

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7pm.

**Present:** Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden, Dudden, McGovarin, Ward and Wilkinson. Also in attendance were Somerset Cllr Shearer and the Parish Clerk. 4 members of the public were present.

**268.1 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Dollins, ill health; and Gladman, ill health. The apologies were approved.

**268.2 Declarations of Interest:** None

**268.3 Public Participation:** 2 residents appealed for help with the drainage on Bay Lane, Draycott including: the water on the road is dangerous when icy and is causing deterioration of the road surface and bank, the outfall is then blocking drains further down. The Chairman reviewed previous reports of the issue and the explanation for delays in repairing the drains. It was raised that the drain by Moor Lane has collapsed. It was also raised that the drains on Millway are blocked, due to which an internet cabling company won't install cabling. The Clerk is to report the 3 issues. It was agreed that when the pipes overflow on Millway a photo is to be sent to the Clerk for report.

**268.4 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024,** having been previously circulated, were taken as read. There was a discussion regarding the approval of the Precept as unanimous.

**Resolution:** The Minutes were approved as a true record.

**268.5 Matters arising from the Minutes:** No matters were raised.

**268.6 Co-option to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor** No applications had been received.

**268.7 Roads Report:** The following **white lines have been reported for repainting:** Outside of a property on Back Lane, Draycott; Millway junction with Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke; Stoke Street junction with the A371, Rodney Stoke; Scaddens Lane junction with the A371, Rodney Stoke; the roundels on Stoke Street. Any further lines should be photographed and sent to the Clerk with the address/what3words location. **Temporary Road Closure, Back Lane, Draycott 30th January 2025 Silt traps on New Road, Draycott have been reported for clearing.** The brightness of the **security light** at the Rodney Stoke Inn was raised again, the Clerk is to report the matter to Somerset highways.

**Action:** Clerk

**268.8 The Planning Report** was reviewed. It was noted that no further information had been received regarding **the potential development of the land to the rear of the hall, playing field, Cross Farm Road and Westfield Lane.**

**268.9 Somerset Council Report** by Somerset Cllr Shearer. The following matters were discussed: A Public Space Protection Order consultation has been launched; the cost of statutory services, the review in staffing levels, government lobbying to address the problem; the challenges of children's social care and the drive for foster carers.

**268.10 Local Community Network:** Cllr Bullen reviewed the recent meetings and noted that she sits on the health and welfare subcommittee. No members volunteered for the Climate and Nature Sub Committee.

**268.11 The Rev Cobley Playing Field:** Consideration of **repainting the Play Equipment** deferred to the March meeting. The need and effectiveness of the **CCTV system** in light of a recent incident was reviewed, proposals and quotes for improvements to clarity will be considered at the next meeting; it was noted that the work of the **Playing Field Committee** may revert to the Parish Council, although no decision has been made; the cost of recent hedge cutting, including to the overflow car park, will be shared with the Memorial Hall Committee.

**Action:** Clerk

**268.12 New Memorial Hall Report** Cllr Bullen reviewed the recent meeting and reported that the proposal to extend the existing noticeboard had been supported; the committee are fundraising by holding a U3A rock concert on March 15<sup>th</sup>; the committee needs new

members; users will be required to dispose of their own rubbish; the committee will provide the room for the first aid training. Cllr Dollins report has been circulated and is available on the website.

**Resolution:** To pay the deposit for the noticeboard when the design is finalised.

**268.13 Burial Ground Report:** There have been no interments this period.

**268.14 Somerset Association Local Councils: Safeguarding:** Somerset Cllr Shearer offered to investigate linking with leads at Somerset Council. It was noted that health and well being grants are available up to £15,000 and up to £35,000 with match funding.

**Action:** Somerset Cllr Shearer

**268.15 Environmental Issues:** Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available on the website. Cllr Dollins hopes to summarise the new AONB Management Plan for the next meeting.

**268.16 Neighbourhood Watch** Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available on the website.

**268.17 Footpath Walkers Report: Two damaged signposts** were discussed. Cllr McGovarin offered to install met posts to repair them.

**Resolution:** Purchase 2 met posts.

**Action:** Cllr McGovarin, the Clerk.

**268.18 Emergency Planning** Cllr Dollins will present the Plan at the next meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Dollins

**268.19 Community Matters: Power cuts:** It was reviewed that due to a shortage of parts for the 60-year-old transformers, Rodney Stoke was without power for 3 days. It was discussed that larger settlements were prioritised; there was a lack of support; the emergency plan should consider such emergencies and suggest designated places with generators.

**Resolution:** Cllr Wilkinson will write to National Grid on behalf of the Parish Council to include: the time taken to reinstate power, the poor infrastructure and regular intermittent power cuts. Unanimously agreed.

**First aid course:** there has been a positive response to the proposal to charge a subsidised amount for the course for Parish groups and residents. 2 courses will be arranged with a further course subject to demand; **Bin emptying**, following notification of charges it was noted that adequate funds are allocated in the budget; **Rodney Stoke bus stop** bench to be installed in the next few weeks; **The Pound**, Rodney Stoke, the gate had been lifted off the hinges, despite a safer adequate access located away from the main road.

**Resolution:** To arrange to insert a pin in the hinge. Unanimously agreed.

**Action:** Cllrs Ward, Wilkinson, Clerk.

**268.20 Correspondence:** All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. Including the following: The Parish Council's response to Somerset Council regarding the electoral review. The same response will be submitted to the government consultation.

**268.21 Newsletter:** the following items were agreed for inclusion: Power cut advice; U3A rock concert; Cllr vacancy; Hall Committee vacancy.

**268.22 Statement of Accounts:** The statement for January had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for November and December had been previously verified. Cllr Ward reviewed the Council's accounts.

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

**268.23 Financial Report:**

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

**Resolution:** The schedule was unanimously approved.

HMRC	I179	PAYE	£128.64
Draycott Playing Field Cottee	I185	Grant towards Playing Field Upkeep	£1000.00
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I186	Grass Cutting	£61.00
Adam Clark Tree Services	I187	Tree & Hedge Maintenance	£290.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils	I188	Training	£28.00
Somerset Association of Local Councils	I189	Training	£25.00

H Marshall	I190	Salary & Expenses	£1,353.22
O Frost Forestry & Arboriculture	I191	Tree Report	£360.00
HMRC	I192	PAYE	£240.64
A Brumfitt	I193	Repair Gate Rev Cobley	£120.00
A Brumfitt	I194	Oak Tree	£70.00
Probusiness Ltd	I195	Payroll Charges	£232.50
Somerset Association Local Councils	I196	Training	£25.00
Plexus Media Ltd	I197	Website	£78.00
GWB Services Ltd	I198	Grass Cutting	£136.32
Probusiness Ltd	I199	Payroll Charges	£46.50
GWB Services Ltd	I200	Tree & Hedge Maintenance	£210.00
H Marshall	I201	Salary & Expenses	£33.15
A Chick	I202	Street Cleaning	£348.92
H Marshall	I203	Salary & Expenses	£1099.70
Cloud Next Limited	I204	Domain & Hosting	£59.98
NEST	DD	Pension	£41.05
NEST	DD	Pension	£41.05
NEST	DD	Pension	£70.56
NEST	DD	Pension	£44.31

ii. **Grant requests** from St Leonards Church PCC towards grass cutting; CPRE towards campaign costs; Citizens Advice Somerset.

**Resolution:** To Award a grant of £500 to St Leonards Church PCC. The other requests were not supported and it was agreed to consider more local requests if they were received.

iii. To add a further signatory to support online banking.

**Resolution:** To add Cllr Wilkinson to the bank accounts. Unanimously agreed.

iv. **Replacement of the office laptop**, as Windows 10 software will become obsolete. It was discussed that although Windows could be updated, the laptop was over 8 years old. Earmarked reserves were reviewed. Cllr Wilkinson offered to investigate suitable laptops.

**Resolution:** To replace the laptop up to a value of £500.

**268.24 Dates of future meetings: 2025: March 20<sup>th</sup>; May 15<sup>th</sup>; July 17<sup>th</sup>; September 18<sup>th</sup>; November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Time of closing meeting: 9.40pm**