

STOKE CANON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Canon Parish Council was held in The Bridge on Thursday 4th July 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Those present were Kate Scott-Clarke (Chair), James Maunder, Derek Boustred and Janine Whitley and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Henry Gent (DCC), Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC), Cllr Jamie Kemp (EDDC) and Andy Hill (Foothpath Warden).

2. Minutes of previous meeting (circulated).

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd May 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Matters Requiring Discussion.

i) Playpark Inspection

Councillors Boustred and Maunder did a pre-and post-inspection to look at problem areas. Cllr Boustred has spoken to Playline about some braiding to replace those that are a concern. They will send a price to replace damaged. Toddlers Kingdom – Cllr Maunder has carried out some remedial work to the timbers but further work needs to be done as some of the timber is rotting. Long term plan would be to replace.

The running boards on the horse are a bit rough. Wicksteed have been asked to send a quote to replace these.

There are still problems with the bin being emptied in the playpark. Cllr Boustred has contacted Street scene.

The probationers are going to tidy the grass on Saturday. Need to keep an eye on the regular cuts. The probationers do not have Chapter 8 qualification so cannot carry out work adjacent to the highway.

ii) Cutting the cemenry grass.

The Church have asked if the Parish Council can contribute to regular grass cutting.

Cllr Boustred will enquire as to how much they are asking for and will ask them to put this in writing to the Parish Clerk.

iii) Bench in the Play park

David Roberts (Beares) has asked for a bench to be bought for the play park. Beares have done a lot in the park to make it presentable. The Parish Council will ask the school for their views on this. DCW sell recycled plastic benches and the suggestion is we get one from there. Cllr Boustred will look at prices of these.

5. Reports

i) Report from DCC Councillor. See Sara's July report which is posted on the Parish website.

ii) Report from EDDC Councillor. Not present. Clerk to write to the CEO of EDDC as Cllr Kemp has not attended a Parish meeting for some time and has also not sent apologies or a report.

iii) Finance – Kate Scott-Clarke – Sign off for cheques was agreed. To look at financial processes in the future.

iv) Highways. Derek Boustred. See appendix A.

v) Play Park. Kate Scott-Clarke. All details already discussed in matters requiring discussion point 1 above.

vi) Footpaths. Andy Hill. See Appendix B.

vii) Planning – James Maunder – no planning application have been received since the last meeting

viii) Green and climate issues. Janine Whitley. It was confirmed that the school playing fields are owned by DCC – They are not able to confirm at this time if they are surplus to requirements. If it does become the case in the future the Parih Council could lease the land from them. Go to the next stage of planning Cllr Whitely will discuss with residents moving forwards.

6. Financial Matters

The accounts summary to 31st May, 2024 (previously approved by Cllrs Maunder and Scott-Clark) was **SIGNED** as a true record.

To **NOTE** the following payments were approved remotely in accordance with Financial Regulations:

- 3 x Payments to North Devon payroll for wages (May and June salary)
- 2 x Payments to HMRC (May and June)
- 1 x payment of £121.69 (15.05.24)
- 2 x Payments to PCC for hire of hall £14.00 (21.05.24) & £7.00 (17.05.24)
- 2 x Payments to EDF £29.22 (23.05.24) & £18.90 (11.06.24)
- 1 x Payment to Vision ICT for website management £185.26 (17.05.24)
- 1 x Payment for Insurance policy £322.44 (28.05.24)

Note: Payments approved by Councillors K Scott-Clarke and Cllr J Maunder in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

The bank balance as at 4th June 2024 was £15280.51

7. Planning Matters.

None received since the last meeting.

8. Any Other Business.

Councillors were reminded to check their Register of Interests to ensure these are up to date.

9. Questions from the public.

Cllr Boustred has still not received a response from DCC Highways regarding the 7.5-ton restrictions being put in place. There are a lot of very large lorries coming over the top of Stoke Hill.

There are problems with people leaving their vehicles in the laybys down by Mills. Both DCC and EDDC deny owning these. Members of public are encouraged to complain to EDDC. Cllr Boustred will chase Highways.

The Council are still looking for new Councillors. Need to actively promote with more media exposure.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 5th September 2024 – 7.30pm – The Bridge