

## **STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026 in The meeting room. Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm**

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

**Apologies for Absence: Ann Finn, John Hembrow**

**All agreed to accept apologies**

**351. Approve and sign minutes of the December meeting:**

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

**352. Declarations of interests and dispensations: None**

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

Two representatives of the Footpaths Group were in attendance. They provided photographs of the new gates provided by the County Footpaths Officer.

**All agreed to note a formal thanks to Glyn Edwards for all his help in achieving this great enhancement to our footpaths.**

They also reported a bottom step missing on a path on the land of Meare Green Farm (REF: 76499). All the steps need replacing properly. The FG asked if the PC might make a contribution towards the costs.

**The PC asked the FG to come back with some costings for consideration.**

ST reported that the landowner has requested that the replacement of a stile at Windmill is with a wooden kissing gate rather than metal. If we agree she is prepared to make some financial contribution if more expensive, and will be responsible for the upkeep of it.

**All agreed.**

**354. Planning**

**No new applications**

Signed: Vice Chair 9 February 2026

### 355. Church Clock

ST reminded the PC that Nick Sloan had suggested a while ago that it would be a good idea to find someone in the Village who would have an interest in clock maintenance he could share his knowledge with.

Nick has been involved on several occasions recently when the clock has not been working properly.

**All agreed to support finding a suitable parishioner (or two) NS to be asked to put together some suitable wording so an article can be included in the next newsletter. PH also commented that additional bellringers are needed, possibly there may be someone who is interested in both roles.**

### 356. North Curry Village Plan - Consultation

Councillors noted that the Plan contains a lot of detail, but felt it missed a summary at the end with conclusions and recommendations. Noted that it doesn't refer to infrastructure implications eg doctors surgery.

**All agreed that no comments are necessary.**

### 357. Councillor Vacancy

The advertising was paused over Christmas, but now need to think again about advertising, and maybe changing the advert.

**JC agreed to put together an article for the newsletter and to use in adverts. The theme being a younger parishioner, why I like being a councillor, what it is all about. Will also look into Whats app channels.**

**DF mentioned Be a councillor campaign by SALC - ST to look into this.**

### 358. Budget and Precept 2026-27

ST presented the proposed budget for the next Financial Year. The inflation CPI index for September 2025 was 3.8% and has been applied to applicable lines in the budget. Contingency and reserve lines have not been increased.

As we are looking at a slight underspend for the 25/26 budget it was felt that any increase in precept should be kept at the minimum .

When the budget figures are entered onto the precept forms it shows a 0.56% increase to Band D properties.

Bearing in mind the expected c10% to the County precept, the Councillors felt we need to be showing locals that we are showing due diligence.

**All agreed to approve the budget and precept.**

**JHa signed the precept request papers to this effect. ST to submit to County by 30 January 2026.**

### 359 Somerset Councillor report

Fostering - advertising for foster carers.

**BB Bridge closed 6 weeks in summer. County Scheme  
Consultation on County budget still open until 14th**

**360. Highways**

**Dave Owen from Church Close has cleared the drains around the end of Church Close and the Hall. It is hoped this will reduce the flash flooding in this area in times of heavy rainfall.**

**The Parish Council wishes to express their thanks to him for this.**

**361. Footpaths**

**Covered under Minute 353**

**362. Flooding**

**Water collecting on Dark Lane above Polkes Field has been reported by ST, the Council were seen with the drain covers open the next day but no progress since.**

**ST to report again.**

**363 Playing Field**

**Stoke Stampede was held on 11th January - very successful.**

**Without this fundraiser the playing field wouldn't survive without asking for financial support from the PC.**

**364. Heart of the Village**

**Busy Christmas trading period.**

**Capital projects - flat roof out back needs repairing..**

**Survey results all in and being analysed.**

**Starting to look at pub management recruitment again.**

**Joanne Bown has been recognised and has been presented with the Community Chair's Award for all she does for the Community.**

**365. Councillor Training**

**ST to Email latest training schedule.**

**366. Financial matters**

**Payments to be authorised**

<b>DAT E</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
1-1- 26	SALARY	SALLY TAYLOR	CLERK SALARY Dec 25	£338.51

Signed: Vice Chair 9 February 2026

01-0 1-26	INV -829	NICK SLOAN	WEBSITE December	£120.00
02-0 1-26	INV-635	WILLIAMS HALL	Meeting Room Hire	£45
03-1 2-25	INV-6968	ROCKWELL PRINT AND SIGN	NEWSLETTER PRINTING Q4 2025	£83.00

**366. Other items for discussion.**

**ST advised that Dave Evans had been in contact re his bank of historical information, and to ask for the link to his website on the Village website to be reinstated.**

**LB said that a large amount of information is already stored in the County archive.**

**It was suggested an article in the Newsletter might attract the interest of someone who might wish to get involved with him.**

**ST to invite DE to be the speaker for the APM in May.**

**Meeting closed at 8.53pm**

*The next meeting date will be as follows:*

***Monday 9th February 2025 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.***