

STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2022 AT THE HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

22/032/a **PRESENT:**

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Lee Churchill, Mr Andy Dawe, Mrs Lyn Foley, Mr Paul Jeffery, Mr Graham Middleton, Mrs Suzanne Nelms and Mr Bill Southcombe

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mr Mike Hewitson (District Councillor) and 1 member of the public

22/032/b **APOLOGIES:**

Mrs Rebecca Merrick and Mr Neil Bloomfield (County Councillor)

Cllr Brooks said that Cllr Schellenberg had decided to resign from the parish council due to personal reasons.

Cllr Brooks proposed sending Cllr Schellenberg a bouquet of flowers. It was RESOLVED to spend up to £50

22/033 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

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

Cllr Churchill declared an interest in the Memorial Hall

Cllr Donovan declared an interest in the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre and in the planning application 22/00275/HOU.

Cllr Foley declared an interest in the Community Shop

Cllr Jeffery declared an interested in the Sports & Recreation Trust

Cllr Southcombe declared an interest in HCAP and the URC

22/034 **PUBLIC SESSION:**

The member of public had no comments to make but just wanted to listen to the reports regarding speeding vehicles and road safety.

22/035 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Cllr Jeffery said his declaration of interest in the Sports & Recreation Trust under *Minute ref: 22/018* was not recorded. This was amended.

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

22/036 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

The Clerk reviewed the items on the Action List:

- i. Overhanging trees between Co-Op and Loder's Corner: No update on progress
- ii. Wetpour surfacing at Stonehill: This is still ongoing. The Clerk reported that she had sent photographs over to the Soft Surfaces and was waiting to hear back from them.
- iii. Defibrillator Accessories: The green light bulb for the sign has now been received and needs to be installed.
- iv. Terms of Reference for the Transport Strategy Group: These need to be set up. Cllr Brooks said this will be discussed at the next Transport Strategy Group meeting.
- v. Seats at Sea Wall: The Clerk said she has asked the lengthsmen to paint these and this will be done once the weather improves

22/037 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

22/037/a Mike Hewitson – District Councillor

The Full Council has met to approve the budget for the coming year which included the improvements to Ham Hill of a visitor centre and café. The Council also signed off the proposal to renovate the Octagon Theatre which has not been done since the 1980's. This is a good resource for the community and will include two cinemas and a dance studio.

Cllr Brooks asked what the District Council's position on introducing electric car charging points and would there be any available in Stoke. Cllr Hewitson said one scheduled to be installed in the car park on Ham Hill Road. Cllr Brooks asked Cllr Hewitson to clarify whose responsibility the charging points would come under, the District Council, the County Council or the Parish Council. Cllr Hewitson said he would find out.

Cllr Hewitson said the Council Tax will rise this year but only by £5 on a Band D.

Cllr Hewitson mentioned that he was not sure yet on what the transition of power will be under the new Council for Somerset after May.

Cllr Brooks asked if there was an update on the Mason Lane planning application. Cllr Hewitson said he would check but everything is still held up with the phosphate issue. Cllr Brooks said there are concerns of an environmental issue regarding flooding and water flow and, the fact that two villages will be joined.

(Cllr Hewitson left the meeting)

22/037/b Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor:

No report received.

22/038 **SPORTS & LEISURE:**

22/038/a Hamdon Youth Centre:

Cllr Brooks said once the builders have finished then the CCTV and fire alarm contractors will be able to complete their installation.

22/038/b Hamdon Youth Group:

Cllr Brooks said no meetings have been held so there is nothing to report

22/038/c Memorial Hall and Grounds:

Cllr Brooks said no meetings have been held so there is nothing to report

22/038/d Play Areas:

The Clerk said she had received a report from Cllr Schellenberg on the Memorial Hall play area; the spinner has been greased and the fallen branches have now been removed.

Cllr Nelms said there were no problems at the Stonehill play area with the exception that the sign on gate had come off. This was probably due to the bad weather. The Clerk said she would ask the lengthsman repair it.

Action Clerk

22/038/e Sports and Recreation Trust:

The Clerk had circulated the revised Facilities Management Plan to councillors.

22/038/f Any Other Issues:

None.

22/039 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

22/039/a Allotments

The Clerk said the allotment rent letters have now been sent out.

The lengthsman has cleared away a large area on the Stonehill allotment site and the Clerk said she needed to meet with councillors on site to decide on a way forward on how they would like this area to be managed. Cllrs Donovan and Foley agreed to meet with the Clerk.

Action Clerk

22/039/b Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

The PCSO has provided some dates for any councillor wishing to meet with the police sergeant. Cllrs Brooks and Foley agreed to attend the meeting.

Action Clerk

Cllr Foley reported there was some anti-social behaviour from some youths in the shop and when they were asked to leave Cllr Foley said she was verbally and physically abused. The incident has been reported to the police.

Cllr Donovan commented on the damage to the recreation ground and to his property and said the PCSO has spoken to the youths involved under caution. Cllr Donovan mentioned that these particular youths do not come from the village.

