

## STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8th December 2025 in The meeting room. Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

Present: John Hardy (Chair), John Hembrow, Ann Finn, Peter House, Lawrence Bostock, Julie Monro, David Fothergill, Sally Taylor (Clerk) and three members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Jessie Cartwright, Samantha Smith

### All agreed to accept apologies

334. Approve and sign minutes of the November meeting:

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed accordingly. There was a discussion around using names and initials in minutes. ST advised that using names of public members is not permissible unless specific agreement is sought and that is why initials are used.

**It was agreed that in future the Councillors may be identified by use of their initials, and that members of the public will be referred to as such and the group they represent if applicable.**

335. Declarations of interests and dispensations: None

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

A member of the public representing a parishioner brought attention to the state of repair of the pavement just past the shop going towards the School. The parishioner walks with a walker and the pavement is too dangerous for this. It was suggested that pushchairs would have a similar problem.

### ST to report to Highways via the portal

Footpaths Group – Members of the FG said that Stoke News had said that the PC has replaced

old stiles with gates/kissing gates the question was where are these or where have they been

proposed to be?

Jha clarified that The Footpath Officer at Somerset Council has been working with the FG to

replace a number of stiles and gates. He has been very supportive and SSG have been very

fortunate to have received a number of installations, some already installed some to be installed

including 6 in the Spring of 2026.

The PC has committed to supporting the FG with additional installations, and this is what was being referred to in the newsletter article. In particular, there is a commitment to

create a relatively short circuit around the village footpaths where stiles are replaced by gates for easier access.

One of the stiles identified for replacement is at Woodhill/Windmill. Woodhill Fencing has given

an estimate to construct and install wooden gates which is the landowners preference.

However as wooden gates have a shorter life the metal alternative is more cost effective and

should be the only option the PC should support. It is understood that a metal gate might upset horses, but it was suggested that some kind of rubber stop could reduce the noise issue.

**All agreed to support the purchase and installation of a metal kissing gate subject to Landowners agreement. If not in agreement alternative route will need to be identified.**

**ST to contact landowner to inform that the PC can only support a metal gate, and ask permission for that over wood.**

### 337 Planning

36/25/0015 Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation and erection of single story extension Side of No.5 Willey Road

Site visit LB and Jha garage double skin already. Then timber garage to side with pathway. Access back

Neighbours are happy.

**All agreed to support**

36/25/0017 Installation of full height glazing and erection of balcony on the 1st Floor level at Farm

**All agreed to support**

### 338. Burial Ground Access

Conservation officer has identified the need to sandblast the top surface.

Outside main door lift and replace as not level so sandblasting will not help.

ST advised that as it is for access to burial ground and walkway CIL funding can be approved.

**Offer £2000 fixed grant from CIL fund. Specify cannot be used for anything else.**

**All agreed**

### 339. Insurance for Project Play

We have responsibility to the current year. PFMC have been asked to shop around on renewal.

**All agreed to support**

### 340. Election Costs

Somerset Council have advised the amounts PC's should budget for any election. It needs to be held and ring fenced.

ST advised there is currently an annual budget of £1k so we are covered currently

### 341. Village Newsletter

ST advised that the printers of Stoke News had not invoiced since December 2023. ST had communicated with the Editors who said that there had been some issues around illness and there had been a subsequent delay in invoicing. ST has not invoiced the sponsors over this period as it would not be appropriate to charge for costs that had not been incurred. The costs have increased in 2025. ST asked for guidance on whether to invoice sponsors retrospectively.

**All agreed to invoice past sponsors with a covering letter and to advise all that the current cost is £85.**

#### **342 Somerset Councillor report**

Consultation for next years budget before 14 January

75m black hole next year.

3 statutory reports by external auditors.

Only 6 filed in whole of England last year. Monitored report

Temp head of planning being brought in for a year.

Sunday parking charges deferred. £730k shortfall as had already been taken out.

Consultation on electoral boundaries reopened.

4m for new EV charging points across the County.

LB said would be better to have a rapid charger.

Unrest about school transport to Huish Episcopi. Paying bus places will be withdrawn.

Admission policy will remain the same.

#### **343 Highways**

SID should be installed before Christmas.

#### **344 Footpaths**

Covered under 336

#### **345 Flooding**

Middle of Dark Lane is holding water, drains are compacted with silt.

**ST to report on Highways portal, DF will also report**

#### **346 Playing Field**

There's not been a meeting - next 15th December.

July 7th next year Village Fete.

#### **347 Heart of the Village**

Good response to leaflet drop. New volunteers.

Looking at structure of staffing

Several essential maintenance and repair expenses.

Building control signed off phase 3

Wessex Water have offered to host drop in sessions - could do here in the new year for people to ask questions. HOTV to host.

#### **348 Councillor Training**

Nothing

**349 Financial matters**  
**Payments to be authorised**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1-12-25	SALARY	SALLY TAYLOR	CLERK SALARY Nov 25	£338.51
10-11-25	INV-3706 and 3707	J WAGEN AND JAMES	BURIAL GROUND MTCE SEPT AND OCT	£223.20
29-11-25	INV-75	JOSH WILLIAMS	GRASS CUTTING	£25.00
30-11-25	INV	NICK SLOAN	WEBSITE November	£138.00
31-10-25	H and WB Grant	HOTV	Transfer of grant received for H and WB Lunch Project	£3762.38
28-11-25	INV-6926	ROCKWELL PRINT AND SIGN	NEWSLETTER PRINTING FEB 24 - AUG 25	£561.00
1-12-25	PP additional insurance	SSG PFMC	Additional premium for Numuga	£307.78

**ALL AGREED**

**350 Other items for discussion.**

Allotments - electric pump to pump water to watering points. This pump has been running and now they have an electric bill of nearly £500. Think they will disconnect it. They think it is wrong and will challenge.

Meeting closed at 21:10

*The next meeting date will be as follows:*

**Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.**

