

STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

51 Polkes Field, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, Somerset. TA3 6EX.



Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 in The meeting room. Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

Present: Jessie Cartwright (Vice Chair), Julie Monro, Lawrence Bostock, Janice Pearce, John Hembrow, Heather Venn, Peter House, Ann Finn, David Fothergill, Sally Taylor (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence: John Hardy

Members voted unanimously to accept apologies.

166. Approve and sign minutes of the November meeting:

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed accordingly.

167. Declarations of interests and dispensations: John Hembrow re Planning Application

168. Questions and comments from the public (limited to 15 minutes in total)

No members of the public in attendance.

170. Planning

Application number : 36/25/0001	Registered :
Stoke St Gregory	Case officer :
Correspondent :MICHAEL GOFF	Applicant :H

Erection of extensions to agricultural building at Huntham Farm, Huntham Lane, Stoke St Gregory

An additional bay on one end of shed. Squaring up open yards. End facing SW will be clad.

LB says will reduce rain run off

All agreed to support application.

171 Health and Wellbeing Projects/Grants

OAP lunches. Meeting this week feedback next time.

JP will present Alzheimer's Society advice next time

LCN - active travel/rural isolation - AF will research should we attend meeting?

What's the need? JC to pull together questionnaire to establish need.

Currently no Luncheon club Liz Hembrow is keen to continue, has been away, meeting to discuss to take place. Staffing to run it is the difficult part.

JM reported that there is a list of volunteers to assist with defibrillator operation on the

website but that it is not up to date. It was also suggested that another training session would be useful to get more people trained on how to use them.

ST to update list on website. Also to look into running another training session - contact NC surgery.

JHa (newsletter article) to ask for trained people to put themselves forward to be listed on the website.

172. HOTV: Feedback from Special Members Meeting (LB)

LB reported that the meeting had narrow parameters.

A temporary committee set up to run the project in the short term.

GG was nominated as Chair, but he will not stand for the new committee.

Nomination forms have been sent out.

Little said about what or why - as water under the bridge.

Discussion took place around the potential involvement of the PC, whether to submit a nomination for a place on the new committee, or to have an observational role on the committee. ST advised that she had sought the advice of SALC as to whether a nomination to the committee was allowable. No response at the time of the meeting.

It was agreed that the most appropriate involvement would be as a non voting member without duties. JM (in capacity as temporary Secretary to HOTV) to check rules about corporate shareholders and whether an observational role on the committee to represent the PC is possible.

173. Somerset Councillor report (see pp 5–7)

DF reported that under the Boundary Commission review there is a suggestion that SSG is going to be in the same area as Curry Rivel and not North Curry. With all the direct connections between SSG and NC eg Health Centre/Churches/Flood Management/Roads/Meals on Wheels that link must be maintained. Deadline for consultation is 4th March.

ST to send a response to consultation on behalf of PC

Discussions around publication of Footpaths on the village website. They are there but not on the Activities/Outdoors page.

ST to ask NS to put the link to Somerset Roam on the Activities/Outdoors page

174. Broomfield Park

Nothing to report. JHa to feedback from Management meeting next time if there is anything to report.

175. Highways

Nothing to report

176. Footpaths

Covered above under 173.

177. Flooding

HV reported that she had contacted Bill Revans regarding flood gates not being opened quickly enough after water has left roads. This is causing unnecessary

extended journeys. It was suggested that they are not monitored over the weekend although they are supposed to be.

HV to follow up.

178. Playing Field

Nothing to report as last meeting was in December.

179. Heart of the Village

(Covered above)

180. Councillor Training

ST to continue to circulate courses available. None attended this month.

181. Financial matters

Payments to be authorised

DATE	REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
3-2-25	AYC2X-HL73S-QKV4U	SALLY TAYLOR	PAYMENT TO LCN WEBMAIL FOR DOMAIN NAME (5 YEARS)	£118.79
1-2-25	804	NICK SLOAN	WEBSITE MTCE JANUARY 25	£120.00
28-1-25	NOTICE BOARD	DANIEL TAYLOR	INSTALLING AND PAINTING NOTICE BOARD	£492.00
1-11-24	SALARY JAN	SALLY TAYLOR	CLERK SALARY JAN25	£327.77
8-2-25	Acc 27046414	WYBONE	2 X DOG WASTE BINS	£374.38

182. Other items for discussion

Discussion around a Village Fete in 2025. No PC members have the capacity to organise such an event this year. Suggested Project Play might wish to take it on and have it as a fundraising event.

All agreed to support the event financially with payment for a band if an organiser can be found.

ST to write to PP to inform them that the PC will support the payment of a band.

ST asked for a date for the APM to be set.

All agreed on 19th May 2025. ST to book hall and organise a speaker

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

*The next meeting date will be as follows **Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.***

SOMERSET COUNCIL

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

February 2025

Council's financial position: Somerset Council's request to raise the Council Tax above the 4.9% cap has been approved by Government. This is the only such increase for any County authority and sits alongside only five other requests across the Country including the already bankrupt Birmingham City Council. The Council declared a financial emergency in November 2023 and was only able to set a balanced budget in February 2024 by agreeing to significant savings, job cuts and the sale of both commercial investments and surplus land and property (estimated by Officers at £50m). The council is already reliant on reducing its workforce to balance its budget for the 2025/26 financial year - with staff redundancies accounting for £34m out of a total of £47m in planned savings. But rising costs and demand for services, have left the council with a further expected budget gap of £66m. The increase over and above the Council Tax cap will go some way to filling the gap but it is likely the government will still have to agree to Somersets request to extend its capitalisation directive - which allows the council to use the proceeds from selling off land, property and other publicly-owned assets to fund day-to-day spending on public services.

Boundary Proposals: The deadline for phase 2 of consultation has been extended to 4 March 2025 in the absence of a submission from Somerset Council by the original deadline of 20th January. The Somerset Council request to extend the deadline followed the Constitution and Governance Committees Meeting on 14 January where the committee resolved to reject the recommendations of the cross-party Electoral Review Working Group for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for Stage 1 of Somerset Council's Phase 2 response.

Somerset Local Plan call for sites: A Call for Sites has been launched - whereby Landowners, developers, and site promoters are being invited to submit land they would like to be considered for possible future development with potential uses such as housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches, renewable energy installations, and leisure/recreation facilities. The call for sites will run until 24

February 2025. More information can be found on this site:-

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/.../local-plan-call-for-sites/>

RofW Registration deadline: The deadline for registering historic rights of way is to be scrapped. The last government set a deadline of 2031 for all rights of way in England to be added to an official map. The new government has now said it will repeal this new deadline when parliamentary time allows. Once recorded as rights of way and added to the definitive map, paths are protected under the law for people to use.

Fire service consultation: Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has started a consultation with options to change how we respond to automatic fire alarms. The consultation is open until 9 April 2025.

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/about-us/AFA-consultation>

Bus Service Improvement Plan: Somerset Council has received just over £6 million in funding for 2025/6 from Government for the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan. The council has already trialled initiatives such as evening buses and capped fares in Taunton along with plans for transport hubs in the county and bus priority measures following an initial £12 million in funding from government for the Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in 2022. The process of deciding how this next tranche of funding will be spent has begun. Initial discussions have taken place with bus user groups and local operators, along with members and other stakeholder groups. The key theme will be looking at how BSIP funding can be utilised for initiatives across wider Somerset. The current £1.50 single fare for Taunton runs until 31 March. There are no plans to continue this due to the cost and the fact that spending the money here will prohibit wider county initiatives.

Metal Packaging recycling: Somerset Council and their waste collections contractor, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK have launched a new campaign promoting recycling metal packaging. In a bid to improve kerbside recycling rates, households across the county are being encouraged to recycle food and drink cans, aluminium wrapping foil and foil trays, empty aerosols and metal screw tops. Spearheaded by the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro), the 'MetalMatters' campaign will use targeted social media and digital messaging as well as radio and bus advertising to communicate the benefits of recycling metal household packaging. Starting in February, it is hoped that within the six-week long campaign, we can engage with the majority of the 270,000 households in the

Somerset Council area. Since its launch in 2012, more than 128 local authorities have adopted MetalMatters, with recycling rates improving as a result.