The Clerk said some youths have also smashed windows of house in Matts Lane and there was an incident at the Working Men's Club where youths were climbing the scaffolding. When they were told to get down, staff at the Club were verbally abused. Cllr Foley said the same youths were riding a motorbike inside the front area of the Memorial Hall grounds.

22/039/c Footpaths:

No report.

22/039/d Ground Maintenance:

i. Groundsman

No report.

ii. Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk said she had asked lengthsman to paint the seats at Sea Wall, and to clean all highway signs. She has also asked him to pressure wash the Hamstone markers at the bottom of North Street and in Queen's Crescent, to clear the streets of any fallen large twigs after the recent storms which could cause a trip hazard especially Prince Close where there are many elderly and disabled residents, and to clear the drains around the village of debris. The Clerk said she has asked the lengthsman to postcrete the posts of the large noticeboard as it is very unstable and has asked him to sand and stain the wood.

22/039/e Highways and Transport:

i. Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Donovan gave an update on the SID which had been situated along Highway. Unfortunately, there had been an increase in speed of 15% with one speed recorded at 86mph.

Cllr Nelms mentioned that there are a couple of vehicles parking next to the junction of Stonehill blocking the visibility splay not only for vehicles exiting Stonehill but for vehicles driving towards Yeovil. The area where these vehicles are parked is on the brow of a hill and is dangerous. Cllr Nelms said she has noticed that vehicles leaving the village speed up along this stretch of the road to try and avoid vehicles coming in the opposite direction because of all the parked cars.

Cllr Foley said the Parish Council need to do something about this. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council have limited powers and it is the responsibility of the police and Highways. The Parish Council can only ask for their intervention and request additional line marking. Cllr Brooks said the Transport Strategy Group will look into this and make some recommendations.

Action Transport Strategy Group

Cllr Donovan suggested that Cllr Nelms get some photographic evidence and pass it onto the Clerk who will then forward it onto the police. Cllr Nelms said all the houses in this area where the cars are parked on the road have adequate parking at the rear of the properties.

Action Cllr Nelms & Clerk

ii. Transport Strategy Group

Cllr Brooks said the group will be carrying out a road check starting at the bottom of North Street to see what issues need to be dealt with and to see what traffic calming measure could be implemented. Cllr Brooks said the village will be divided up into zones and each zone will be investigated. A suggestion has been made of some 'slowing down' measures at the entrances to the village such as rumble strips, gateways and larger signage.

Cllr Brooks invited other councillors to join the group and said it is open to both councillors and residents.

iii. Highway Issues

The Clerk said she had reported the large potholes in East Stoke by Windsor Lane and at the top of the High Street opposite the junction of Bonnies Lane again. Despite being red lined for well over a month, nothing has been done and both areas are getting worse. The Clerk said the drain suction lorry was in the village at the beginning of February. However, the drain in Ham Hill Road outside the rear entrance to the Working Men's Club is still blocked. This has been reported again.

The Clerk said Ham Hill Road at the junction with Little Norton will be closed on 16th March for one day between 9.30am and 15.30pm This is to enable BT Openreach to carry out cabling works.

Cllr Jeffery said there is a manhole in East Stoke which is loose. Cllr Nelms said that Wessex Water tried to fix this issue but were unable to do so because residents did not move their cars out of the way when asked. Cllr Jeffery also said that the barrier at the top of Windsor Lane is broken. The Clerk said she would ask the lengthsman whether he could fix this.

Action Clerk

Cllr Donovan said the barrier by Castle Primary School has been hit. The Clerk said that she had put the duct tape around it to cover the sharp edges and this was reported to Highways last year.

The Clerk suggested putting together a list of all the highway issues around the village which can then be sent to Highways.

Action Clerk

22/039/f Street Lighting

No report.

22/039/g Defibrillator Report

Cllr Foley said both defibrillators are in good working order and that the reports have been sent off.

22/039/h Community Shop

Cllr Foley reported that they have now appointed another paid person. The Shop has won an award for the Convenience Store of the Year for the southwest. Cllr Brooks congratulated the Shop on its achievement. The Clerk asked Cllr Foley to send her some information so that she could put it on the new website.

Action Cllr Foley

Cllr Foley said the cost of products are going up and residents are noticing. Cllr Brooks said the problem is prices are going up everywhere.

22/039/i Any Other Issues:

The Clerk reported that the new Parish Council website has gone live and has been advertised in the March edition of the newsletter. Cllr Jeffery said there is a lot of information on the site which was good as it is an advice centre for the village. Cllr Brooks thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in creating the new website. Cllr Brooks said this website is replacing the existing village website which Martin Herrod has been running on behalf of the parish council and suggested sending him a thank you present in the way of a voucher for a meal at the Prince of Wales. It was RESOLVED to give a voucher of £50.

Cllr Foley asked what was being organised for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A discussion was held, and Cllr Foley suggested having cream teas and a barbeque in the Memorial Hall grounds on the Saturday with games for children. Cllr Foley asked if the parish council would pay for the barbeque food. The Clerk asked if this event would come under the Community Shop or the Parish Council and whether Cllr Foley would be selling the food or giving it to residents. Cllr Foley said she would prefer to give it to residents. The Clerk pointed out that if it is a Parish Council event then the parish council could not make a profit from the food. However, if residents were required to pay then it would need to come under a different auspice and the Parish Council could give a grant towards it.

Cllr Foley thought the cost could be around £1,000 and the Clerk mentioned from past experience that the cost would be a lot higher. The Clerk asked Cllr Foley whether she should be asking for more. Cllr Donovan pointed out that there was £3,000 for major projects in the budget for 2022/23 financial year and Cllr Brooks asked if Cllr Foley could find out costs and come back to the parish council. It was RESOLVED in principle to pay at least £1,000 and that the final figure would be agreed once the costs had been received from Cllr Foley.

Action Cllr Foley

Cllr Brooks asked whether councillors had seen the insert that had gone out with the newsletter. Everyone agreed that the insert was excellent, and Cllr Foley agreed that it is important to let residents know what the parish council has achieved for the village.

22/040 FINANCE:

22/040/a Matters for Report

i. The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation report as of 28th February 2022.

	£
Lloyds Current Account	20,239.51
Lloyds Reserve Account	43,832.09
Melton Building Society	<u>33,326.03</u>
Cambridge & Counties	<u>22,730.67</u>
Subtotal	120,128.30
Outstanding Cheques	<u>0.00</u>
Total as Cash Book	120,128.30

Less Ring-Fenced Amounts:

	£
Pavilion Reserve Account	27,530.67
Asset Management Reserve Account	18,874.70
Allotment Deposits	938.67
Bequest – Plants	150.00
Hamdon Youth Centre	<u>- 277.52</u>
Total	47,216.52

Budget Working Capital **72,911.78**

22/040/b Matters for Resolution.

i. Invoices Payable:

		£	
Sarah Moore	Expenses for February	27.84	BACS
Stable Print	March Newsletters	205.00	BACS
Duchy of Cornwall	Land Rent for the Recreation	876.00	BACS
	Ground & Allotments		
Autocross Euroshel Ltd	Supply & Installation of Bus	7,914.00	BACS
	Shelter		
Wicksteed Leisure	Repairs to Stonehill Swings in	3,670.60	BACS
	2020		
	Total	<u>12,693.44</u>	

It was RESOLVED to pay the invoices.

ii. Other

The Clerk said her Society of Local Council Clerks membership was due for renewal at a cost of £171 for 2022 and asked if the council would pay half the cost of £85.50 and for it to be added onto this month's expenses. Montacute Parish Council have agreed to pay the other half. It was RESOLVED to approve to pay £85.50 and for it to be added to the Clerk's expenses for this month.

The Clerk said she had just received the invoice from Evis Ground Maintenance for the month of February of £666.66 and asked for approval to pay the invoice with this month's payments. It was RESOLVED to include this invoice in this month's payments.

22/041 **PLANNING:**

22/041/a Planning Information:

No report.

22/041/b Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

Cllr Donovan declared an interest in planning application 22/00275/HOU

22/00275/HOU – new window to the second-floor northeast elevation – 36 West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UE – no observations or objections

22/041/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. – A further consultee concern has been posted by the SCC’s Lead Local Flood Authority at their Somerset Infrastructure Commissioning Department. They say “The applicant has identified a surface water flow path through the site and potential mitigation measure. We would advise that the applicant determines the amount of flow and velocity to ensure that this surface water flow route can be directed appropriately without increasing the rate at which flow reaches the receiving system.”. Martock Flood Warden has already advised that the local Flood system has overflowed recently as it cannot cope, and an increase in surface water created by a large amount of hard surfaces in a building development would make this situation worse. No further progress on a decision since last month. Decision will be delayed by the Phosphates issue.

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 – No further progress since last month.

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 - No further progress since last month

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 - No further progress since last month.

Decisions

21/03839/HOU – demolition of existing single storey, single skin kitchen and conservatory and erection of a new single storey extension (revised application) – 7 Windsor Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UE – permitted

21/03279/HOU – installation of 15 solar panels to garage at rear – North Street Farmhouse, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR – permitted

It was RESOLVED to ratify the Planning Working Groups recommendations.

22/042 GOVERNANCE:

The Clerk distributed the nomination papers for the upcoming elections in May. The Clerk said these needed to be completed on or after 21st March and must be handed in to SSDC by 4pm on Tuesday, 5th April. The Clerk said the parish was split between two Wards; Stoke sub Hamdon and Stanchester, and the parish council is made up of 10 councillors for the Stoke sub Hamdon Ward and 1 from the Stanchester Ward. The Clerk went through the nomination papers with councillors, explained the period of Purdah to councillors and how councillors needed to conduct themselves up until the 5th of May.

The Clerk explained that the Notice of Election will go up on the noticeboards on 21st March and if residents wished to put themselves forward then they could either contact the Clerk or SSDC.

22/043 CORRESPONDENCE:

None received.

22/044 MEMBERS’ & CLERK’S REPORTS:

None declared.

22/045 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared

22/046 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.10pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th April 2022 at 7.00pm in the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre.