

STOKE CANON PARISH COUNCIL

**A meeting of Stoke Canon Parish Council was held in The Bridge on
Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

Those present were Cllr Kate Scott-Clarke (Chair), Cllr James Maunder (Vice Chair, Cllr Derek Boustred, Cllr Mike Kemp, Cllr Fabian King (EDDC), Cllr Nat Vanstone (DCC), 3 members of the public and the Clerk.

MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 19:30pm

12/26 Apologies - To receive any apologies for absence. Cllr Henry Gent (DCC) sent his apologies.

13/26 Declarations of Interest Under the Code of Conduct

Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

None were declared

14/26 Minutes

To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th January 2026. These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr J Maunder **SECONDED:** Cllr D Boustred **RESOLVED.**

15/26 Flooding

To discuss recent problems in the Parish with flooding and providing any updates.

Cllrs Boustred, Kemp, Vanstone and the Highways Officer went through the village and went around all the sites on the highways list. Highways have been out today clearing some drains in the high street. There are 6 gullies run underneath the village and fish were visible.

Cllr Vanstone (DCC) acknowledges that there are a lot of issues. There is a suspected collapsed drain by the railway line. Checked the gullies nearly all of them were full. A section by the shop the drains has been updated but not further down so the Highways Officer has put a request in to upgrade the other narrow drains.

Signed:

Dated:

Where the road has collapsed they want to put cameras down to see why it has. Farming has changed used to be ploughed but now they don't and the run off is too much. Letters will be going to landowners because they need to still clear the ditches and gullies that are their responsibility.

The culvert issues have been exasperated by landowners not clearing their ditches.

Highways have been clearing ditches and drains in Green Lane up to Burrow Lane.

Cllr Vanstone will keep monitoring the situation with the Highways Officer until these jobs are sorted out and will also escalate higher up with Highways if required.

With regards the drainage points on the bridge Cllr Vanstone has shown the Highways Officer the problems. Also a problem with road sweeping which has not been done for a long time. The side of the road needs to be cleared as a lot of foliage growing there. Once cleared the sweeping would be more effective.

Weeds on bridge are a concern on the structure of the bridge which holds historic monument status.

Huxham has already been looked at.

16/26 Public Question Time

Up to 5 minutes for members of the public to bring forward any issues not on the agenda (where a matter is already on the agenda members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak when that item is considered, within the framework of the Council's standing orders). Where a decision is required, the issue will be placed on the following agenda.

- Sandbag bunker – Who has access to this if Cllr Boustred is not around? There is a key in the shop, one in the village hall and Cllr K Scott-Clarke has one.
- A member of the public asked where Register Of Interests for Councillors are published. This is officially done by Electoral Services for EDDC. The Clerk will update the Parish website with the correct document for Cllr Kemp.

17/26 Lead Councillor Updates

To receive an update from the Lead Councillors on the following:

- Highways- Cllr Derek Boustred – Stoke Canon Parish Council – Highways Report March 2026

Signed:

Dated:

It has been a busy time on our highways since January as a result of extreme weather conditions. Very heavy rains throughout the Autumn, culminating in Storm Chandra resulted in extensive High Street flooding. From early on Tuesday 27th January over 2 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. This resulted in property flooding in the High Street, Chestnut Crescent and Green Lane. Sandbags were provided and delivered to many properties. Our thanks to our Flood Wardens for their efforts.

25 properties were sandbagged and damage varied from severe to minimal. In some cases, water came up through the floor as a result of the raised water table. Pumps were necessary to clear these properties. Our stock of sandbags has now been exhausted but we have a supply of sand to replace them.

