

# STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

### 22/017/a **PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mrs Barbara Brooks, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Lee Churchill, Mr Andy Dawe, Mrs Lyn Foley, Mr Paul Jeffery, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, and Mr Bill Southcombe

**Others:** Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), and no members of the public

### 22/017/b **APOLOGIES:**

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

### 22/018 **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 Jeffery declared an interested in the Sports & Recreation Trust

Cllr Merrick declared an interested in the Sports & Recreation Trust

Cllr Southcombe declared an interest in HCAP and the URC

### 22/019 **PUBLIC SESSION:**

There were no public in attendance.

### 22/020 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

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

### 22/021 **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.
- iii. Sea Wall Seats: Cllr Dawe said the seats were structurally sound and just needed painting. It was agreed to ask the lengthsmen to paint the seats. **Action Clerk**
- iv. Defibrillator Accessories: The batteries for the cabinet have been purchased but the green light bulb for the sign still needs to be purchased. **Action Clerk**
- v. Dog's Mess: An article has gone in the newsletter and has been reported to SSDC Locality Officer again as a dog owner is letting their dog defecate outside a resident's access gate in the lane to Jubilee Wood and not picking it up.
- vi. Petition for remote meetings: The Clerk agreed to send councillors the online link. **Action Clerk**

### 22/022 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

22/022/a Mike Hewitson – District Councillor

No report received

22/022/b Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor:

No report received.

### 22/023 **SPORTS & LEISURE:**

22/023/a Hamdon Youth Centre:

Cllr Brooks said the refurbishment work is progressing. Cllr Brooks said she met with the new site manager to find out why the water supply had not yet been reinstated and the plumbing

work not completed. The kitchen has now been installed and some of the electrical work still unfinished. Cllr Brooks said the contractors will start the painting shortly.

**22/023/b** Hamdon Youth Group:

Cllr Brooks said she attended a meeting where it was reported that the number of youths attending are starting to increase. However, they are experiencing some anti-social behaviour, so the youth worker is working with the children to address this.

Cllr Brooks said a bequest had been made to the Sports and Recreation Trust which has now been donated to the youth group so they can purchase a table tennis table. Cllr Dawe said he has a table tennis table that the youth group can have but they would need to purchase the bats, nets etc. so they could use the money for something else.

Cllr Donovan commented that the PCSO had been called to some incidents of anti-social behaviour where youths had smashed the windscreen on his camper van which was parked in the recreation ground car park and had thrown hand sanitiser into a neighbour's garden. The youth worker is aware of these issues. The children have been identified and come from a neighbouring village. They have been interviewed by the police under caution in the presence of their parents.

Cllr Foley asked if there was any recompense on the parents. The police said there needs to be more CCTV as a preventative measure. Cllr Brooks said once the CCTV has been installed on the exterior of the Youth Centre then the youth worker will be able to see what the children are doing whilst they are outside. However, the group do need more volunteers to assist with the running of the group

Cllr Foley mentioned that some youths had verbally abuse a lady whilst she was out walking her dog.

The Clerk said some youths had damage the wall surrounding the Memorial Hall grounds by the junction to Langlands and the youths were throwing the stone at the cottage opposite. The witness telephoned the police, but the youths ran off. The PCSO talked to the children at the youth group and those children will be sending a restorative apology letter to the resident of the property.

**22/023/c** Memorial Hall and Grounds:

No report.

**22/023/d** Play Areas:

The reported for the Memorial Hall play area had been circulated to councillors. The Clerk said she had chased the groundsman to remove the fallen branches in the play area. The Clerk relayed the inspection report for Stonehill from Cllr Nelms.

**22/023/e** Sports and Recreation Trust:

The Facilities Maintenance Plan and Quarterly report had been circulated to councillors.

Cllr Merrick reported that the Sports and Recreation Trust have decided not to hold the May Fayre this year as the Priory is unavailable due to the work being carried out to the buildings by the National Trust and as there is no electricity available it cannot be held on the recreation ground.

**22/023/f** Any Other Issues:

None.

**22/024** **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

**22/024/a** Allotments

The Clerk apologised and said she still has to send the allotment rent letters out. She has had some administrative issues.

**22/024/b** Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

The Clerk said the local police are looking at ways they can improve relations with local councils. As it is proving difficult to attend meetings due to shift patterns, she would like to arrange a meeting with the parish council and the police sergeant to have an informal discussion on how to improve relationships. The Clerk said she will get back to the PCSO to find out when the sergeant will be available. Cllrs Dawe and Foley offered to meet with police sergeant.

**Action Clerk**

Cllr Foley suggested forming a Neighbourhood Watch group. Cllr Brooks the Parish Council promoted a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme a few years ago but as it requires volunteers it did

not come to fruition. Cllr Foley thought as there are new people in the village it might be worth reforming the scheme.

**22/024/c** Footpaths:

No report.

**22/024/d** Ground Maintenance:

i. Groundsman

No report.

ii. Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman had some additional help with Stonehill allotments clearance. Whilst clearing the allotments they had found a considerable amount of fly-tipping. The cost of this clearance will probably be charged to the council. The Clerk said she was meeting with the lengthsman to see the clearance work and to discuss a way forward and asked if a councillor would like to join them. Cllr Donovan said that he would come along.

The Clerk said she has asked the lengthsman to repair the Memorial Hall Wall and grease the spinner and he has cut back the vegetation from the wall opposite Castle Farm

**22/024/e** Highways and Transport:

i. Transport Strategy Group

Cllr Brooks reported the first meeting of the re-convened Transport Strategy Working Group met on 19<sup>th</sup> January. This was a very positive and interactive session, and the group are considering a range of traffic calming measures rather than just working up a case for a 20 mph limit in the village, which may be harder to achieve. The group is set up of residents and councillors and two further residents have expressed an interest but then withdrew due to other commitments. Cllr Dawe asked whether a Terms of Reference had been drawn up for the group. It was agreed to check this. **Action Clerk**

ii. Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Donovan gave an update on the SID which had been in West Street. Over 9% of the outbound traffic exceeded the speed limit whilst the figure for incoming traffic was just under 3%. The maximum speed recorded on the outgoing traffic at 2.30pm was 78mph. The device has now been moved to East Stoke at the top of Windsor Lane.

Highway Issues

Cllr Dawe enquired who was responsible for cleaning road signs. The Clerk said it was the responsibility of Highways to maintain road signs, but the Parish Council could ask the lengthsman to clean the signs. Cllr Dawe pointed out that the signs at the bottom of North Street had been damaged. It was also pointed out there were damaged signs in Highway not far from Windsor Lane and also in East Stoke. These will need to be reported the Highways department. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk said she had been contacted regarding a couple of incidents at the junction of West Street and the A356. At the end of last year, vehicles did not stop at the junction of West Street and A356 and went through the gate opposite and into the barrier and a tree. It had been noted that there is only one Give Way sign, which only appears as your peripheral vision becomes better and the road opens up to the junction. The junction dips away from you, so any road markings are not that clear. A resident has already contacted Highways and the police requesting that larger stop signs need to be put in place, but Highways told them to contact the Parish Council in the first instance as the request needs to be made via the Parish Council. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk said Highways have stated that there are no issues regarding the drains in Bonnies Lane, so she has sent them a photograph of one of the blocked drains and this will now be cleaned out.

The Clerk said there is a huge pothole opposite the junction to Bonnies Lane in the High Street which Highways have red lined. Highways have also red lined the large pothole at the top of Windsor Lane in East Stoke. The Clerk said she has contacted Highways to say that the sunken drain in North Street is getting worse and once again, they have said they will investigate the matter and report this to Wessex Water.

**22/024/f** Street Lighting

The Clerk said there are a couple of streetlights at Stonehill which are not turning off and this will be reported to Street Light Team at Somerset County Council. Action Clerk

**22/024/g** Defibrillator Report

Cllr Foley said both defibrillators are in good working order and that it was just the light for the sign.

**22/024/h** Community Shop

Cllr Foley reported that the Shop is doing well and is advertising for a second paid person.

**22/024/i** Any Other Issues:

Cllr Southcombe said the church is now locked. However, Cllr Southcombe said he is still going ahead with the funding application to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and he is still in discussion with the Synod. Cllr Southcombe said he had carried out a village survey to find out whether residents wanted the URC to become a community centre and out of the 70 surveys returned only 2 said no. Cllr Donovan pointed out that from a total of 2,000 residents, the response to the survey was only from a very small proportion of the village.

Cllr Brooks mentioned that Cllr Southcombe had asked her to write to the Synod regarding the clock. However, it had been proven and previously minuted in March 2019 (*Minute ref: 19/041/g*) that the clock does not belong to the Parish Council but was purchased by the congregational church committee and was taken on by the Synod when they took over the church.

Cllr Southcombe said he had to cancel the auction and mentioned that there are some items such as china etc. which could be used by other organisations in the village.

The Clerk reported that Tinkers Bubble are hosting a seed swap event on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February between 2pm and 4pm and she has put a poster on the noticeboards and has passed this information onto the Gardening Club.

**22/025** **FINANCE:**

**22/025/a** Matters for Report

- i. The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation report as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

	£
Lloyds Current Account	26,462.76
Lloyds Reserve Account	43,831.73
Melton Building Society	33,326.03
Cambridge & Counties	22,730.67
Subtotal	126,351.19
Outstanding Cheques	0.00
<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>126,351.19</b>

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	-4,250.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,577.76</b>

**Budget Working Capital**

**67,773.43**

- ii. VAT Refund Payment.

The Clerk reported that the VAT return of £17,249.99. The Clerk said out of that amount £8,749.12 came from the invoices for the HYFC refurbishment and £3,066.87 from the repair to the Youth Centre's roof and suggested that these amounts go into the HYFC Reserve Fund and the Asset Management Reserve Fund respectively. It was RESOLVED to transfer these amounts into the Reserve funds.

iii. ICO Direct Debit.

The Clerk reported that the payment to the Information Commissioner's Office of £35 is due to be paid by direct debit on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**22/025/b** Matters for Resolution.

i. Invoices Payable:

		£	
Sarah Moore	Expenses for January	50.59	BACS
Stable Print	February Newsletters	205.00	BACS
Evis Ground	January Ground	666.66	BACS
Maintenance	Maintenance		
Stuart Taylor	HYFC – Kitchen Installation	1,176.00	BACS
Security & Electrical	HYFC – CCTV & Fire Alarm –	3,600.00	BACS
Services Ltd	Interim		
Lyn Foley	Reimbursement for Batteries	3.52	BACS
	Total	<u>5,701.77</u>	

ii. Other

None declared.

**22/026** **PLANNING:**

**22/026/a** Planning Information:

No report.

**22/026/b** Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

**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 – no observation or objections

**22/026/c** Planning Decisions and Reports:

Reports

**21/03279/HOU** – installation of 15 solar panels to garage at rear – North Street Farmhouse, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR – no further progress since last month.

**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 – 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

There are no published decisions.

It was RESOLVED to ratify the Planning Working Groups recommendations.

**22/027** **GOVERNANCE:**

Cllr Foley was concerned that the council has not had an election for some time and as there are a lot of new people in the village who do not understand what the parish council do, we should promote the parish council and suggested putting something in the newsletter. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council hold a Parish Meeting prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting inviting residents to come along to highlight issues/make suggestions on what

they would like the Parish Council to consider over the coming year. It is also a place where the village organisations can come along to report on their activities over the past year.

A discussion was held, and Cllr Foley said she wants people in the community to be given the opportunity to be asked for who they want on the parish council. The Clerk said there is a legal procedure Parish Councils have to follow and explained that elections are held every four years where residents can put themselves forward. The Parish Council are allowed to have a total number of 11 councillors and if no more than the required number of people come forward then it is classed as an uncontested election. If there are more than 11 people interested, then there will be an election. This is the democratic procedure. If there are vacancies in between election years, then residents can apply themselves to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Parish Council currently has its full complement of 11 councillors. Cllr Foley said she had been spoken to a couple of people in the shop to encourage them to apply at the appropriate time and the Clerk said if people are interested then they need to contact her, and she will give them some details of what is involved.

**22/028            CORRESPONDENCE:**

None received.

**22/029            MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:**

None declared.

**22/030            ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

None declared

**22/031            DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.46pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre.