

Rodney Stoke Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs H Marshall 3, Barrows Park, Cheddar BS27 3AZ Tel: 07423283940

Minutes of the Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council held in the Draycott Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 21st November 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden, Dollins, Dudden, Gladman, McGovarin, Ward, Williams and Wilkinson. Also in attendance were Somerset Cllr Wyke, the village agent and social prescribing link workers Bella Lapwood and Lina Curiale-Hopkinson and the Parish Clerk. 6 members of the public were present.

267.1 Apologies for absence: Somerset Cllr Shearer sent her apologies.

267.2 Declarations of Interest: None

267.3 Public Participation: A presentation was given by the **village agents and social prescribing link workers** including their role in putting people in touch with services when they are having problems such as discharge from hospital or financial difficulty, they also offer support to unpaid carers, and support to village halls or community buildings. Residents registered with Cheddar GP practice can call 01823 331 222 or if you are registered with either Wells GP practice you can call 01373 468368; A resident raised planning application 2024/1870 (see item 267.7) which will be considered at the next planning committee; A resident raised the **proposed development to the rear of the Memorial Hall**, the Chairman reviewed that no further information had been received from the consultants who had confirmed prior to the meeting that they will not be in touch until mid-January. It was raised that, without prejudice to the potential development, a **green audit** could be a consideration for the overflow Car park.

267.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

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

267.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: A Letter of thanks had been received from a resident for the work that members and the Clerk do in the Parish and noted that a number of **dormice tubes** had been placed in the field to the rear of the Memorial Hall. **The car left at the hall** has gone; **the slabs** have been collected **from the wildlife zone** for repurposing.

267.6 Roads Report: Grit bins have been reported for filling. **Request for reduction in speed limit on School Lane** Members reviewed the 2016 village speed limit scheme, noting that moving the gateways to the top of Short Lane and a 20-mph speed limit on School Lane were not supported by highways; 20mph schemes must be funded by the Parish Council; research that a change in speed limit signs alone has little effect on vehicle speeds.

Resolution: Liaise with Cheddar Parish Council about the speed limit along School Lane. Ask the resident to write to Somerset and request a 20 mph limit. Write to Somerset Council about the speed limit. Investigate putting the Speed Indicator Device along the road.

Rodney Stoke: Brangay Lane drain has been scheduled for jetting as there is a blockage on the outfall pipe. The **gullies and the pipe under Stoke Street** have been scheduled for investigation for jetting. **Wells Road** a complaint about brambles has been resolved. **Hill Lane and Butts Lane** The silt traps have been reported for clearing. The brightness of the **security light** at the Rodney Stoke Inn was raised, the Council will write to them. **Draycott: Bay Lane** is scheduled for **structural drainage work** this financial year. Members felt that there wasn't a safe place for a further grit bin to combat the potential ice, but levels in the current bin would be monitored. The collapsing surface of **The Street** has been repaired again. **Somerset Council have been painting 20 mph signs on the roads.** Cllr Gladman is to check the **silt trap on New Road.**

Action: Clerk, Cllr Gladman

267.7 The **Planning Report** was reviewed and **new application** 2024/1870 Proposed 2no. Residential Dwellings & Demolition of Existing Commercial Times Past Westfield Lane Draycott Cheddar Somerset was noted. The **Local plan settlements assessment will be submitted as drafted.** A **Limited Mendip Plan update** was reviewed and noted. Any response to the **Somerset Validation Consultation** will be considered at the next planning committee. It was raised that any enforcement action for application ref: 2024/1164 should be monitored.

267.8 Somerset Council Report. The following matters were discussed: Somerset Cllr Wyke noted that Westbury have a **tree nursery** and would be happy to share. **Finances** at Somerset are still very stretched, and restructuring is taking place. There are **34 children in Somerset who need a foster home**. 8 homes have been funded to house children. It was noted that a **boundary review** consultation will be sent out to Councils soon.

267.9 Local Community Network: Cllr Bullen reviewed the meetings. There is not an expectation to budget for room hire for meetings. Councils may consider clubbing together for highways works.

267.10 The Rev Cobley Playing Field: The Secretary and treasurer of the Committee discussed the following matters: the AGM; damaged trees have been removed from the drive and a report will be received on the remaining trees; the grass cutting contract has been awarded. A key for the gate was received by the Clerk. Funding from the Draycott Charities for the field was noted.

Axbridge Football Team have started using the field; **plastic containers** and the **wooden bench** that had been dumped by the pavilion had been removed; **the MUGA project is currently on hold; the maintenance and repair quote:** members considered quotes for various small jobs identified in the asset inspection, and felt that as they were good value and reasonable.

Resolution: Cllr Gladman proposed that the Council accept the quote and instruct the repair works to be carried out. Cllr Dollins seconded. Unanimously agreed.

The tree report had not yet been received. **Upgrading the CCTV cameras:** to obtain quotes to enhance the camera viewing the field. It was noted that a request for footage had recently been received from the police.

Action: Clerk

267.11 New Memorial Hall Report It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair had agreed to reducing **Ash trees in the driveway hedge** as one had fallen. The decision was supported by members. Quotes on the remaining trees have been sought, including those in the overflow car park. Tree work costs for the driveway and hall carpark will be shared with the hall. The secretary of the hall committee reviewed that a member had retired; the hall committee had achieved accreditation level 1 for the hall; solar panels have been installed; a change in the constitution wording is required by the charities commission. Cllr Ward offered to seek advice from the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

267.12 Burial Ground Report: There have been no interments this period. The slippery path sign has been installed.

267.13 Somerset Association Local Councils: Safeguarding: The Clerk reviewed recent training. The Council decided that a trained safeguarding lead within the Council was not proportionate with the extent of its public facing services. Cllr Bullen is to investigate linking with St Leonard's Church safeguard lead and obtaining training from them for members. Cllr Bullen will be the Council contact.

Action: Cllr Bullen

267.14 Environmental Issues: Cllr Dollins' report is to be circulated following the AONB meeting.

267.15 Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book.

267.16 Footpath Walkers Report: Butts Lane Cllr Sealey is to speak to the landowner to discuss providing a kissing gate for installation, following which the Council will apply to the County footpaths officer for a gate.

Action: Cllr Sealey, the Clerk.

267.17 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins is updating the Plan.

267.18 Community Matters: Bus stop at the Pound, Rodney Stoke: Cllr Dearden reported that the bench will be installed as soon as possible; Cllr Dearden gave a report on **village demographics** to inform the Councils work, the data is available in the Minute book. Members unanimously supported Cllr Dearden in carrying out a survey within Rodney Stoke to determine needs.

Quotes for the noticeboard: Two quotes were considered; a third quote was awaited that had offered an alternative option.

Resolution: Subject to confirmation that the hall and Jubilee Committee will contribute to the cost, and subject to consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair on the outstanding quote, members approved installation of the board up to a cost of £2455.71.

Follow up first aid course for local groups.

Resolution: To approve a follow-up first aid course, subject to participants contributing 50% of the costs. The Clerk is to investigate interest before booking the course.

Volunteers' policy for supporting local groups. Members considered the model policy and the extent of the requirements and responsibilities, including insurance considerations.

Resolution: Not to adopt the policy

An audit of the website under the new **website WGAC 2.2 Accessibility regulations** had been carried out. The website host has investigated and righted the outstanding issues to bring website up to 100%.

Action: Clerk.

267.19 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council including the following: West Monkton Parish Council **Commonwealth Memorial** – Members did not wish to take up the offer.

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings consultation: The Clerk is to circulate the draft response to members prior to submission.

267.20 Newsletter: the following items were agreed for inclusion: Fostering, village agents, signposting for Strawberry Way, native flowers in The Pound.

267.21 Statement of Accounts: The statement for November had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for September and October had been previously verified. Cllr Ward reviewed the Council's accounts.

Resolution: To approve the statement. Unanimously agreed.

267.22 Financial Report:

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

Resolution: The schedule was unanimously approved.

St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I176	Newsletter Printing	£61.00
GWB Services Ltd	I177	Grass Cutting	£272.64
H Marshall	I178	Salary & Expenses	£1,069.37
H Marshall	I180	Salary & Expenses	£80.81
GWB Services Ltd	I181	Grass Cutting	£136.32
H Marshall	I182	Salary & Expenses	£1,071.16
HMRC	I183	PAYE	£64.32
A Chick	I184	Street Cleaning	£429.00
NEST	DD	Pension	£41.05
NEST	DD	Pension	£41.05

ii. **The budget and Precept for 2025 26** was discussed, including increases in National Insurance, grass cutting costs for the field, bin emptying, and adjusting the reserves.

Resolution: To approve the budget as drafted generating a 9.3% increase. The precept request for 2025 26 will be £31,888.00 Unanimously agreed. The Clerk is to submit the request

iii. **Request for a donation** Citizens Advice Somerset – deferred to the January meeting.

iv. **The NJC pay scale review for 2024 25;**

Resolution: To implement the new pay agreement and backdate the new pay scales to 1st April 2024. Unanimously agreed.

v. **The Request for support from Playing Field Committee was discussed**

Resolution: To award a grant of £1000. Unanimously agreed

vi. The new bank interest rates were noted.

267.23 Dates of future meetings: **January 16th**

2025: March 20th; May 15th; July 17th; September 18th; November 20th.

Time of closing meeting: 10pm