

STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 in The meeting room. Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

Present: John Hardy (Chair), Peter House, Jessie Cartwright, Lawrence Bostock, Julie Monro, David Fothergill, Sally Taylor (Clerk) and four members of the public. Samantha Smith (following appointment)

Apologies for Absence: John Hembrow, Ann Finn

All agreed to accept apologies

298. Approve and sign minutes of the August meeting:

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

299. Declarations of interests and dispensations: None

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

SE and AS attended to update the PC re: Footpaths. Glyn Edwards from SC has been very helpful. SE and AS have been looking at paths the PC could install gates instead of stiles. They talked through these options with reference to a map.

JHe has 5 gates which he is to install.

There are 7 stiles/gates on a wish list to be considered. County probably only have one or two they could donate.

They are conducting a costing exercise as prices have increased - looking at other suppliers

Ball park figures -

Pedestrian gate £195

Bristol gate £240

Installation £300 per gate

The PC were advised that £17k has been spent on this parish - Glyn Edwards has been very proactive.

It was agreed that members should take a walk to review before making decisions.

SS advised that Hinkley have a lot of money for donating to local causes - a grant may be sought for the stiles.

ST to research

301. Interview of Samantha Smith for vacancy of coopted Parish Councillor.

SS stated why she had applied, and what she could bring to the role.

Voted and all in favour of appointment of SS.

Acceptance of office form signed, and SS was invited to formally join the meeting as a Coopted Councillor.

302. Planning

No new applications

303. Website Improvements

NS advised there were no radical changes but much improvement in the mobile function which is currently poor.

User unfriendly - now simplified and easier to navigate, however require Teapot to code. NS can do everything else.

HOTV off to own website with link from village one.

Environment Group lose tab.

V Hall is joining.

Councillors can look at the 'draft' by inserting Staging. in front of website address

Do we need to put up cookie notice as hardly use them? NS has written something but is minimal.

NS asked for Teapot bill to be approved. They set up for free in first place as training exercise for an apprentice.

All in favour to make the payment to Teapot

304. Neighbourhood Plans JL from NCPC in attendance

JHA introduced JL and thanked her for attending.

Central Govt - need 1.5m houses - cascade down to local councils.

Somerset need to find 70k new houses over the life of the new plan.

30 is a number that seems feasible and agreeable. Could allocate fields that might be usable, but NC not doing this.

2 years down line - now have northcurryplan.org

Will submit to LA in new year

Independent examination

Voting process

Plan adopted

NC have a year to go.

EG Windmill Hill divided up to align with the Neighbourhood plan.

Get 25% CIL money instead of 15% for any new developments

Can apply for grants for design guide

#housing needs assessment

Had a steering group. Retired solicitor - commercial property

SW reg director, census expert etc

Cost: Total around £30k.

Used previous CIL money £10k

Applied for £10k grant under scheme - have to be specific about what spending on

Can precept on it, so NC included over tw3o year at £5k each year.

Govt has now withdrawn grants

Gives some control in future - have to consider as part of planning

Stuart Todd is local consultant/expert

Consultation is key APM 2024 then MayFair - then official survey, draft policies at village hall

School did a community week - children voice.

Consult on draft plan in November.

No farmers wanted to engage with it

Referendum - PC has to be neutral

It gives you a voice and extra CIL money

Look at website from October 20th

ST to agenda next month for further discussion.

305. Health and Wellbeing Projects/Grants - Update on grant application.

ST advised that full grant was awarded. When money received it will be transferred to HOTV to spend and monitor. Reporting back to PC to send back monitoring forms and proof of payment to SALC by end September 2026.

The Grant panel had noted it was a lovely project and the submission was very well put together.

306. HOTV Funding Request - Air Conditioning - Update

Changed design and layout and installation is next week. Lower costs incurred.

307. PC Laptop

ST advised that the PC laptop is not Windows 11 compliant and needs to be replaced.

All agreed to replacement.

JC advised Argos have good deals, PH suggested using a local specialist such as Mark Curtis would be preferable.

ST to look for best option.

308. Somerset Councillor report

Planning service in crisis. 12 week shutdown is likely to continue. There are currently 22 vacant posts in Planning.

20th October deadline for consultation on Sunday charges for parking.

309. Highways

JHa suggested 'people' bollards, not all were keen. LB says virtual pavement in Creech is really good and would work here with a clear pathway to walk.

ST to investigate costs with Kate Brown. Also to chase progress with SID pole .

310. Footpaths

Covered above

311. Flooding

Nothing to discuss

312. Playing Field

No meetings so nothing to discuss.

313. Heart of the Village

Sunday lunches started, well attended and received.

Paid shop support and backfill to help volunteers

Ian Ashman temp pub manager

Fire door installation this week

PAT testing completed

Aircon next week

Redesign garden

Christmas Menu - 125 covers booked to date

Flat tenants leaving 10 November which may help with future recruitment if accommodation is available.

314. Councillor Training

Nothing

315. Financial matters

Payments to be authorised - **all in favour**

DATE	REFERENCE	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
1-10-25	SALARY September	SALLY TAYLOR	CLERK SALARY Sept 25	£327.77
1-10-25	Pay Award backpay	SALLY TAYLOR	BACKPAY FOR PAY AWARD	£93.38
22-9-25	INV-42	JOSH WILLIAMS	GRASS CUTTING	£144.60
30-9-25	INV 823	NICK SLOAN	WEBSITE September	£120.00
22-9-25	DOG WASTE BINS	DANIEL TAYLOR - WOODHILL FENCING	INSTALLATION OF 2 NEW DOG WASTE BINS AT WOODHILL TERRACE AND PLAYING FIELD	£126.00
13-10-25	INV-32892	TEAPOT CREATIVE	3 HOURS WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	£468.00

316. Other items for discussion.

NONE

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM

The next meeting date will be as follows:

Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.