

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden, Dudden, Gladman, McGovarin and Ward. Also present was the Parish Clerk. No members of the public were present.

259.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Dollins, Leave; Cllr Daynes, previous commitment; Cllr Haskins, family commitment.

Resolution: The apologies were unanimously approved.

Mr Godley, the Senior Licensing & Business Support Officer; Somerset Cllrs Shearer and Wyke; and the resident that requested a shaded bench in the play area, also gave apologies.

259.2 Declarations of Interest: None

259.3 Public Participation: None

259.4 The Presentation by the Senior Licensing & Business Support Officer on the Licensing Policy Consultation was cancelled. The results of the consultation were discussed. Members decided to reschedule the discussion.

259.5 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

Resolution: The Minutes were approved.

259.6 Matters arising from the Minutes: No matters were raised.

259.7 Co-option to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. No applications had been received. The vacancy will be readvertised.

259.8 Roads Report: The Quote for the **Honeyhurst Lane fingerpost** was discussed including previous quotes, it was noted that the list of approved contractors is restricted.

Resolution: To order the post, finished in primer at £425

Grit Bins It was noted that Somerset Council officer will be inspecting all the bins and will require any defects to be addressed. The Bay Lane grit bin was raised as damaged.

Resolution: Expenditure up to £400 was approved to replace the Bay Lane bin if necessary following receipt of the report.

Overgrowth on the Multiuser path. Highways have agreed that the section between the bollards is Bridleway and have passed the request to the Rights of Way Team to address the issues. The Clerk is to write to highways to request that the overgrowth at the **Rodney Stoke sign and Hill Lane** are cut back; It was noted that the **rails at the footpath on Baggs Lane** near have been moved to allow access for mobility scooters.

259.9 The Planning Report was reviewed. The Clerk is to write to Somerset Council with concerns regarding transparency in the planning system and the lack of consultation with towns and parishes prior to decisions being delegated. The **'creating places for people' Somerset Council consultation**, the Council decided not to submit a response, but encouraged members to respond as individuals. The **Mendip Local Plan Part II – Site Allocations Review** was noted.

259.10 Somerset Council Report: No report had been received.

259.11 Local Community Network: Cllr Bullen reviewed the inaugural meeting including: Axbridge and Cheddar LCN is one of 18 groups; core membership will include members from other bodies such as police and NHS; main issues for discussion were identified as policing, planning, speeding, highway maintenance, pedestrian safety, and access to services such as GP surgeries.

259.12 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields: the Multi User Games Area (MUGA) project The survey results were discussed including: to meets the needs of the younger community with facilities for cricket, football and basketball; Cllr Daynes was thanked for the survey; Cllr Sealey is to confirm the location and potential size; members will confirm the funding to be ring fenced for the MUGA during budget discussions; local people may help with groundworks to keep costs down. **Memorial benches:** the Card Charity gave initial support for the proposal and the locations will be considered in light of the MUGA proposal, it was

noted that the Card Charity were keen to help with the MUGA project; **Request for shaded bench in play area:** guidance from the Somerset Playing Fields Association which advised against siting benches too near the swings; access for hedge cutting and proximity to the swings safety area was discussed.

Resolution: The request was not supported based on safety concerns.

Adding wildflowers to the wildlife zone: The Council were delighted to have received a £200 donation for the project. Cllr Dearden is to develop a seeding and maintenance program and will report to the November meeting. The Clerk is to review the contract to cut back brambles on the fence. Cllr Sealey is to arrange for grass cuttings to be scattered along the hedge and not in the wildlife zone.

Resolution: To update the standing orders to include the review of biodiversity actions at the annual parish council meeting. To install bat boxes on the trees.

CCTV

Resolution: To set up an annual maintenance contract with the installer and include as a budgeted item.

A **Wasp nest** was reported in the play area and was cleared very promptly.

Action: Cllrs Sealey and Dearden

259.13 New Memorial Hall Report It was noted that Draycott & Rodney Stoke Village Show donated £150 to the Memorial Hall.

