

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 17th July 2025, at 7pm

Present: Cllr Sealey (Chairman) and Cllrs Bullen, Dearden, Dollins, Dudden, Gladman, Massey and Ward. Also in attendance was Somerset Cllr Wyke, and the Parish Clerk. 9 members of the public were present.

271.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr McGovarin, leave; Cllr Wilkinson ill health; The apologies were approved.

The Chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee, Martyn Warne, also sent apologies as he had a prior commitment.

271.2 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sealey declared a personal interest in item 271.7 Planning. Cllr Ward declared an interest in item regarding a request for signage as he is the Shop Committee Secretary.

271.3 Public Participation: A resident discussed the plans for the pavilion and offered to liaise with a local trade centre with whom they had agreed an arrangement to donate materials free of charge. The Chairman thanked the resident. A resident discussed an enforcement matter and provided information on previous correspondence with the Planning Department.

271.4 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th May 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.

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

271.5 Matters arising from the Minutes: The Clerk is to contact **CCTV providers** regarding quotes for an enhanced camera; **First Aid training dates** 17th August and 24th September have been confirmed and will be circulated to hall groups church groups the shop and the school, the charge is £15 per head with the Parish Council subsidising the remainder, the certification will last 3 years. **The Zebra crossing and build outs** have been chased for repainting; **Bristol and kissing gates on Barrow Wood Lane, off Milking Lane and Westfield Lane** are to be provided and installed by Somerset Rights of Way team, the Clerk is to thank them; The **Noticeboard** has been installed for the hall users; Cllr Gladman offered to install the **key box**.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Gladman

271.6 Roads Report: The Clerk is to write to the school requesting that parents use the **zebra crossing and not the chicane points** to cross the road; there had been no further information received from MP Tessa Munt regarding complaints about the **horizontal deflection chicanes**, Somerset Cllr Wyke is to follow this up; **Damage to the parapet over Stoke pond culvert** Somerset Council bridges team have added this to the works schedule; a request has been submitted to reinstate **the chevrons by the Pound, Rodney Stoke; the Speed Indicator device** will be installed in Draycott following an accident outside the Cider Barn; a **Temporary Road Closure in Stoke Street, Rodney Stoke** to commence on 1st August 2025 for 9 hours to enable Kier to carry out jetting **Closure on Cheddar Moor Road, Cheddar** 11th August 2025 lasting for 12 days to enable Walters to carry out masonry repairs were noted; **Hill Lane silt traps** are scheduled **for jetting**, along with **Stoke Street and Brangay Lane**; **Brambles obscuring visibility** at the Stoke Street, Wells Road junction are to be reported for cutting back; Cllr Gladman confirmed that the **Fingerpost on Bay Lane** is next on the list for refurbishment; Cllr Massey is to send the Clerk pictures of **white lines and roundels** in Rodney Stoke that need **repainting**; the Clerk is to forward correspondence on the **drainage system on Bay Lane** to Somerset Cllr Wyke who has

offered to investigate the project; Cllr Wyke asked that the **closure of Junction 26 on the M5** be included in the newsletter as it could add to journey times.

Action: Clerk, Cllrs Gladman and Massey

The Chairman left the room for the next item. Cllr Gladman chaired the meeting for the item.

271.7 The Planning Report was reviewed. There were no updates. **Possible unauthorised development in Barrow Wood Lane, Rodney Stoke** was discussed including: that there were no planning applications or permissions outstanding, previous correspondence with Planning East on the site.

Resolution: To report the matter to enforcement for investigation but to note the previous planning reference provided by the landowner.

Cllr Sealey rejoined the meeting as Chairman.

A request for information on **outstanding enforcement issues** was discussed, no matters were raised for report.

Action: Clerk

271.8 Somerset Council Report. Somerset Councillor Wyke gave a report including the following matters: her position as Chairman of Westbury Parish Council and Vice Chair of Planning East; the Council recognition in tackling local government finance; no. of properties purchased to bring children in care back into County; foster carers needed; money acquired for active travel; new intelligent traffic lights in Wells; Film Somerset are generating money and attracting tourism; Agratas are moving ahead at Puriton creating @4,000 jobs; Hinkley C has the 2nd reactor lid on; merger of Strode, Bridgwater, Taunton and Cannington colleges, supporting local businesses creating apprenticeships.

271.9 Local Community Network: Cllr Massey reviewed the recent meeting including that there was an excellent presentation from Somerset Association of Local Council's health and well being officer who is keen to help smaller parishes, Cllr Massey will attend the next meeting on the 11th September, National Landscapes and nature will be discussed.

271.10 The Rev Cobley Playing Field: Playground Inspection training

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that the training is booked. Cllr Bullen seconded. Agreed. **the future use of the pavilion** was discussed including the following matters: reinstatement costs, planning consent for a new building, potential future use, the quote to repair the building in order to mothball it, the potential of donated materials

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that the building is made sound then mothballed Cllr Ward seconded. Unanimously agreed.

Actions: To obtain an agreement on the scope of the materials to be donated, to obtain a breakdown of the quote to make the building sound, to obtain 2 further estimates, the disposal of waste should be receipted, to request that EDF remove the electricity meter, to ensure that the water is turned off.

A request to allow dogs on the field was discussed including the following matters: It was noted that the Memorial Hall Committee did not support the request, sympathy for the request and the local constraints to dog walking, dog mess and patrols, trial periods, use at different times including at the time of the meeting, the donation of the field by the Rev Cobley for the children of the Parish.

