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**THE LYCHGATE**



## **STOKE ST MICHAEL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018**

**County council report:** the Stoke St Michael pedestrian safety scheme is still under consideration though not first in line for funding at present. The rising drug problem in the county is given cause for concern and is a local issue. Is the Frog lane car park being used as a drug dealing rendezvous? The idea of uniting the Somerset, and possibly BaNES districts, is still being considered in the £300m cost cutting exercise that is biting day by day.

**Mendip council reports:** Car parking charges are to rise, though Sunday market dispensations in Frome are excluded from increases. The Cookwood Retreat estate is now advertising detached homes, in a gated community, at prices in excess of £1,000,000 These cannot be used as a primary residence. The lane through Stoke Bottom is to be made good by Penny's who have used this route in to the quarry retreat development.

**Minutes from 10/5/18** Red Lane is being restored by John Wainwright's engineers. There is still concern over the streamside path by the Butcher's smallholding where the bank has collapsed. Somerset's footpath specialists could offer help to rebuild the edges.

**Planning:** Phippen's Farm has plans in the pipeline that have yet to be presented.

**The Playing field:** Work on the pavilion roof is delayed, as the order for steel was not fulfilled on time. It should now happen in late July. The cost of renting the pavilion will be worked out once a review is completed that shows the cost of electricity over a year. The tennis court would make an ideal multi use games area (MUGA) for the parish and school. It may be that grants are available for such a community project? It is likely to cost over £20K. New play bark is in place. The bases to the little climbing frame figures have been reduced to sit below ground level. Thanks to Sebastian Wolf and John McEntee and all the children who helped get this done at half term.

**Millennium Woodland** A quote has been accepted to cut the meadow grass on the lower part on the wood and for a path around the perimeter. This is a first phase to bring the area into wider community use. Coppicing, trimming the understory of low branches, increasing wild flowers, bird boxes and hedging are all on the list of things to do.

**Defibrillator:** The cabinet is in place but the main unit and the electricity supply are yet to be installed. **THE UNIT IS IN THE KNATCHBULL ARMS AND IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY. IN EMERGENCY CALL 01749 840354**

**Mill lane traffic:** The new warning signs appear to be working. No incidents are reported this last month.

**Traffic speeds along Coalpit Lane and Church St and on Tower Hill.** This is the main north south thoroughfare and the way to the school and the Moonshill estate. Cars travel far too fast in and out of the village. Once again there are pleas for a police presence, radar monitoring and much improved signage. The PTA will be asked to join in the campaign to slow the traffic

**The village stream:** The working party has done a lot of research with the Environmental Agency and the quarry on water quality, silting, pumping and flow. Monitoring must take place over the year to establish a baseline for these aspects for the health of our stream. The serious error in May resulted in the settling ponds draining mud and silt directly to the stream over a prolonged period and gave rise to the suggestion that pumping should only take place when pumps are supervised directly. The erosion of the bank close to Mendip Farm, has been alleviated by the quarry. They have put in basic gabions to limit more damage on the roadside. Erosion by the boundary wall for Crosslynds is problematic and the stream may have to be diverted away from the wall and the meander straightened. Ownership of this land must be established as it may be parish land or belong to The Mill. Erosion to the conduits under the road is apparently not dangerous and Somerset minor works team will carry out further inspections..

**The Bus shelter.** Reglazing the shelter will have to be a DIY affair to the cut cost of a relatively simple job. A single pane will be £180 + VAT

**Village Events committee:** This very successful group have secured considerable funding for a summer festival on the community playing field on August 18<sup>th</sup> (£3K) and a Centenary Commemoration for Armistice Day (£4.7K) over the weekend of 10/11 Nov. Another Fun Run, up-round-and-down is planned for September 30<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Fayre and a litter pick will be in the diary soon. There is a car wash on 30<sup>th</sup> July all morning in the pub car park.

**Cheques for authorisation:** Cheques were signed for village website maintenance, grass cutting, EDF electricity, Sweeping the Lychgate area, The burial clerk's salary, the parish clerk's salary and expenses, the two new playground gates, and parish wide insurance.

**Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 in the village hall.

**Village youth club: The junior and senior clubs are on Wednesday from 5.30 onwards. They are well attended!**

**Can you help with work behind the scenes – book keeping, fundraising, risk assessment, organising trips out etc, or in running single sessions with distinct themes? Maybe cooking, make up, art, live music, or promoting your hobbies and interest for new fans. We are short of adults to help supervise and without a correct ratio of adults to the young people, we cannot keep the club open on a regular basis. Please contact us on 01749 841300 or at [stokestmichaelyouthclub@gmail.com](mailto:stokestmichaelyouthclub@gmail.com) or via the Youth club Facebook.**

**A lengthier report is on the website.**