The drainage system was quickly overwhelmed by the high volume of rain. Much of the water subsided within 24 hours. Green Lane flooding was the result of a blocked Network Rail culvert and run off from the road. This remained for several days and was eventually cleared when a pump was installed by Network Rail. Thanks to councillor Kemp for getting this organised. Approaches have now been made to Network Rail and nearby landowners to clear drainage ditches and culverts to reduce this problem. There will be clearance of all the drains in the village in the near future. This is due to the input from our Highways Officer, Ricky Cowtan and Councillor Nat Vanstone. They both visited the village to assess the situation and formulate a plan to reduce flooding in the future. Our thanks to them for their help.

Other Damage

Some cars were stuck in the flood water and it took several hours for them to be removed. As a result of the bus service being cancelled one person had to be accommodated in the Jubilee Hall (our emergency centre) overnight. He was given a lift into Exeter the following day.

Revised flood plan

This has been revised and circulated to all councillors. It is available by request from Derek Boustred.

Other highways issues

There was a proposed road closure by Openreach from 9th – 13th Feb. These works proved to be very minor and were completed within a few hours with little disruption. Poor communication between from Openreach and Devon Highways caused a lot of unnecessary anxiety and hopefully will not be repeated in the future.

Stoke Hill 30 mph limit

We have had a request for a 30 mph speed limit on Stoke Hill. This we fully support together with our County Councillors. There is going to be a revised speed limit on the A396 from Stoke Canon to Cowley Bridge due to the road subsidence. More details to follow.

Signed:

Dated:

Caravan on Stoke Hill

This is being investigated.

Grass Cutting

The grass cutting contract for 2026 has been awarded to Brian Hurkett (the Play Park) and Exeter Garden Services who will do all the grass verges including the path to Rewe and Sandy Lane.

Tree by the level crossing

Some dangerous branches from the tree overhanging the parking area by the level crossing have been removed. Our thanks to Laurence Ward, a tree surgeon, for his work.

- Play Park – Cllr Kate Scott-Clarke – Inspection has been completed the multi play equipment cannot be used at the moment. This has been put on Facebook. We will look to get funding for replacement equipment from grants and DCC. Dogs have been going in there and fouling. Latch has been stolen and will need to be replaced. Look to replace the gate with a self-closing one. Cllr Scott-Clarke will contact the Norman Trust about grants for new equipment.
- Footpaths -Cllr Mike Kemp – The post has been replaced on the footpath to Bramford Speke. Cllr Kemp will fill in the dip by the kissing gate. Has signed up for a strimming course for Devon County Council so he can do the accessible footpaths himself. Still no contact from the P3 Team at DCC Cllr Vanstone will chase them tomorrow.

18/26 Planning Matters.

To discuss any planning applications received since the last meeting.

25/2650/LBC - Oakhay Barton Stoke Canon Exeter EX5 4ED - South elevation: replace 2no. windows, bay window windows/door, 1no. door at ground floor and 3no. windows at first floor. East elevation: replace 3no. windows at ground floor & 2no. windows at first floor. North elevation: replace 1no. window at first floor & replace door with window over. West elevation: replace 3no. windows at ground floor & 2no. windows at first floor. Replace flooring with limecrete and install underfloor heating at ground floor in study/living room/kitchen/drawing room/stairs – Noted. No Comment

Signed:

Dated:

25/2649/FUL - Oakhay Barton Stoke Canon Exeter EX5 4ED - Replace windows with new timber windows, and install ground mounted photovoltaic panels. – Noted. No

Comment

26/0031/AGR - Field Off Chestnut Crescent Stoke Canon - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for an agricultural storage building – Noted. No Comment

19/26 Financial Matters

To receive the accounts summary to 28th February 2026 (previously approved by Cllrs Maunder and Scott-Clarke).

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

- 1 x payment to PCC for hall hire of £14.00 on 20.01.2026
- 1 x Payment to H Sim for table hire of £30.00 on 20.01.2026
- 1 x Payment to B Hurkett for grass cutting for £40.00 on 20.01.2026
- 1 x Payment to North Devon payroll for wages (January salary)
- 1 x Payment to Cllr Boustred for reimbursement of maintenance supplies on 11.02.2026 of £85.92
- 2 x Payments to L Adams Tree Surgeons for work in the church yard £420.00 in total on 17.02.2026 and 11.02.2026
- 1 x Payment to Santander for bank charges of £4.99 on 19.02.2026
- 1 x Payment to Lawrence Ward for emergency tree works of £300.00 on 24.02.2026

No payments were received:

The bank balance as at 28th February 2026 was £12448.98

20/26 EDDC Update

Cllr Fabian King, East Devon District Council was present and gave an update. His latest report has been distributed to the Councillors.

Local Government Reorganisation – 26th March is last date for the public consultation.

Rates relief - If people apply for rates relief EDDC look to the whole picture and will go through everything will applicants to see where else they can get support.

Low Internet speed households can get vouchers towards finding a provider and people can pool their vouchers.

Signed:

Dated:

21/26 DCC Update

To receive an update from Cllr Henry Gent and Cllr Nat Vanstone, Devon County Council. Cllr Gent sent his report and this was distributed to Councillors.

Cllr Vanstone advised that Locality budget grants start again in April so we could apply for funding for replacement equipment that has failed in the playpark.

22/26 Other information/correspondence received for possible action/discussion

- Siting of Network Rail temporary security fencing by Green Lane railway crossing. Has been left there and dumped and is unsafe. Has this been moved? Cllr Kemp confirmed that this has now been removed.
- Dog waste – on-going issues with dogs fouling around the village and in the playpark. If people are aware of fouling then this can be reported to EDDC who can enforce. Link is <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-wellbeing/dogs/report-it/report-dog-fouling/>. Have a stencilling on the pavement session. Cllr Scott-Clarke will refill the poo bins receptacles. Cllr Fabian King (EDDC) will contact Street Scene.
- Cllr Kemp - Do we have a police liaison officer? Clerk will find out who the local PCSO is and ask them to come to the meeting.
- Break ins – Member of the public (MOP) suggested that a WhatsApp group to warn people if anything is going on locally. She advised she would be willing to set this up and get people to join. Neighbourhood watch as an organisation can help set this up. Perhaps look to restart the neighbourhood watch team.
- Parish Council Facebook page – MOP sent in a message that a comment on Facebook had not been replied to. Cllr Scott-Clarke advised she had looked into this and one message had been missed. She apologised for this. A member of the public has sent the Parish Council a document giving some suggestions on how to improve digital communications. She has taken on board some of the suggestions in the report – Cllr Scott-Clarke advised she has carried out the following so far
 - As well as the link to the Parish Council website always having been in our ‘details’ section, the link to our website in a post has now been pinned so that it will always appear at the top of the page.
 - checked and updated any out of date details.
 - put each of the coming year’s meetings on the Facebook page as an ‘event’.
 - An automatic response has been set up for messages sent using Facebook Messenger.
- Website – Clerk to check that it is up to date. It is recognised that the current website is not the most up to date but to replace would be costly. The Parish

Signed:

Dated:

Council felt that the public funds it receives are better spent on other local issues rather than a new website which few people interact with.

- A reminder that Cllr Boustred is at the market doing an agony table each month. Please go along and speak to him about any issues or things you wish to discuss.
- MOP – email regarding working party for flooding – This has been discussed earlier on the agenda.
- Hedge at the school is very overgrown. The Parish Council can help out but the school need to also take action. Clerk to contact the school. If there is no help forthcoming the Clerk will contact Cllr Vanstone (DCC).
- Cllr Maunder will be stepping down as councillor in May but would like to still be around to help out with local projects. The Parish Council desperately needs Councillors. When Cllr Maunder leaves we will be 4 Councillors short. We would encourage people to consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

23/25 Date of the next meeting(s)

The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th May at 19:00hrs– The Bridge.

Meeting closed @ 20.50pm

Signed:

Dated: