

## STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

These minutes were approved and signed as a correct record at the meeting held on 21 February 2019.

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Present:** Cllr. Holder (Chair), Cllrs. Mearns, Taylor, Wolf, Gibson, Hambly, Johnston, McEntee and Cllr Philip Ham

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hayes and Cllr. Townsend.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Each Member declared an interest in respect of Item 7 with dispensation granted to enable the appropriate decisions.

Cllr. Mearns also declared a personal interest in Item 15.

#### 3. Public Session

There were not any members of the public in attendance.

#### 4. County & District Councillor Reports

In Cllr. Townsends absence he submitted the following written comments *“The Licensing Board at MDC agreed a below inflation increase in taxi fares and further agreed to retain the premium rates for a Sunday service. It was further reported that a strategy document was being prepared in conjunction with the County Council and other District Councils on Housing Needs noting that Highways and Broadband were specific key infrastructure issues. A copy of the Mendip Housing Profile is to be circulated to Members.”*

Cllr Ham reported that with the Christmas and New Year holidays there had been limited progress in a number of areas.

The SCC budget was showing signs of stabilising following the actions taken through 2018. He confirmed that there were no cuts proposed to libraries and bus services in our area but SCC would not be filling the salt bins over the winter period. He further confirmed that there were now 600+ looked after children in the County and this was the highest

number recorded. There were increased costs being incurred because home visits in respect of these children now required two-person visits. SCC had agreed a council tax rise of 3% + and additional 1% for adult social care. Further he made reference to the possible re-classification of footpaths but this required clarification as to extent and impact.

The MDC report centred on the council tax rise, and the Saxonvale development in Frome. In respect of the council tax it was reported that the overall increase equated to £5per band D house per annum. In respect of Saxonvale a public consultation process was to commence on the Housing and commercial development proposals the following day; Friday 11 January.

## **5. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**29 November 2018** – Subject to the correction of one spelling mistake the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Mearns

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. McEntee

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10 December 2018** - The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Mearns

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Hambly

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6. Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

Cllr. Johnston confirmed the Lychgate had been compiled in the revised format previously discussed and that he was shown as the Editor. The village news and events were printed on page 1 with the notes of the Parish Council meeting on page 2. It was also confirmed the repairs to the bus shelter was completed. Cllr. Holder reported that the site for the replacement bench had been selected and the contractor could liaise directly with him for the purposes of confirming siting, timing and invoicing.

## **7. Draft Budget and Precept**

The draft budget previously circulated was discussed at length. A revision to the budget to reflect the discussion was to be circulated. There was agreement that the precept should be set at £23,625 for the financial year 2019/20 representing an increase of approximately 6p. per week for a Band D property.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Johnston

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Wolf

## **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **8. Grants to Village Organisation.**

The Parish Council had received 2 written applications for grant aid.

The first from the Stoke St. Michael Community Events Group was for the sum of £336 to fund the insurance premium for the two proposed "litter pick" days at £33 for each day and £270 for the Stoke Fest for first aid cover at £140, the cost of the Temporary Events notice at £21 and the PRS Music Licence at £109. The grant of £336 was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Johnston

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Mearns

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

The second request came for the Community Playing Field - Reg. Charity 304639. The Treasurer of the charity has submitted a detailed submission which was scrutinised by Members. During the discussion it became clear that a final decision was not possible because there were a number of items of expenditure which could not be finalised at this point in time. It was thought an interim grant should be agreed pending further clarification. This interim grant would be based on grass cutting in the sum of £1700, Somerset Playing Field affiliation fee of £15, Annual Safety Inspection fee of £110 and Play Bark of £150 making a total of £1975. This solution was:

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. McEntee

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Wolf

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was also discussion on the refunding of the sum of £369.97 that was transferred into the Parish Council bank account following the resignations of the previous Management Committee for the Community Field. It was necessary to refund this sum.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. McEntee

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Wolf

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **9. Progress report on Community Playing Field - Reg. Charity 304639**

The Chair of the Community Playing Field Charity's Management Committee provided an update on the progress being made in preparation for completion of the transfer of the function including the appointment of three additional trustees. The substantial matters still awaiting formal resolution were the arranging of Insurance, Bank Account, Wessex Water, Charity Commission returns,

**The progress being made was noted.**

**10. Millennium Wood**

No further progress had been made and a Working Party meeting would be held on 22 January 2019.

**The position was noted.**

**11. PCSO**

The Chair reported that he had been able to contact the PCSO. The action being proposed was to carry out speed checks on Coalpit Lane to establish traffic speeds as a pre-cursor to assessing what action, if any, was necessary for control purposes. In addition, the monthly reports would be sent to the Chair for distribution in the short term.

**The position was noted.**

**12. Village Environment**

There was nothing further to report on this matter. A contact in MDC was suggested as an appropriate course of action with a report to the next meeting.

**The position was noted.**

**13. Silting of Rivers**

Cllr. Hambly updated Members on the current position and stated that the works were completed near the quarry and the Highways Authority had signed these off. At this stage there was nothing further to report on Mill Stream.

**The position was noted.**

**14. Pedestrian Road Safety Enhancement Scheme.**

At this stage there was nothing further to report.

**The position was noted.**

**15. Bridge on Millennium Green**

Cllr. Mearns re-iterated her interest in this item and left the room for the duration of the discussion.

A further quotation for repairs had been received. There remained the requirement for a further quotation before a decision could be made.

**The position was noted.**

Cllr. Mearns returned to the meeting.

## 16. Finances

1. Bank Balances – Current Account £25778.74 (N.B. This sum was calculated rather than being reported from the bank account statement.) Reserve Account £50.43

**The position was noted.**

2. Cheques for authorisation

F. Clements £36.00

EDF £88.41

SSMCEG £336.00

Comm. Field £1975.00

Comm. Field £369.97

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. McEntee

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Wolf

3. Annual Return – In the absence of the Clerk this matter was deferred.

## 17. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were brought to the attention of the Parish Council:

a) A letter of resignation from the Clerk/RFO

b) A revised planning application numbered 2018/2334/FUL (n.b. the consultation period for the application closed the previous Monday)

There were not specific agenda items for discussion of these items and they will be listed for the next agenda.

## 18. List of dates for forthcoming meetings

The previously circulated list of proposed Parish Council meetings for 2019 was discussed.

The list was agreed as follows:

21 February

04 April

16 May [Ordinary Meeting and Annual Meeting]

04 July

05 September

17 October

28 November

09 January 2020

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Mearns

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Hambly

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

**19. Matters to report/Items for the next agenda**

The following matters were identified for inclusion on the next agenda:

- 1) The resignation of the Clerk/RFO together with the need for a robust appointment process;
- 2) Millennium Green bench seating the other side of the bridge;
- 3) An additional quote for Millennium Green bridge repairs;
- 4) Election of the PC representative to the War Memorial Hall for 2019/20

**20. Date and time of next meeting.**

The **date** of the next Parish Council meeting is **21<sup>st</sup> February 2019** at **19.30 hrs** in the **War Memorial Hall**.

The meeting closed at 22.00 hrs.

Signed .....

Date.....