

STOKE CANON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Stoke Canon Parish Council was held in The Bridge on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Those present were Cllr Kate Scott-Clarke (Chair), Cllr James Maunder (Vice Chair), Cllr Mike Kemp and 1 member of the public.

13/25 Apologies – Cllr Derek Boustred sent his apologies which were accepted. There were no apologies received from Cllr Sara Randall Johnson or Cllr Henry Gent (DCC).

14/25 Declarations of Interest Under the Code of Conduct
Nothing to declare

15/25 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March 2025 were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record.

16/25 Public Question Time
No questions were raised.

17/25 Co-opting of New Councillor
The Parish Council welcomes Mike Kemp as a new councillor. Relevant forms to co-opt Mr Kemp were signed appropriately. Clerk to send to Electoral services.

18/25 Lead Councillor Updates

- **Finances** to note £969 received as HMRC VAT reclaim. Last DD for EDF has been processed. The Council are now with Yu as a supplier. They do not charge a standing charge.

- **Highways Report**

Despite the heavy rain and at least 5 flood alerts the village has not suffered more than minor surface water to date

There have been sewage works going on around the village to establish the location of a possible leak. This has resulted in temporary traffic lights. I have no current information at the present time.

There are no other Highways issues to report.

Bench For School Football field

Permission has been granted from the school head to put a bench in the school football field. Head has agreed to this. Approval sought to pay £250 towards this. Approved by Chair and seconded by the Vice Chair. Council is happy to go ahead and order one from Devon Contract Waste (DCW). This will be made from recycled materials. We also have contributions of approximately £100 each from Helen Sims (litter picks and Saturday Market) and our environmental group CARE.

Bench for Mill Bus Stop

Permission is currently being sort from Stage coach to place a bench at the Mill bus stop. Stagecoach will not furnish so need to contact Highways to see if we can have permission to put a bench in the bus stop. Clerk to contact Highways to ask permission

Price For Planters in River Close

Currently being sourced from DCW. To discuss at the next meeting when prices have been secured.

- **Playpark** - Measured for new sign, this can now be ordered. Cllr Maunder has done a fine job of cutting the hedges. Grass now needs cutting and gateway. The Chair will email Beers to ask if we can use the ride on mower.
- **Footpaths**– Signs, vegetation growth and a large puddle still not looked at by DCC (along the old railway). Email Andy Hill to contact Cllr M Kemp to discuss. Footpath to Brampford Speke – dog waste bin is off the post – Clerk to report to Highways. The pedestrian rail crossing at Sandy Lane has been closed again. Footpath warden will contact Network Rail to discuss.
- **Planning** – Roundhouse at bottom of Stoke Hill, put up acoustic fencing and also re-application by R May to build 5 properties. No comments to make.
- **Environment** - No environmental report – great British clean up at end of March tidy up being organised by Derek. Hall tabletop sale is being organised.
- **MP David Reed** – 15-minute call with the Chair on Friday. Will report back at next meeting.

19/25 Planning Matters.

See above.

20/25 Financial Matters

To receive the accounts summary to 28th February 2025 (previously approved by Cllrs Maunder and Scott-Clark).

2 x Payments to North Devon payroll for wages (December and January salary)

2 x Payments to EDF £19.53 (18.1.2025 and 18.2.2025)

1 x Payment received of £969.97 from HMRC for VAT reclaim (06.02.2025)

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

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

The bank balance as at 24th February was £12,585.65

- Approval was sought by the Clerk to purchase a laptop for Council use. Links to relevant laptops to be sent to Councillors to decide at next meeting.
- Church has requested 50% towards annual maintenance cost for the cemetery. Agreed in principle to contribute £1140 towards annual maintenance. Chair to seek clarification from Church on exact figures as not clear in the request. Approved Chair seconded Cllr Kemp and Cllr Maunder
- To consider changing councillors email addresses to .gov for more security. Costs quoted of £20 + VAT per year for each email address. Approved Chair seconded Cllr Maunder
- Life Education have requested a donation of £155 for giving health and wellbeing education to approximately 84 children at Stoke Canon CE School. £155 sought from Life Education for Health and Wellbeing education. All agreed to approve. Clerk to ask for an invoice

21/25 EDDC Update

No representation or report as there is a vacancy for this post at the moment

22/25 DCC Update

No apologies were received from either Cllr Randall-Johnson or Cllr Gent. A report from Cllr Randall-Johnson is included below.

23/25 Other information/correspondence received for possible action/discussion/attendance and review of Action Points

- Escalation of incidences of dog waste being left around the village. Put some bags around the village for people to use. Put link to Devon County council reporting on the website. Put posters up and put on website.
- With Yu as a supplier now.
- British Spring Clean – Cllr Boustred has signed the village up for this initiative.

9. Date of the next meeting(s)

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Next Meeting on Thursday 8th May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting and AGM @ 19:00 hrs– The Bridge

Monthly Divisional Report March 2025 – **DCC Cllr Sara Randall Johnson**

I'm delighted that spring appears to have sprung and we have largely avoided a cold, but unfortunately wet winter, where this has a detrimental impact on our highways network, where repair teams are now busy catching up with repairs, white line renewals etc

Keeping our young people safe online

<https://saferdevon.co.uk/> is running a free webinar to explore digital spaces that young people engage with, how these may influence their choices and expose them to risks and practical tips and guidance to support young people to keep safe.

The free webinar will explore:

- why the digital world is a valuable space for many neurodivergent young people
- how the online content young people interact with can shape their choices and may expose them to risks and harmful behaviours

- practical tips and guidance on creating safe and supportive online spaces for young people

This session will be led by Alistair Barfield, who is AuDHD, and a leading expert in neurodivergence and digital harms.

It will take place online on Thursday 27 March at 7pm to 8pm.

Please visit the Safer Devon Eventbrite page to book your place at.
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-keeping-our-young-people-safe-online-tickets-1263976671249?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Thousands more children to receive Bikeability cycle training

Over 9,300 schoolchildren in Devon are to benefit from Bikeability cycle training this financial year, see <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>

That's thanks to a Bikeability Funding award of just over £451,000 to us for 2025/26.

The funding is part of £3.9 million of funding recently announced by the Government and Active Travel England (ATE) for cycling and walking projects in Devon, which was the largest settlement for any South West authority.

Bikeability cycle training provides schoolchildren with lifelong road safety skills while also improving their health and wellbeing.

Over the past 19 years, we have provided Bikeability cycle training to almost 120,000 young people across the county.

Adult cyclists are reminded that they can also book free confidence sessions through Active Devon at <https://activedevon.org/adult-cycle-training/>

The sessions, delivered by qualified bike Instructors, can cater for up to three people at a time and can be tailored to suit all abilities and goals, from first-time riders to regular cyclists looking to improve their skills.

For more information on cycle training for children and adults please visit our Travel Devon webpages at <https://www.traveldevon.info/cycle/cycle-training/>

Councils collaborate on devolution plans

The Leaders of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, and Torbay Council are working together to explore the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

A part of the Government's new devolution plans, this is a once in a generation opportunity to take power out of Whitehall, bring decision-making closer to the people of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and unlock unprecedented opportunities for growth and innovation.

A Mayoral Strategic Authority promises to supercharge the region's ability to access greater powers and unlock additional funding for economic growth and infrastructure development, such as housing and transport.

By working together, the councils aim to ensure that Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are ready to seize this unique opportunity when the government calls for further submissions of interest.

The councils also emphasised that Cornwall Council is welcome to join their discussions at any time, should they choose to reconsider. This inclusive approach highlights the commitment to regional cooperation and shared prosperity.