

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 8.20pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Daynes, Dearden, Dollins, Gladman, McGovarin and Ward. Also present were District and County Cllr Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 1 member of the public was present.

256.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Dudden, work commitment; Cllr Bullen, ill health; Cllr James, ill health; Cllr Haskins, family commitment.

Resolution: The apologies were unanimously approved.

Mr S Young also gave apologies due to ill health.

256.2 Declarations of Interest: None

256.3 Public Participation: None

256.4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and unanimously approved.

256.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: Parish Council Website: The current website will no longer be updated by the host. An upgrade was discussed including that a '. gov.uk' address can be used, and information from the current site can be transferred.

Resolution: Cllr Gladman proposed upgrading and using the '. gov.uk' address Cllr McGovarin seconded. Agreed.

The recommendations from a **Cyber webinar** will be discussed at the next meeting. **Aerial Runway maintenance** A quote arranged through the supplier was discussed.

Resolution: Cllr Sealey proposed going ahead with the work and scheduling a service in 2 years. Cllr Ward seconded. Agreed.

256.6 Roads Report: The Street, Draycott the Clerk is to report that the road needs resurfacing and the white lines repainting; **Millway** The road surface adjoining A371 is to be reported for maintenance; **The Multi user path, Butts Lane** has been thoroughly restored to its former glory, including that a length of drain has been replaced and a new manhole cover installed; **Bay Lane** Highways have added the damaged drain to the future structural maintenance list. **The Narrows** The Chief Executive of Somerset Council has requested that Highways Traffic Management respond directly to the request for maintenance and improvements; **Not suitable for Caravans Signage** Highways hope to add these signs to New Road, Draycott before the tourist season.

256.7 The **Planning Report** was reviewed. It was noted that application **2022/0595** had been granted permission.

256.8 County Cllr Wyke had given a report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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256.10 Local Government Reform: The new Unitary Council commences on 1st April.

256.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields Report. Dog signage: 3 prices were discussed, including the quality and thickness of the signs and the type of fixings, and previous signage.

Resolution: Cllr Dearden proposed accepting the quote from Arien Signs. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Gladman offered to install the signs.

Wildlife barrier Cllr Gladman offered fill in the gap; quotes will be sought for metal **memorial plaques** for the tree guards and railings; the **Hedges** have been cut on playing field; the field has been **verti drained**; the **Grass Cutting contract** will finish at the end of March, with an option for a further 2 years.

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that the contract option for a further 2 years be accepted. Cllr Daynes seconded. Agreed.

256.12 New Memorial Hall Report A report had been received at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Dollins is to pass the Council's thanks to the Hall Committee for their hard work, and also to follow up on the plans for the camera equipment funding.

256.13 Burial Ground Report: There have been 2 interments this period. **Policy on reserving plots:** consultation with the sexton regarding access for machinery to the final row

of plots was discussed.

Resolution: To amend the regulations to state that no reservations of any kind will be accepted for row F and plots will be allocated starting from the far end of the row in strict rotation. Unanimously agreed.

Garden of Remembrance: It was noted that the Diocese has passed this matter over to their land agents. The Clerk is to ask for a direct contact; **The Pond:** the local representative of the Reptiles and Amphibians Group has cleared the pond, the Church warden kindly offered to help;

Alignment of headstones, the sexton had confirmed that the plots were correctly aligned but the memorials were misplaced. It was agreed that when an application for any headstone in these plots is received, it should be requested that they are realigned.

256.14 Somerset Association Local Councils No matters were raised.

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

256.16 Neighbourhood Watch The report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. It was noted as positive that beat surgeries are held at the garden centre, and that it is intended to regenerate neighbourhood watch.

256.17 Footpath Walkers Report: A complaint about a pothole on Baggs Lane was noted, the County footpaths officer is to chase highways regarding repairs to the interconnecting paths.

256.18 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins is to circulate a draft plan for the May meeting. Members present at the meeting gave their consent to publish their contact details in the emergency plan.

256.19 Community Matters: Proposal for a wildlife garden in The Pound; Cllr Dearden has had a positive response from neighbouring property owners, seeds have been donated by Hilliers Garden Centre, the grass will need to be turned over, the butterfly garden committee will be approached.

Resolution: To approve the proposal. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Sealey will make arrangements with the grass cutter;

Enquiry regarding **planting daffodils at the entrance to Stoke Street:** the Chairman advised that the County Council owns the land and the request should be submitted to them;

Complaint about parking near Street Farm, The Street; Members felt that reasonable measures had been taken to address the problem. It was noted that parking on the Street is difficult for all users and any vehicles causing an obstruction should be reported to the police using the non-emergency 101 number; **health and wellbeing update:** Cllr Dearden reviewed available funding and noted local support for events involving the elderly and isolated. Activities available for teenagers were discussed and the proposal for a Multiuser Games Ares will be added to the next agenda. The health and well being survey will be made available on the website.

256.20 Social media: Policy on facebook posts: guidance from the Somerset Association of Local Councils had been circulated.

Resolution: Facebook admin can repost very local events and activities, in line with guidelines, at their own discretion. Commenting must always be turned off. Unanimously agreed.

256.21 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council including the following recent items: The pre renewal questionnaire from Came and Co for the **insurance policy;** **Somerset Wildlife Trust** will be hosting **two climate change adaptation events** later this month; **A request for a grant from Weston Hospicecare** it was decided to focus on very local grants.

256.22 Newsletter, the following items were agreed for inclusion: multiuser path refurbishment; Health and Well Being survey available on website; reminder no dogs on field and no poo bags to be left in hedges; new oak tree; wildlife garden.

256.23 Statement of Accounts: The statement for March had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for January and February had been previously verified.

Resolution: To approve the statement. Unanimously agreed.

256.24 Financial Report: i. The updated **payments schedule** had been circulated to members. **Resolution:** Cllr Dollins proposed approving the schedule. Cllr Ward seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Draycott Playing Field Mment Cttee	I42	Grant towards upkeep	£1000.00
Draycott Butterfly Garden	I43	Grant	£400.00
St Leonards Church PCC	I44	Grant towards churchyard upkeep	£500.00
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I45	Newsletter Printing	£60.00
Designer Metal (Suffolk) Ltd	I46	Tree Guard	£342.00
Chew Valley Trees Ltd	I47	Oak Tree	£332.50
H Marshall	I48	Clerks Salary & Mileage	£900.57
HMRC	I49	PAYE	£114.05
Draycott Memorial Hall	I50	Room Hire	£99.00
H Marshall	I51	Clerks Expenses	£155.18
A Chick	I52	Street Cleaning	£304.00
NEST	DD	Pension	£33.63

ii **Request for a grant from Citizens Advice Bureau** The budget and government funding were discussed.

Resolution: To keep all grants very local. No grant was awarded.

iii **Request for grant from the Draycott Jubilee Committee** The members viewed the request favourably but would like a formal request.

256.25 Dates of future meetings: **2023** May 18th, July 20th, Sept 21st, Nov 16th

Time of closing meeting: 9.50pm