

STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

MRS. SARAH MOORE, PARISH CLERK. 24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6PS
Tel: 01935 822455 E-mail: clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk



MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2022 AT THE HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

22/001/a **PRESENT:**

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Andy Dawe, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, and Mr Bill Southcombe

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), and 1 member of the public

22/001/b **APOLOGIES:**

Mr Paul Jeffery, Mrs Lyn Foley, Mr Graham Middleton, Mrs Suzanne Nelms, Mrs Alex Schellenberg, Mr Mike Hewitson (District Councillor) and Mr Neil Bloomfield (County Councillor)

22/002 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Brooks declared an interest in the Hamdon Youth Group, the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre, and the Memorial Hall

Cllr Donovan declared an interest in the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre.

Cllr Merrick declared an interested in the Sports & Recreation Trust

Cllr Southcombe declared an interest in HCAP and the URC

22/003 **CO-OPTION:**

Cllr Brooks introduced Mr Lee Churchill who wished to join the parish council. It was RESOLVED to accept Mr Churchill onto the council. The Clerk asked Mr Churchill to sign the Declaration of Acceptance and then she passed on the necessary paperwork for Mr Churchill to complete.

22/004 **PUBLIC SESSION:**

There were no public in attendance.

22/005 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the November meeting.

22/006 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

The Clerk reviewed the items on the Action List:

- i. Overhanging trees between Co-Op and Loder's Corner: A response has been received from Somerset County Council which confirmed the land belonged to Highways and the new Superintendent would be investigating the matter
- ii. Sea Wall Seats: Cllr Merrick said the Sports and Recreation Trust would be willing to contribute towards new seats. A discussion was held. Cllr Dawe said he would check to see whether the seats could be repaired rather than replaced and inform the Clerk. The Clerk said if they could not, then she would get quotes for new seats.

Action Cllr Dawe & Clerk
- iii. Stonehill Allotments: The Clerk said the Lengthsman is still waiting for a price for another person to assist with the clearance of Stonehill allotments
- iv. Moving the Bus Stop in West Street closer to the junction of Langlands– The Clerk said Highways have refused for the bus stop to be moved as there is already a bus stop opposite the junction to Langlands and it would not satisfy design guidelines. There are concerns about the visibility at the junction of Langlands for residents using the bus service because of the large vans parked in this area. Highways have suggested replacing the advisory white 'H' bar markings with double yellow lines. It was

- RESOLVED to apply for double yellow lines on one side of the junction on the Memorial Hall side of the junction, not the other as this would restrict parking. **Action Clerk**
- v. Stonehill Wetpour: Chase contractor to fix the wetpour **Action Clerk**

22/007 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

22/007/a Mike Hewitson – District Councillor

No report received

22/007/b Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor:

The Clerk gave Cllr Bloomfield's report. The round of Small Improvement Schemes (SIS) promised for late Autumn has been moved to early Spring but is not sure whether these will still be available after the elections in May. Cllr Bloomfield is only able to submit two schemes and is aware that two of his six parishes are looking at highway improvement measures. Somerset County Council are holding an extra ordinary meeting on 19th January to consider reintroducing a scheme of delegation that would allow decisions normally taken by full council to be delegated to fewer people. This is in response to the Covid rates within the county.

22/008 SPORTS & LEISURE:

22/008/a Hamdon Youth Centre:

Cllr Brooks gave an update on the refurbishment work.

Cllr Brooks said the Government had announced on 21 December that there will be further Covid grants available for the hospitality and leisure sector. The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Trust is eligible for this grant and has submitted an application via SSDC. Some of this grant will be used towards improving the green areas. A flowering Cherry tree will be planted in the back garden and improvements will also be made to the grassed area at the front including the planting of wildflowers, flower tubs and improvement of part of the grassed area which has been damaged by the building work going on.

22/008/b Hamdon Youth Group:

No report.

22/008/c Memorial Hall and Grounds:

No report.

22/008/d Play Areas:

The Clerk received a report from Cllr Schellenberg. The movement on the Spinner is stiff so the bearings will need greasing. The Clerk will ask the lengthsmen to do this. **Action Clerk**

22/008/e Sports and Recreation Trust:

The Clerk said the reports were delayed so these have only just been sent around to councillors. These reports included the Inspection report and the Independent Play Equipment Inspection report. The Clerk mentioned that at the Sports and Recreation Trust meeting, it was suggested that the point of contact on the signage for some of the equipment should be the Clerk's email address. A discussion was held, and Councillors agreed that this was acceptable, and the Clerk would pass on the emails to the Sports and Recreation Trust.

Cllr Brooks said the Sports and Recreation Trust are considering replacing the skateboard park as part of their five-year strategy. The cost of this is approximately £125,000. The Trust will be conducting consultation with the older children at Castle School and the Youth Group and will then apply for additional funding. The Sports and Recreation Trust have asked whether the Parish Council will match fund some of this funding and whether a letter of commitment can be provided. A discussion was held, and it was agreed to support this in principle but not to commit to any specific amount at this point in time. Cllr Donovan said he would write to the chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust and circulate this to the Finance Committee prior to sending to the Trust. **Action Cllr Donovan**

22/008/f Any Other Issues:

None.

22/009 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:

22/009/a Allotments

The Clerk said the rent renewal letters are going out this week.

22/009/b Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

The Clerk said she had received a newsletter from Avon & Somerset Police for the Somerton and Wincanton areas. She pointed out that there was an article in there about meeting the team at the Memorial Hall between 1pm – 2pm on Saturday, 29th January. It was agreed to put this newsletter on the noticeboard and on the village's Facebook page

22/009/c Footpaths:

No report.

22/009/d Ground Maintenance:

i. Groundsman

A number of small branches have come down in the Memorial Hall grounds and they have been stacked by the slide in the play area, so I have asked Ryan to clear them away.

ii. Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk said the lengthsman has cleared Whirligig Lane of the brambles & ivy and he has been continuing to clear Stonehill allotments.

It was agreed that the lengthsman was very good and committed and a benefit to the village.

22/009/e Highways and Transport:

i. Transport Strategy Group

Cllr Brooks said the Transport Strategy Group will be meeting on 19th January at 2.30pm to discuss the issues raised regarding traffic speed and other issues. This Group included residents as well as councillors.

ii. Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Donovan gave an update on the SID. The device has been moved from North Street onto West Street. Cllr Donovan agreed to forward the report onto councillors.

iii. Highway Issues

The Clerk said a resident is aware of the number of people that walk to Martock and how it is impossible to walk on the verge beyond the A303 bridge due to the encroaching brambles. The resident thinks it could be cut back but suggests in the longer term a hard surfaced footpath might be installed from the bridge down to the layby where the footpath goes off over a stile to Martock. The Clerk said this area is not within Stoke's Parish boundary but comes under Martock. It was agreed to pass this onto Martock parish council.

Action Clerk

The Clerk said she has received notification from the National Highways that they will be renewing the drain filters along the A303 from Wyllye, Warminster and Prophets Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon between 17th January and 22nd March. This work will be carried out overnight between 8pm and 6am.

22/009/f Street Lighting

No report.

22/009/g Defibrillator Report

The Clerk said she had received a report from Cllr Foley who has said the defibrillator reports have been submitted. However, the sign at Memorial Hall needs a new light bulb and the cabinet requires new batteries.

Action Cllr Foley

22/009/h Community Shop

The Clerk said Cllr Foley had no report regarding the shop.

22/009/i Any Other Issues:

i. Dog Mess

The Clerk said she has received complaints from residents about dog mess not being picked up along the High Street between the coffee shop and the top of Bonnies Lane. SSDC have also received complaints. The Clerk said she has asked if they will put some notices up and SSDC have asked whether we can put something in our parish newsletter reminding people that it is an offence.

Action Cllr Brooks

Cllr Donovan said dog mess is not being picked up in West Street either.

ii. Fly-Tipping

The Clerk said she has received a couple of complaints of fly-tipping on the Stoke side of Marsh Lane. These have been reported to SSDC.

iii. Ham Hill Road Car Park

The Clerk said she has been notified that Methadone bottles and foils have been found in the Ham Hill Road car park. It was agreed to report this to the police and SSDC.

Action Clerk

22/010 FINANCE:

22/010/a Matters for Report

- i. The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation report as of 31st December 2021.

	£
Lloyds Current Account	14,665.66
Lloyds Reserve Account	67,831.18
Melton Building Society	<u>33,326.03</u>
Cambridge & Counties	<u>22,730.67</u>
Subtotal	138,553.54
Outstanding Cheques	<u>75.00</u>
Total as Cash Book	138,478.54

Less Ring-Fenced Amounts:

	£
Pavilion Reserve Account	27,530.67
Asset Management Reserve Account	34,209.06
Allotment Deposits	938.67
Bequest – Plants	150.00
Hamdon Youth Centre	<u>-4,250.64</u>
Total	58,577.76

Budget Working Capital 79,900.78

- ii. Quarterly Budget Comparison.

The Quarterly Comparison report had been circulated to councillors. This compares actual spend against budget and at the half-yearly expenditure is 76% against budget.

22/010/b Matters for Resolution.

