£16.43

NEST	DD	Pension	£16.37
NEST	DD	Pension	£16.35

ii. **Grant request from the football club towards goalposts and changing rooms** The well-used goalposts are provided with nets for community use to protect the main goal posts and grass. The posts have been vandalised on a number of occasions. Updates to the changing rooms will be clarified when the FA have published their report.

Resolution: Cllr Sealey proposed purchasing a pair of vandal proof posts and adding them to the asset register. The Clerk will offer to assist with grant applications for improvements to the changing rooms. Cllr Dearden seconded. Agreed.

iii. **Resolution:** The Council do not wish to opt out of the **Central external auditor appointment.**

iv. **Closure of the 2021 2022 Audit** No matters were raised by the auditors. The Chairman thanked Cllr Ward for his assistance.

253.24 Dates of future meetings

2022 17th November

2023 January 19th, March 16th, May 18th, July 20th, Sept 21st, Nov 16th

Time of closing meeting: 9.55pm