

## Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Daynes, Dollins, Dudden, and McGovarin. Also present were Somerset Cllr R Wyke, M Whittle representing the Rev Copley Playing Field Committee. M Warne, R Reeson and S Young representing the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Clerk. 39 members of the public were present.

**261.1 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Bullen, ill health; Cllr Dearden, family commitment; Cllr Haskins, family commitment; Cllr Ward, ill health

**Resolution:** The apologies were unanimously approved.

Somerset Cllr Shearer also sent apologies.

**261.2 Declarations of Interest:** None

**261.3 Public Participation: To hear a presentation by Colbolt Consultancy on the potential development of the land to the rear of Cross Farm Road, the playing field, the Memorial Hall and Westfield Lane**

The Chairman introduced the item noting that the Playing Field was protected as a Field in Trust, who would be consulted if necessary; that the Charity Commission may be involved due to the status of the Hall Committee; that this was not a formal planning application; that there would be an opportunity for discussion at a stand-alone meeting to be held in the next few weeks and members of the public were invited to submit any questions arising to the Clerk for investigation and then discussion at that stand alone meeting. He introduced Mr Abbott and Mr Akins.

Mr Akins spoke including the following matters: that this was the first meeting; there are no drawings of the development; the local character and narrow streets and lanes; the review of site allocations in the local plan; future residents, the access; lack of community facilities; alternative access arrangements; future consultation.

Somerset Cllr Wyke spoke to review the local plan and site allocation and to clarify that the existing Local Plan was still current.

Questions were asked and answered on a possible date to start the project, developments and housing supply targets as minimum numbers.

Mr Tom Williams spoke to introduce himself as an applicant for the vacancy for a Parish Councillor, including his background, work and where he lived.

**261.4 Somerset Council Report:** The Chairman brought this item forward as Cllr Wyke had to attend another meeting. **Somerset Cllr Wyke** gave a report including the following matters: declaration of the financial emergency and the increasing costs of adult and children's social care, the increasing cost of care homes and the health and social care academy, the low Council tax base, the cap of 4.99% and inflation; reducing services, reduction in government grants, heritage and green projects; bio net gain on land development; the sale of assets and using reserves to meet costs, the consultation on the budget; and the new bus service including a request to submit comments on the bus's performance.

A question on the plant to take phosphates out of water was asked and answered.

**261.5 Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on **16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

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

**261.6 Matters arising from the Minutes: The Pound wall damage:** It was noted that the repairs are to go ahead in late January after settlement of the insurance claim.

**261.7 Co-option to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor.** An application had been previously circulated from Mr Tom Williams. Cllr Gladman proposed that Mr Williams be co-opted. Cllr McGovarin seconded.

**Resolution:** To Co-opt Tom Williams as a Parish Councillor. Agreed.

Cllr Williams signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Council.

**261.8 Roads Report: Mendip Parking Amendment Order 2024**, no items were raised; **damaged or redundant traffic signs:** the **damaged Barrow Wood Lane sign** is already reported, no further items were raised; **Fingerpost at Honeyhurst Lane**, Cllr Gladman is painting the post and will then reinstate it; **Dog Bin at Barrow Wood Lane:** the insurance claim was settled, and a red bin will be put on the other side of the junction to protect it from turning vehicles. **Parking on the pavement at the top of Back Lane** has been raised with a Councillor as a visibility problem, residents have been advised to report vehicles causing an obstruction to the police. **Parking on Smiths Close** on the pavement and brow of the hill was raised. The Clerk is to write to the PCSO requesting that action is taken. **Latches Lane: A pothole** just before the bridge is to be reported. **The Street, Draycott: The surface is breaking up.** Cllr Gladman is to forward photos to the Clerk for report. An **Emergency Road Closure: The Cliffs, Cheddar 15th January 2024 - 4th February 2024** was noted. A **temporary Road Closure: Nyland Drove, Cheddar and Wedmore 5th February 2024 for 5 days** was noted; **Adjacent to Holly Cottage Rodney Stoke - running water on the Road** has repeatedly been reported to highways, who have spread grit and raised task orders for jetting in the coming weeks.

**Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Gladman

**261.9 The Planning Report** was reviewed. There were no matters to update.

**261.10 Local Community Network:** No report was received.

**261.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Fields: the Multi User Games Area (MUGA): Pump tracks** were discussed including: the demographic of the Parish who would use them, the need by young people identified in the survey and as most travelled to facility outside of Draycott, use by bikes, scooters and skateboards, use by adults, materials: usually tarmac, a mud track in Weston is mostly used by bikes, a previous mountain bike track that fell into disrepair in the Parish. The Clerk is to find out the cost of the MUGA in Westbury and the pump track in Cheddar. **Somerset Wildlife Trust have granted 30 hedge trees** for the playing field to extend the current hedge. Cllr Sealey and the Playing Field Secretary will put them in. No collars are to be used to reduce plastic use. A question about the stiffness of the Witches Hat spinner was raised: It was noted that the supplier had advised spraying WD40 as lubrication.

**Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Sealey

**261.12 New Memorial Hall Report** The secretary of the Committee reported that the cinema equipment is now installed, there will be a showing of local films from the last 50 years on the 16<sup>th</sup> February; the new heating system is showing significant savings; new cleaners; black out blinds are being sought; hall accreditation is being sought; members agreed to add the hall events and cinema to the website.

**261.13 Burial Ground Report:** There were no interments this period. The Clerk is to ask again for a response regarding the Garden of Remembrance and the right of way through the Glebe Field.

**Action:** The Clerk

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

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

**261.16 Neighbourhood Watch** Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. A question was raised about speeding on Westfield Lane: The Clerk is to request that additional speed signs are installed and that the police monitor the road.

**Action:** The Clerk

**261.17 Footpath Walkers Report:** It was noted that most of the footpaths were clear. It was raised that the ivy is badly overgrown across the footpath at the top of Back Lane. The Clerk is to contact Aster again noting the potential damage to the noticeboard.

**261.18 Emergency Planning** Cllr Dollins is updating the contacts in the Emergency Plan and awaits the signed GDPR forms from Councillors.

**261.19 Community Matters:** It was noted that First West of England have taken over the **extended bus route from Wells to Weston** from the beginning of **January 24**.

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

**Request from Cllr Abi McGuire** to identify issues in the Parish, members raised contacting the Diocese.

**261.21 Newsletter:** the following items were agreed for inclusion: New Councillor; reminder to support local bus service; fingerpost at Honeyhurst Lane; hedge trees; dog bin at Barrow Wood Lane; The Pound Wall; The Extraordinary Meeting.

**261.22 Statement of Accounts:** The statement for January had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for November and December had been previously verified.

**Resolution:** To approve the statement. Unanimously agreed.

**261.23 Financial Report:**

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

**Resolution:** To approve the schedule. Unanimously agreed.

Somerset Forge Ltd	I106	Fingerpost	£510.00
Somerset Bus Partnership	I107	Grant Towards Running Costs	£50.00
Draycott Playing Field M'mnt Cmmtee	I108	Grant Towards Running Costs	£1000.00
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I109	Newsletter Printing	£60.00
HMRC	I110	PAYE	£328.24
H Marshall	I111	Salary & Expenses	£1366.93
Somerset Playing Fields Assoc.	I112	Membership Fees	£15.00
GWB Services Ltd	I113	Tree & Hedge Maintenance	£354.00
H Marshall	I114	Salary & Expenses	£1032.20
HMRC	I115	PAYE	£88.71
GWB Services Ltd	I116	Tree & Hedge Maintenance	£54.00
Glasdon Uk Ltd	I117	Dog Bin	£468.71
H Marshall	I118	Salary & Expenses	£173.33
H Marshall	I119	Salary & Expenses	£1032.73
HMRC	I120	PAYE	£87.34
A Chick	I121	Street Cleaning	£354.28
H Marshall	DD	Salary & Expenses	£40.36
H Marshall	DD	Salary & Expenses	£77.02

ii. **Request from St Leonards PCC for a grant towards churchyard upkeep.** The amendment to the Local Government Act 1894 regarding payments towards repairs and maintenance of church property was reviewed. The budget was reviewed.

**Resolution:** Cllr Dollins proposed granting £500. Unanimously agreed.

iii **Other grant requests** were reviewed, including a **request for funds to help set up Friday night socials at the Rodney Stoke Hall** by covering the cost for 3 months hire at £90; it was noted that the Council wanted to keep grants very local; the budget was discussed.

**Resolution:** To award £90 to The Friends of St Leonards towards hall hire.

**261.24** Dates of future meetings:

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

**Time of closing meeting: 9.26pm**