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that the request be refused. Cllr Dudden seconded. One abstention. Agreed.

The **request to reinstate the Strawberry Fayre Sign** for use by the cinema Club had been withdrawn. The **Zip line** has been serviced **The sapling** has been well watered during the dry spell, Cllrs Massey, Wilkinson, Williams and the Clerk were thanked. The Chairman is to continue to water the tree with Cllr McGovarin. Cllr McGovarin will

organise a group to **move the dug outs** as they are killing the grass. The **Driveway has been trimmed**. It was agreed to send a card to the grass contractor. A cost has been requested to **clear the brambles** at the drive entrance as the trees are being stifled.

Resolution: Cllr Dollins proposed that if the quote is in line with the contract to go ahead with the work. Cllr Ward seconded. Unanimously agreed.

The **brambles along the field path** and the play area to be cut back. Report of a **broken Swing**.

Resolution: to remove the swing for safety and order a new bar part.

Action: Cllrs McGovarin, Gladman, Sealey and the Clerk

271.11 New Memorial Hall Report Cllr Dollins report has been circulated. A copy is available in the Minute book.

271.12 Burial Ground Report: There have been two interments this period. The Burial Ground Inspection was discussed. Cllr Gladman is to trim back the **weeds and growth** around the pond. It was noted that the recently **refurbished bench** looks very good. It was noted that a new fence had been put in at the top boundary and Cllr Gladman will trim back any overhanging branches and lay them by the fence. **Repair of the safety fence surrounding the pond**. The quote was discussed including that members felt the price was good value as all the rails need replacing.

Resolution: To accept the quote and go ahead with the work.

Resolution: To add consideration of rolling the ground to the January agenda.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Gladman

271.13 Somerset Association Local Councils: No matters were raised.

271.14 Environmental Issues: Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute book. Cllr Dollins noted an interesting immersive sound experience at the Sovereign centre in Weston called Nature Calling.

271.15 Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Dollins' report had been circulated; a copy is available in the Minute Book. Cllr Dollins noted new signs had been received. Cllr Dollins is to consult with Cllr Bullen on where they should be located.

Action: Cllr Dollins

Somerset Cllr Wyke left the meeting

271.16 Footpath Walkers Report: It was raised that a **footpath from Millway to Westbury** had been ploughed.

Resolution: To write requesting that the path be made accessible.

Action: the Clerk.

271.17 Emergency Planning Cllr Dollins updated the plan.

271.18 Community Matters: The potential project to create a community orchard in the overflow carpark, the following matters were discussed: the Chairman thanked the group for their hard work; the working party decided not change the status of their group at this stage; the completion of the project, provisional ideas on cost, the use of grant funding to cover costs including that the project fits with the Somerset Association of Local Councils Health and Lifestyle grant fund remit, the positive response from the community so far, support from the Memorial Hall Committee, analysis of the 2021 census and those who would benefit, ongoing maintenance, water harvesting, groundwork, a dedicated facebook page, local experts and advisors to the group, benefits such as mindfulness and wellbeing, walking and mental health, help from those attending meetings. Subject to consultation with residents, members were very supportive of the proposal. It was agreed to hold a survey of residents prior to a final decision on taking the proposal forward at the September meeting.

Boundary Review consultation

Resolution: To respond confirming that the Parish Council were happy with the allocation proposed.

Request for 2 direction signs to the village shop The shop representative outlined the plans, the quote from enhanced highways maintenance scheme was discussed. The representative will go back to the Committee to discuss the cost; **Volunteer Highway Maintenance training** was noted including the support offered to volunteers; An **abandoned car had been investigated and the police contacted the owner. The Pound** The Chairman thanked Cllr Dearden for her hard work as the flowers were looking fabulous. Members decided to thank **the Butterfly Garden** group as it looks beautiful.

271.19 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. Members did not respond to the new Local Transport Plan. Members decided not to promote a local garden festival as it was a commercial venture.

271.20 Newsletter: To include the following items: jetting Stoke Street, Cheddar to Wedmore road closure, dogs are not permitted on the Rev Cobley Playing Field, M5 Junction 26 closure

271.21 Statement of Accounts: The statement for July had been previously circulated. The bank reconciliations for May and June had been previously verified.

Resolution: To approve the statement. Unanimously agreed.

271.22 Financial Report:

i. The **payments schedules** were updated.

Resolution: The schedules were unanimously approved.

CPRE	I241	Membership Fees	£36.00
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers	I242	Insurance Premium	£1420.88
G B Sport & Leisure UK Ltd	I243	Aerial Runway Maintenance	£576.60
St Andrews Press of Wells Ltd	I244	Newsletter Printing	£61.00
Greenways Grounds Maintenance	I245	Grass Cutting	£176.00
Greenways Grounds Maintenance	I246	Grass Cutting	£176.00
Somerset Assoc. Local Councils	I247	Training	£28.00
H Marshall	I248	Salary & Expenses	£1108.25
HMRC	I249	PAYE	£29.39
Probusiness Ltd	I250	Payroll Charges	£46.50
Probusiness Ltd	I251	Internal Audit	£420.00
H Marshall	I252	Salary & Expenses	£288.27
A Chick	I253	Street Cleaning	£439.56
H Marshall	I254	Salary & Expenses	£1100.99
Greenways Grounds Maintenance	I255	Grass Cutting	£176.00
Arien Designs Ltd	I256	Noticeboard	£540.60
NEST	DD	Pension	£44.31
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271.23 Dates of future meetings: **September 18th; November 20th.**

Time of closing meeting: 9.54pm