- i. Invoices Payable:

		£	
<u>Paid 13.12.21</u>			
Howdens Joinery	Kitchen for HYFC	3,045.55	BACS
Perfect Panelling	Panelling for Kitchen in HYFC	310.35	BACS
<u>Paid 04.01.22</u>			
DR Jones Yeovil Ltd	HYFC Replacement Flat Roof & Refurbishment Work Phase 2	24,508.94	BACS
<u>To be paid</u>			
Sarah Moore	Expenses for December	69.37	BACS
Stable Print	January Newsletters	205.00	BACS
Evis Ground	December Ground	666.66	BACS
Maintenance	Maintenance		
HMRC	PAYE Period 8-10	163.80	BACS
P A Higgins Electrical Ltd	Emergency Lighting System for HYFC	2,550.00	BACS
SSDC	Parish Lengthsman for December	<u>692.64</u>	BACS
	Total	32,212.31	

The Clerk said she had only just received the invoice from SSDC for the lengthsman and asked for it to go on this month's payments. This was agreed. It was RESOLVED to pay the invoices for December.

ii. Other

Cllr Donovan said the Tax Base rate has been received from SSDC. This has decreased from 736.27 to 723.90 which means there are less taxable properties within the community. This automatically increases the Band D rate by 1.71% or £1.62 p.a. Cllr Donovan explained how much income is received aside from the precept and what our statutory expenditure requirements would be for 2022/23 and that a precept of £71,412 would be needed. This is an increase of 2.25% on the current precept and raises the Band D value by £3.91. Cllr Donovan said this coming year will be a very difficult year to justify a significant increase in precept but in order to balance the budget and cover our statutory expenditure this increase which does not even cover inflation is needed. It was RESOLVED to increase the precept to £71,412.

22/011 PLANNING:

22/011/a Planning Information:

Cllr Brooks said there would be a film presentation by Somerset Rivers Authority on Saturday, 19th February at Martock Parish Hall regarding flooding issues. The film shows how Somerset's communities have responded to the risk of flooding and the work that local volunteer flood wardens and groups do.

Cllr Brooks said there have been IT issues on the planning section of the SSDC website, so she has not been able to access any planning application documents.

22/011/b Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

21/03279/HOU – installation of 15 solar panels to garage at rear – North Street Farmhouse, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR – no objections or observations

22/011/c Planning Decisions and Reports:

Reports

20/00991/OUT – outline application with all matters reserved save for access for the residential development of land for up to 17 no. dwellings (amended) - Land at Masons Lane, Montacute. – no further progress.

21/03109/DOC1 and 21/03110/DOC1 - Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) on applications 17/00186/FUL (2 houses) and 16/03872/FUL (14 houses) - Land at Greatfield Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon – not able to access consultee documents.

20/01831/FUL – the erection of a detached chalet style dwelling and associated access and parking - Land rear of Princes Close Car Park, Stoke Sub Hamdon - not able to access consultee documents

20/02274/DPO – application to remove the “age-restriction” condition for purchasers which is defined in the s.106 agreement for 16 houses being built. - Land and Buildings, Greatfield Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon -not able to access consultee documents.

Decisions

There are no published decisions.

It was RESOLVED to ratify the Planning Working Groups recommendations.

22/012 GOVERNANCE:

The Clerk reported that she has received confirmation that the Town and Parish Council elections have been brought forward a year to 5th May 2022 so that they align with the Somerset Unitary Council elections. Following the move of the election to 2022, the subsequent elections will take place five years later in 2027.

The Clerk said if there is a contested Parish Council election, the election costs would be paid out of the parish's precept. The Clerk explained the process to councillors and said she will give an update once she has received the nominations pack.

The Clerk reported that she had also received a letter from Pat Flaherty, CEO, Somerset County Council which sets out the number of candidates for each electoral division and the number of members that will be elected. Until the unitary council is vested in April 2023, the 110 new members will have responsibility for the county council's functions and the transition

to the new council. District councils and their members will continue to fulfil their functions until 31 March 2023.

The Clerk said it is also anticipated that there will be a full boundary review after the May 2022 elections and ahead of the subsequent elections in May 2027.

The Clerk said the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO), the Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have been lobbying the Government on behalf of parish councils to change the primary legislation to allow councils to meet remotely. Legislation was temporarily relaxed during Covid lockdown in 2020/21 but this ended in April 2021. The period of lockdown showed that remote meetings brought so many benefits to local democracy and residents, apart from the public health safeguards. These organisations are asking parish councillors to sign a petition for councils in England to have the choice to meet remotely. The Clerk said she would forward the link to councillors.

Action Clerk

22/013 CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

22/014 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:

Cllr Southcombe reported that the Synod have agreed to give a conditional exchange of contracts subject to the response from the Ministry of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities regarding the funding application. Cllr Southcombe said that he is applying for other grants such as the Millennium grant. Cllr Southcombe said there is little that can be done with the building other than that of a community building as the playgroup is a sitting tenant.

Cllr Southcombe said a survey has not been conducted in the last three years to find out whether residents wish to keep the building for community use, so a new survey is being carried out. If the result of the survey is that the building will not be beneficial or financially viable to the community then the Synod is responsible for maintaining the building.

Cllr Southcombe have said that the organisations who are storing equipment etc in the church have been notified that their property has to be removed before 31st January as the Synod will be locking the doors.

22/015 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared

22/016 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.41pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022 at 7.00pm in the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre.