

STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL



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

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025 in The meeting room.
Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

Present: John Hardy (Chair), Julie Monroe, John Hembrow, Heather Venn, Ann Finn, Peter House, David Fothergill (after Agenda Item 7) and Sally Taylor (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence: Janice Pearce, Jessie Cartwright, Lawrence Bostock

All agreed to accept

255. Approve and sign minutes of the June meeting:

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

256. Declarations of interests and dispensations: None

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

The resident of Holway House, Meare Green was in attendance regarding the positioning of the SID pole.

The pole was originally outside of 2 Holway House, but was removed by the resident. This placement of pole was acceptable to the residents of Holway House but it's new position is now too close to their property.

He asked about what consultation had taken place over the placement, and asked if he could petition to see if can relocate.

AF gave the background to the situation. She said it was difficult to locate due to roadside erosion ie where wide enough away from any bends in road. Traffic Management from Somerset Council came out and concluded the only suitable place was in the actual position it is now located. The previous owners of Holway House agreed for it to be located there. Location was marked, but there is a drain so it was sited further back from the property and more in front of Number 2. Pole disappeared shortly after installation, AF visited and one of the owners said had been knocked and bent so wasn't safe and he had cut it down. Looked at options to replace pole, but were advised not suitable. He subsequently admitted he had taken it down as wasn't

consulted and didn't know what it was for. Said would bring it back but it has not appeared.

The PC told Highways it needed to be replaced and a new one appeared very soon afterwards. This was installed in the original location and it is now in the exact position which was initially intended.

The resident will deal with previous owners through solicitors as they were not informed. The garden was a draw to buy the house and now a large part of the garden will be over looked by the SID equipment. It will also be visible from the front of the house. The house has a garden path down to a fence, and they plan to open up the access, but the pole is immediately adjacent to the opening. The resident has offered to make a financial contribution to the relocation.

He has researched the guidelines re siting of SID and has looked at alternative possible locations, further along. The PC discussed a suggestion for a suitable repositioning, and a position was agreed by all parties.

It was agreed that the pole alone has a large visible impact at the property which will increase with the addition of the equipment. They were not made aware of the agreement when they purchased the house.

ST to write to Highways to come out and agree the proposed location and to receive a quote for the works.

258. Planning

36/25/0006 erection of 2 storey detached double garage/storage building at Cames Mead, Meare Green Farm.

PH AF JM attended a site visit. They concluded that it will be a substantial structure, however they cannot see that it will affect anyone. There was a concern that the building might in future be used for accommodation.

All voted to agree to support the application. However, they require a condition restricting use other than ancillary storage to the main house.

ST to make representation to SC

259. Health and Wellbeing Projects/Grants – Review of Survey Results

ST reported that the grants window had reopened, however guidance is not yet in place.

JC had sent responses through prior to the meeting. Very disappointing level of response.

Deadline to be extended until Friday 8th August – ST to promote again on FB.

If response is still poor the PC may decide on a project to submit a claim for a grant on.

A Community transport scheme was suggested as a possible project

260. Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church – Request for Grant.

ST advised that she had initially responded to say the CIL grant was almost all allocated and the PC has only limited capacity for awarding grants, however would take the request to the PC.

The general consensus was that the Baptist Church has had more financial support from the PC than many other groups/organisations. It was felt that there are potential opportunities for income generation on that site.

All agreed that as have supported in the past and there are constraints on the grants budget at present that the PC cannot support such a request at this time.

261. Enhanced Highways Maintenance

ST reported that Keir as the contractors can be hired by the PC to carry out certain works.

There is a training pack for volunteer groups which will include the Footpaths Group. It is not yet available, but when it is training will need to be carried out.

262. SID Installation – Meare Green

ST reported that she had spoken to the PCSO who advised that whilst we could report the unlawful removal of the pole, a more satisfactory outcome would be to agree a solution between the PC and the person who took the pole down.

If this does not resolve the situation we could then officially report to the Police to obtain a crime number to claim from insurance.

It was agreed that ST will write a letter and invoice for the cost of the pole installation in the first instance.

263. Somerset Councillor Report

DF reported that a Planning application (14/25/0018) has been made for a substantial solar panel farm at Ham, equating to 70 football pitches. Around 92% of this is to be built on floodzone 3B – Piles into ground will push more water down stream to Haymoor and Currymoor. North Curry PC have asked for

a presentation on this. If approved will set a precedent national and will have a huge negative impact.

Rest of report will accompany the minutes.

264. Highways

JHe reported there had been a small grass fire at Meare Green. Fire risk with hot weather.

265. Footpaths

Nothing to report.

266. Flooding

Nothing to report

267. Playing Field.

PH reported that the installation of Project Play is progressing well and it should be operational in the school summer holidays.

268. HOTV

Shop and Café doing really well.

Have appointed 3 paid bar tenders.

Fire compliance work ongoing.

269. Councillor Training

Latest programme of courses has been circulated – please ask ST to be booked on to any that are suitable.

270. Financial Matters

Payments to be authorised:

DATE	REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
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1-7-25	SALARY June	SALLY TAYLOR	CLERK SALARY June 25	£327.77
4-7-25	INV-816	NICK SLOAN	WEBSITE ADMIN June 25 AND PDF EMBEDDER RENEWAL	£132.27
7-7-25	SSGPC INTERNAL AUDIT	BECKY GOODCHILD	INTERNAL AUDIT 2024-25	£100.00
4-6-25	INV-#40UE038-0006	LA TECH CIC (PARISH ONLINE)	PARISH ONLINE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£264.00
3-7-25	INV-599	WILLIAMS HALL	HALL HIRE	£89.00
30-6-25	ALLOTMENT INSURANCE RENEWAL	ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION	RENEWAL OF ALLOTMENT INSURANCE	£226.85
1-7-25	INV-1385	SDH GROUNDWORKS	PROJECT PLAY - CIL GRANT PAYMENT	£30000.00
14-6-25	DEFIB TRAINING DAY REFRESHMENTS	JANICE PEARCE	REIMBURSEMENT	£15.56
4-6-25	CUMBRIA CLOCK CO	INV-20418	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	£234.00
1-7-25	SID FIXINGS	ANN FINN	REIMBURSEMENT	£23.23
27-6-25	INV-3651	G WAGEN AND JAMES	MAINTENANCE JUNE	£111.60

All agreed to pay

270. Other Items for Discussion:

Parish Preparedness survey needs completing by mid September. ST can complete in part but as some parts are subjective will need discussion to submit.

Agreed to discuss and complete at August meeting

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Next Meeting Monday 11th August 2025 7.30pm at Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory