



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke

Present: Cllrs Steven Read (Chair), Nicola Ainger, Nick Baker, Rowan Coleman, Alex Cooke, Ali Cunningham and Steve Hicks

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Ward Councillor: Dave Harding

Minutes: 2025/02

1. **Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Carol Dyer and Nicola Wilson.
2. **Declarations of interest** – none
3. **Public participation** – none present
4. **To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 9th January 2025,** an amendment was made, then unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:**

Further information about the Local Plan Reset has been received from B&NES. This includes a call for new sites, the deadline to submit these is 25/03/2025. Updates were due to be considered by Cabinet on 1.2.2024 and will be shortly out for public consultation. B&NES Budget - proposals to be discussed on 8.2.24 at B&NES Cabinet meeting. Investment in new Council homes.

An extra £9m allocated for growth in Children's and Adult Services, including funding to meet increased demand for services, SEND services and home to school transport. Proposed Council Tax rise of 2.99% plus an additional 2% for Adult Social Care (making a total rise of 4.99%).

Some of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money is earmarked for green infrastructure proposals across the area including Chew Valley Reconnected, No update (despite chasing) from Avon and Somerset Constabulary on how / if they will support Autospeedwatch.

Funding for groups supporting displaced people. Applications for the third round of funding are open from today (February 1) and a total of £15,000 is available. Bids are invited from charities, volunteer, and community groups benefiting the displaced people they are supporting.

Organisations are invited to apply for up to £500 for a one-off event, or up to £2,000 to establish new services or extend an existing one. Applications can be made at

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<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-ukraine-support-fund>. The fund has been set up primarily to support people arriving from Ukraine, but the projects could be widened to include displaced people from other countries.

6. **Planning applications:**

i) **Application Reference:** [24/04763/FUL](#)

Application Address: Valleyview , Breach Hill Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8YB

Proposal: Provision of an outdoor riding arena and associated access track for private use only. *The current owners have owned the site for 13 years, it was noted that previous development by them had been sympathetic to the location close to Chew Valley Lake, with the planting of trees etc. The applicants had sought pre-application advice from B&NES which was supportive of the proposal, and specialist teams such as ecology and arboriculture are also generally supportive. It was noted that more trees will be planted, and the arena will not be lit in any way. The arena is for private use only, and it was thought that there will be no significant effect on the openness of the greenbelt. Considering the above, CSPC agreed to SUPPORT this planning application.*

ii) **Application Reference:** [25/00209/TCA](#)

Application Address: Orchard End , Church Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8TU

Proposal: T1-Ash tree, pollard to approx 8 metres above stream level. Tree has Ash dieback. *CSPC were pleased to note the intention to pollard the tree rather than fell it and agreed unanimously to SUPPORT this application.*

iii) **Application Reference:** [25/00397/TCA](#)

Application Address: Fairwood, Pilgrims Way, Chew Stoke, BS40 8TT

Proposal: Yew Tree - Reduce 1.5m. *CSPC agreed to support this application.*

iv) **Application Reference:** [25/00432/FUL](#)

Application Address: Rose Cottage , Stoke Hill, Chew Stoke, Bristol, Bath And North East Somerset, BS40 8XQ

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension. *CSPC noted that this is a small single storey extension to the rear of the property. It would result in a 4.3% increase to the size of the property, it would have no impact on the openness of the greenbelt. CSPC agreed unanimously to SUPPORT this application.*

7. **Matters requiring a decision:**

- i) Councillors agreed to fund a second bleed kit for the village, to be sited at the Village Hall. Also discussed the location of the bleed kits, both on the south side of the village and agreed it is a good opportunity to investigate having one near Dairy Way to the north of the village. Agreed Clerk will contact Chew Medical Practice to discuss opportunity with them and ask if there is funding available.
- ii) Further information has been received about a Housing Needs Survey (HNS), but it remains unclear whether undertaking a HNS would be of benefit to the village. Chew Stoke is within the greenbelt so there are currently limited opportunities for development, however the village is considered by B&NES to be a 'more sustainable village' based on facilities and connectivity, and some housing may be allocated to the parish. Undertaking a Housing Needs Survey now would give us the opportunity to understand the wishes of residents and the type of houses are needed, if that is the

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finding. It would show residents that we are being proactive in the housing debate and would give us evidence of the local needs if/when discussing with developers in the future. Awaiting further information from WERN representative as to whether funding would be available. Chew Stoke currently has one site potentially allocated for development, this is on Chew Lane and is a strip that runs from Salway Close north towards the Rugby Club. There are no other sites currently on the list. To await information regarding funding and support from B&NES to undertake a survey given the villages designation and location within the greenbelt.

- iii) Agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 24th April and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council prior to the monthly meeting on May 8th.
- iv) The deadline to enter the 2025 Community Bloom is 30th March and costs £30. Agreed to enter again this year. Agreed to encourage as many individual groups as possible to enter the "in Your Neighbourhood" category, eg the Primary School, WI, Gardening Club. To arrange a 'walk around' for Feb 15th to look at street furniture and jobs that need actioning, eg cleaning the phone box and repainting old bollards in Pilgrims Way, and through the narrow section of Bristol Road. Plan to meet fortnightly over the summer to replant planters, undertake tasks etc.

£250 has been donated by Chew Stoke Film Club to Community Bloom, Clerk to send thanks. £250 has been budgeted from the precept for 2025, funding is also available from CIL funds if agreed.

Also plan to arrange a BioBlitz event, to contact the Chew Valley School EcoClub leader to see if they would be interested in helping ,or organising it.