259.14 Burial Ground Report: There has been 1 interment this period. **Extension to the Burial Ground:** The Council has followed up on queries regarding the request for land to extend the burial ground, information on tree reports on the trees bordering the path to the old vicarage and the area for the garden of remembrance. Responses are still awaited.

259.15 Somerset Association Local Councils: the health and lifestyle grant project Cllr Dearden outlined a recent successful project to support a youth worker for 2 years; Cllr Dearden is to pass **statistical information** gathered about the Parish to Cllr Daynes for the MUGA project.

Action: Cllr Dearden

259.16 Environmental Issues: Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book.

259.17 Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. It was noted that Cllr Dollins is in discussion about Neighbourhood Watch in Rodney Stoke.

259.18 Footpath Walkers Report Cllr Sealey is to speak to the landowner about a stile with a missing step.

Action: Cllr Sealey

259.19 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins is attending a Somerset Prepared event regarding the Emergency Plan

Action: Cllr Dollins

259.20 Community Matters: Wildflower Garden in The Pound: Cllr Dearden reported that she had received an offer of paving slabs.

Resolution: To approve that the £50 previously approved to purchase slabs could be used of the installation. Unanimously agreed.

It was noted that Cllr Bullen had successfully applied for a **grant towards tables and chairs** for the hall in Rodney Stoke which will help make the facility available to groups in the village. **Damage to The Pound wall** quotes will be sought from 3 contractors for submission to the insurers to consider. The excess will have to be paid by the Council. It was noted that the **Brook in Scaddens Lane** has been cleared of Hemlock Water Dropwort by Bristol Water. The **Asset Check** will be undertaken in October and will include the grit bins and the bus stop in Rodney Stoke. Following a request for help with ongoing maintenance problems, the responsibility to clear **Sealey close ditch** is being investigated by Somerset Council and Cllr Wyke's assistant.

Action: Cllr Dearden, Cllr Sealey and the Clerk.

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

Funding requests have been received from St Margarets Hospice, ESS education and support services and Somerset Wildlife Trust and will be considered in January.

259.22 Newsletter: the following items were agreed for inclusion: Anonymous donation to the wildlife area; request for information on damage to the Pound Wall; Councillor Vacancy;

reminder that members of the public are welcome to attend meetings.

259.23 Statement of Accounts: The statement for September had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for July and August had been previously verified.

Resolution: To approve the statement. Unanimously agreed.

259.24 Financial Report: There were no comments to submit to the **financial regulations consultation**; The **draft budget** will be considered at the next meeting.

i. The **payments schedule** was updated.

Resolution: To approve the schedule. Unanimously agreed.

Somerset Playing Fields Association	I81	Inspection Report	£120.00
IDM Environmental Services Ltd	I82	Treat Wasp Nest	£60.00
Rapide System Supplies	I83	Stationery	£25.00
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I84	Newsletter Printing	£60.00
GWB Services Ltd	I85	Grass Cutting	£247.80
Hockerill Engraving	I86	Plaques	£66.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	I87	Annual AGAR Review	£252.00
Play and Leisure Limited	I88	Parts	£7.32
HMRC	I89	PAYE	£58.45
H Marshall	I90	Salary & Expenses	£983.23
Starboard Systems Limited	I91	Scribe Accounting Software	£414.72
GWB Services Ltd	I92	Grass Cutting	£247.80
A Chick	I93	Street Cleaning	£354.28
HMRC	I94	PAYE	£58.48
H Marshall	I95	Salary & Expenses	£983.44
H Marshall	I96	Salary & Expenses	£162.20
Information Commissioners Office	DD	Data Protection Fee	£35.00
NEST	DD	Pension	£35.38

ii The **Audit closure notice** had been received. There were no matters raised.

259.25 Dates of future meetings: **2023** Nov 16th

2024 January 18th; March 21st; May 16th; July 18th; September 19th; November 21st

Time of closing meeting: 9.05pm