

## 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> March 2024 at 7.44pm following the Annual Parish Meeting

**Present:** Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden, Dollins, Dudden, McGovarin and Ward. Also present were Somerset Cllr H Shearer and the Parish Clerk. 5 members of the public were present.

**263.1 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Williams, work commitment; Cllr Gladman, leave.

**Resolution:** The apologies were approved.

Somerset Cllr Wyke; S Young, Secretary of the Memorial Hall Committee and the Playing Fields Management Committee and Bella Lapwood, Village Agent also sent apologies.

It was noted that Cllr Gladman has indicated that he will be standing down as Vice Chairman at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

**263.2 Declarations of Interest:** None

**263.3 Public Participation:** A resident discussed a local footpaths group who check and clear the footpaths. The volunteer scheme at Somerset Council was raised but it was noted that the group makes their own arrangements. The Chairman thanked the group for their hard work. It was raised that the new kissing gate needed gravel. The volunteers will speak to the lessee.

**263.4 Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on **18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

**Resolution:** Cllr Dollins proposed that the Minutes were approved. Cllr McGovarin seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**Minutes** of the extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council **29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

**Resolution:** Cllr Ward proposed that the Minutes were approved. Cllr Dollins seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**263.5 Matters arising from the Minutes, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** None were raised.

**263.6 Matters arising from the Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024** to include any further information gathering: It was noted that **additional residents comments** received since the meeting have been circulated and published; **comments in the annual reports from the Memorial Hall Committee and the Playing Fields Management Committees** against the proposed access were noted; the **Somerset Council Planning Policy team** have been contacted regarding their approach to the accesses proposed in the Local Plan for site DR1 and also site DRAY021, which was not considered in the recent Limited Update. Guidance on financing professional services has been received from the **Association of Local Councils; Property Services** at Somerset Council have been approached and further information is awaited as the **strategic manager for estates** is on leave, however it was noted that the Council would be likely to be open to a conversation about covenants and compensation; An in-principle discussion had been held with a **planning officer** to gauge their approach, and in general no commitment was made for support or otherwise to development over the stated 33 houses. The 20 mph signage on Westfield Lane and other areas of the village is to be improved, this may be in the form of painted surface roundels due to the constraints of the roads.

**263.7 Roads Report: Millway** the **hedges have been cleared** and a **new sign** has been installed, the Clerk is to thank Highways. The new **options to enhance routine highways maintenance** were noted; **Pot holes at top of Stoke Street** Rodney Stoke have been repaired, only potholes that meet the intervention levels could be filled. **The surface towards the lower end of The Street** doesn't meet the criteria to be repaired, we are to update them if it deteriorates. The **30mph sign on the Wells Road** opposite Wet Lane junction has been moved to the top of The Street which is a more effective position.

**Action: The Clerk**

**263.8 The Planning Report** was reviewed. There were no matters to update. **Mendip Local Plan Part II Limited Update consultation:**

**Resolution:** To confirm that the Council opposes the inclusion of the DRAY21 site, due to the poor access, that it is outside the development boundary and is partly in Sedgemoor Planning North.

It was noted that **application 2023/2088** is awaiting a decision.

**263.9 Somerset Council Report:** Somerset Cllr Shearer had given a report at the Annual Parish Meeting but noted that the Council is struggling to retain staff in light of Covid, the Unitary authority and now resizing. It was noted that price lists for services such as bin emptying being worked on.

The Clerk is to seek costs for a **replacement bin for the bus shelter in Rodney Stoke** for the next meeting.

**263.10 Local Community Network:** Cllr Bullen reported that there had been 2 excellent presentations, including active travel. Cllr Bullen has joined a new transport working group.

**263.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields: the Multi User Games Area (MUGA): Pump tracks** were discussed including: the indication of the cost of the track in Cheddar and the benefit to the larger community in the Parish; the number of bikes used in the villages; alternative activities available such as build-a-bike; concerns about the cost and previous use of the BMX track in Draycott. Costs and information from Westbury on their MUGA is awaited. A **letter of complaint** was raised the response was: the playing field hedge by the A371 is cut annually between September and February: the Strawberry Line volunteers cut back the multi user path after highways have cut it back to bridleway standards; footpaths, County do what they can, the Council can not set precedents due to the extent of the network. The Clerk is to report the condition of the **path between Wet Lane and Bay Lane**. Cllr Gladman has replaced the **benches** in the childrens play area which were refurbished free of charge by the supplier and look fantastic.

**Action: The Clerk**

**263.12 New Memorial Hall Report** The report had been given at the Annual Parish Meeting a copy is available in the Minute book.

**263.13 Burial Ground Report:** There were 3 interments this period. The final row of plots will be measured out, but not formally marked, and numbering will be the same as other rows, with the final plot issued being number 1 by the path. It was discussed that the path is slippery in bad weather but is not in disrepair.

**Resolution:** To purchase a 'caution slippery when wet' sign to a maximum cost of £150 in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

**Action: The Clerk**

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

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

**263.16 Neighbourhood Watch** Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. The Council had no response for the Mendip Neighbourhood Policing Team letter regarding matters of concern during the Glastonbury Festival.

**263.17 Footpath Walkers Report:** The report had been given during the Annual Parish Meeting.

**263.18 Emergency Planning** Cllr Dollins will circulate a draft copy of the Emergency Plan prior to the next meeting.

**263.19 Community Matters:** A request to join the **Hedgehog Highway Project** was discussed.

**Resolution:** Advertise the project in newsletter and when 50 requests are received, purchase one box of highways in the amount of £150 which will help to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

**The Dog bin at Barrow Wood Lane** has been replaced and reinstated, fully paid for by the company that hit it. A **portrait of the king** has been ordered. It was noted that an inspection revealed **no damage to the bus stop on the A371** following the removal of the ivy.

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

**263.21 Newsletter:** the following items were agreed for inclusion: Hedgehog Highways,

Somerset Council no longer providing sand bags, wildflower sowing, bin in Rodney Stoke  
**263.22 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.

**263.23 Financial Report:**

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

**Resolution:** Cllr Ward proposed approving the schedule. Cllr Dollins seconded.  
Unanimously agreed.

St Leonard's Church PCC	I122	Grant towards churchyard upkeep	£500.00
Cloud Next Ltd	I123	Domain and hosting – email website	£132.00
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I124	Newsletter Printing	£60.00
Cloud Next Ltd	I125	Domain and hosting – email website	£59.98
The Friends of St Leonards	I126	Grant hall hire	£90.00
A Brumfitt	I127	Dog Bin Installation	£100.00
A Brumfitt	I128	Wall repair	£1350.00
HMRC	I129	PAYE	£88.41
H Marshall	I130	Salary & Expenses	£1034.74
Draycott Memorial Hall	I131	Room hire	£111.75
GWB Services Ltd	I132	Grass Cutting	£123.90
H Marshall	I133	Salary & Expenses	£1035.23
H Marshall	I135	Salary & Expenses	£65.74
A Chick	I136	Street Cleaning	£380.33
NEST	DD	Pension	£40.41
NEST	DD	Pension	£40.55

**263.24** Dates of future meetings:

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

**Time of closing meeting: 9.45pm**