- v) Update from the Road Safety Working Group – Cllr Hicks to reactivate the Community Speedwatch now that volunteers are available. To contact local PCSO's to check whether training is required again. Plan to restart ASAP, then to consider purchasing autospeedwatch cameras, these are cameras that work in the same way at Community Speedwatch and captures speeds and vehicle data that is passed on to the police. The Working Group to arrange a meeting with Officer from B&NES regarding road improvement possibilities on Stoke Hill. Agreed Clerk to contact Avon & Somerset Police for historic speed data.

The Chew Valley Reconnected Project now has a new Chair, Phil Heath from Chew Stoke. B&NES have purchased 2-3 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which will be available on a loan rotation across the area. Agreed to request use of them, and proposed the following sites:

1. Stoke Hill - coming down the hill towards the village
2. Stoke Hill - going out of the village near Rose Cottage
3. Walley Court Road - in both directions between Bilbie Road and Bushythorn Rd
4. Bristol Road, going south after the single narrow section, near the noticeboard/ Walley Ct Road junction.
5. Pagans Hill - coming into the village in the 20mph zone. Clerk to notify Ward Councillor.

- vi) The road safety improvement work on Bristol Road is now complete. Information on social media suggests some people were unaware of the project. Agreed to post the following communication about the reason for the roadworks:

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Chew Stoke Parish Council (CSPC) are aware that several concerns have been raised within the community about the recent road works in Bristol Road. Below is a bit of background and explanation which might help to answer some of the queries raised.

- *For some time CSPC have been in dialogue with B&NES about how best to create a safer crossing point for Bristol Road, particularly for children and their carers heading to the Primary School. CSPC have also been in discussion with the Primary School.*
- *With the reopening of a village shop, plus the PC and the School encouraging parking for school drop off in Bilbie Road, CSPC discussed with B&NES making a crossing around the shop/Quarry Hay area.*
- *B&NES confirmed they had funding available for this and came up with a proposal which they discussed with CSPC.*
- *CSPC also asked for comments from the community and one or two communications were received - all around the theme of not wanting too much built environment / street lighting etc.*
- *We discussed with B&NES provision of a Zebra Crossing - but B&NES explained this would necessitate street lighting in that area which CSPC decided we did not want due to the impact on dark sky policy etc.*
- *So a plan was agreed upon which meant a narrower crossing point and a different colour surface on the road, but no street lighting.*
- *The PC requested the lowered kerb to be on the North side of Quarry Hay, but B&NES explained that this was not possible as it was too close to the traffic calming section of road. This is why the dropped kerb is on the South (The Stoke) side of Quarry Hay.*
- *B&NES also specified bollards to be included in the plan in order to prevent pavement parking in key areas that affect sight lines for pedestrians when using the crossing point. The only request that CSPC made was that this should include bollards on the North side of Quarry Hay (opposite the shop) as there has been a persistent problem with parking on this (pedestrian) area. CSPC also were keen to ensure that any bollards were the same quality and appearance of bollards already around the village (Pilgrims way / School Lane and in the traffic calming zone).*
- *Legal parking in the village has not been affected by this scheme or the bollards. They simply prevent illegal (pavement) parking and parking on junctions. As such they have made use of the crossing point safer (better sight lines) and ensured constant pavement access for buggies, wheelchairs etc.*
- *So overall CSPC understand people's concerns around changes to the environment, but feel that the B&NES plan as now implemented has made a positive contribution to safety, particularly for school traffic, at the same time as having the least possible impact on the environment and feel of our rural village.*

Also discussed communication between the Parish Council and the community. The PC meets its legal obligations with posting agendas and minutes, and it submits a news update every month in the Parish Magazine. Agreed also to post certain news items on the village Facebook page, the Telegraph, turning off comments if thought advisable, and suggesting residents contact the clerk via email if they have any comments.

- vii) *Considered nominating a single point of contact for attendance at PCAA meetings, it is hard to attend standalone meetings and have a good grasp of the situation. Cllr Read*

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attended the latest one and agreed to continue for the time being. Clerk to check with PCAA Secretary about a resident attending in place of a councillor.

- viii) No update on the National Grid pole that is to be situated near the ford in Pilgrim's Way.
- ix) Agreed a quote for £130 to repair the fence in Quarry Hay (includes materials and time).
- x) Agreed to hold the May meeting on May 8th, (a week later than normal due to WECA Mayoral elections on May 1st).

8. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
 - a. SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (January)
 - b. Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (January)
- ii) To note receipt of £250 for Chew Stoke Film Club to go towards Community Bloom expenses.
To note receipt of £245 for tree donations.
To note field rent received for the second half of the financial year.

iii) Agreed the following payments:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
02.02.25	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
27.01.25	Bloom	Nicola Ainger			£144.51
16.01.25	SLCC membership	SLCC			£95.00
20.01.25	Hall hire (meetings)	VH Committee			£93.75
29.01.25	Parish Magazine grant	Parish Magazine			£75.00
30.01.25	Playpark inspections (annual)	B&NES	£378.00	£75.60	£453.60

9. Matters of report:

- i) Update from the PCAA meeting on 16th January as above. To note a response to the Bristol Airport Masterplan consultation was sent by CSPC on 29th January.
- ii) No update on Westaway Field and Cooks Meadow.
- iii) Update on the Recreational Trail, B&NES have refused to fix the blocked drain at the top of Woodford Lane and state it is the responsibility of Bristol Water, Cllr Baker to discuss with BW
- iv) To note monthly update from Groundsman.

10. Correspondence received:

Correspondence received about untidiness in the village and around the shop, CSPC has discussed this with the relevant people and agreed to use Community Bloom to ask everyone to keep the village tidy.

Meeting closed 21.39

Next meeting Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

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