STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 14th September 2026 in The Meeting Room, Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

Present: Jessie Cartwright (Vice Chair), Lawrence Bostock, Ann Finn, John Hembrow, Peter House, Julie Monro, Samantha Smith, David Fothergill, Becky Goodchild (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence: John Hardy (Chairman).

Apologies accepted.

461. Approve and sign minutes of the August meeting:

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Vice Chair.

462. Declarations of interests and dispensations: None

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

Footpaths issues -

The kissing gate has been installed on Woodhill.

The hedge on the allotment footpath needs cutting back and can be done now that it is September (not before due to possibility of birds nesting).

JH to contact the person who cut the hedge last time for a quote.

464. Planning: None

465. Somerset Councillor report

NC gave a monthly report of news from Somerset Council (report to be circulated by email to councillors).

466. Volunteer editor for the Newsletter required

The parish council are optimistic that there will soon be a new editor as a couple of people have shown interest.

467. Defibrillators and bleed kits – volunteers needed to make monthly checks

Volunteers are in place to make checks on the Coates and Royal Oak defibrillators.

SS to check if the volunteer checking the Curload defibrillator is still available to do this.

SS advised that the pads on the Coates defibrillator have expired.

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All agreed for SS to purchase new pads for the Coates defibrillator.

468. Welcoming and engaging new village residents

JM presented a draft leaflet intended for anyone new moving into the parish.

469. Power cuts – update

The clerk advised that she had contacted National Grid and received a call back informing that the power cuts were covering a very large area and the cause was not known yet, but probably something is coming into contact with a line. National Grid will contact us again when they have more information.

470. Great War Project – request for financial support for a booklet, website and memorial

LB advised that Somerset Archive Service is a charity that could advise on how best to preserve and store the information gathered by local residents. If a booklet is created this could be lodged with Somerset Archive Service.

Possibilities discussed included a memorial as there is no WW1 memorial in the village, or a plaque or photos displayed in the pavilion. This would be for consideration by the Playing Field Committee.

Clerk to connect residents who are in possession of local history information with LB to discuss how to go forward.

471. Consideration of a Community Car Scheme

The LCN Link Officer asked the PC if they would be interested in the possibility of introducing a scheme to the parish as there is no Slinky Service here. The PC agreed that this would be good as there are not bus routes in all directions out of the village.

Clerk to respond to the LCN Link Officer that the PC would welcome further information.

472. Highways

Dropped kerbs in Polkesfield – The clerk advised that it has been confirmed that the dropped kerbs will be paid for by the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the PC will be contacted for input regarding exactly where they should be placed. The PC will also receive a timeline within a couple of weeks for when the work will take place. Councillors agreed that 4 dropped kerbs are required.

Huntham Lane Path – The clerk advised that Road Records have found reference to a deed of dedication which is being followed up. The PC will be contacted once confirmed. This will identify who is responsible for repairs to the path.

Parking over the fire hydrant (opposite village shop) – The clerk advised that Highways will not paint hatched lines on the road to discourage parking, but the fire service agreed to repaint the hydrant sign (this has been done). It was noted that others have also been painted.

Tractors – Discussion following a complaint received from a resident about the one way system not being used while there is heavy farm traffic on the roads as well as EA vehicles. The PC has in previous years reminded farmers of driving carefully on the narrow roads and it was decided that the PC should send another email to all local farms. LB advised that the PC previously sent photos to Highways asking for signs warning of tractors that could be placed at specific

locations in the parish. Highways agreed to provide signs.

Clerk to follow up the previous correspondence regarding provision of tractor signs by Highways.

Clerk to draft an email to local farms asking for drivers to be mindful of the safety of other road users.

473.Flooding

Clearing of drains – The clerk previously emailed screenshots of relevant areas on the Somerset Highways Annual Works Map which shows gullies.

Councillors (JM, JH, JC) to visit the frequently flooding locations (Saturday before next meeting) to identify drains that need clearing so that the PC can obtain a quote for this.

Clerk to forward the maps again to councillors.

474. Playing Field – The Playing Field Management Committee will meet on the 28th September. Possible solutions to the issue of cricket balls causing damage to residents' properties will be discussed.

475. Heart of the Village – SS advised of the Annual Members Meeting on 21st September at 7pm and that 2 members would be stepping down. Applications to join the committee are encouraged. A new pub manager will start at the end of the month.

476. Burial ground – Updating of fees – This is due to be updated to be in line with St Gregory's church. JHe advised that the church will be updating theirs in January and the PC agreed to re-visit this then.

477. Financial matters

CIL money remaining £4162 – To spend by October 2027 – LB advised that the parish council had previously discussed the painting of a 'virtual path' similar to that in Creech St Michael. This would be placed on the road from the playing field to the school.

Clerk to follow up with the Traffic Engineer at Somerset Council re cost of virtual path

Clerk contract and annual leave – JHa and JC to produce the contract and discuss the recommendations from SALC re annual leave.

Pay award for parish clerks – The clerk advised of the national pay award recently agreed and recommended by NALC of 3.3% to be backdated to 1/4/2026.

All agreed that the pay award should be implemented.

The following payments were approved:

DATE of invoice	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
14-9-26	Rebecca Goodchild	Clerk salary for Aug plus 5 extra hours in July	£384.33
14-9-26	Rebecca Goodchild	Reimbursement for purchase of printer paper	£3.75

7-8-26	**Josh Williams**	**Hedge cutting Inv 48**	**£80.00**
17-8-26	**Samantha Smith**	**Reimbursement for purchase of defibrillator cabinet (PC agreed purchase at August meeting. SS reimbursed 28-8-26)**	**£694.80**
1-9-26	**Nicholas Sloan**	**Village website maintenance: August 26 Inv: 842**	**£120.00**
1-9-26	**Mark Curtis Computer Services**	**Set up new laptop, data and software transfer. Including ESET Anti-Virus license (1 yr subscription £23.00)**	**£159.60**
4-9-26	**Rockwell Print & Sign**	**Printing of Newsletter (Autumn 2026) Inv 7403**	**£84.00**

Previous month's invoices to be signed – The invoices approved for payment at the August meeting were signed by JH and AF as having been paid.

478. Other items for discussion –

Laptop – The clerk advised that the new laptop has been set up and is in use.

Noticeboard – The clerk advised that the centre section of the parish council noticeboard will still not open.

LB to see if the door can be fixed.

Meeting closed at 9:15 pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th October 2026 at 7:30pm at the Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.

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