



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.50 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke

Present: Cllrs Steven Read (Chair), Nick Baker (Vice-chair), Nicola Ainger, Steve Hicks, Rowan Coleman.

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Ward Councillor: Dave Harding

Minutes: 2025/05

1. **Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Ali Cunningham and Alex Cooke.
2. **Declarations of interest** – None
3. **Public participation** – No members of the public present
4. **To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 8th April 2025**, unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:**

A new WECA Mayor has been elected, it is the Labour representative. B&NES look forward to resetting relationship with WECA.

B&NES have announced that Park & Rides will remain open until 11.30pm, a later time than previously. This is a trial, due to end in August.

The Local Plan review of the options is due to be open for consultation in Sept.

Ward Councillors continue to meet with police representatives to discuss priorities especially speeding issues in the valley. Residents encouraged to report non-emergency crimes via 101 or Crimestoppers.

Sustrans are consulting on improvements to the National Cycle Network 3 route please report all work via www.fixmystreet.com
6. **Planning applications:**
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 - i) **Application Reference:** [25/01427/FUL](#)
Application Address: Springfield, Bristol Road, Chew Stoke, Bristol, BS40 8UB
Proposal: Erection of a single storey detached curtilage outbuilding following demolition of an existing garage building. *This application is for a substantial outbuilding, the footprint is noted to be greater than the footprint of the house. Whilst the proposed development appears to comply with planning policies, due to the size councillors were*

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unable to reach a decision. Agreed to consult with the Planning Officer and applicant and discuss at the June PC meeting.

7. Matters requiring a decision:

- i) Updated on the feasibility of/need for a Housing Needs Survey in Chew Stoke. Cllr Baker has spoken with George Blanchard from the Planning Dept at B&NES, and they encourage CSPC to undertake a Housing Needs Survey. George Blanchard will investigate what practical and financial help B&NES can provide us with. Chew Stoke is classified as a “sustainable village” which means it has enough key amenities available and could be put forward for housing development. The Local Plan currently suggests a 5% increase which would equate to another 20 houses over the lifetime of the plan. This could be in the form of a new development and infill. A housing needs survey would provide valuable information about what the village would like, (eg more smaller properties), and enable the Parish Council to influence decisions on behalf of residents. The Hedgehogs field (on Chew Lane) has been earmarked as a potential Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) site. During the latest call for HELAA sites for development, 2 further sites have been submitted for consideration, the field on the west side of Stoke Hill (opposite Fairseat Studios), and land to the east of Fairhaven, Stoke Hill. Access issues may influence the chance of these 2 sites being suitable for development.
To also contact WERN regarding funding.
- ii) Community Bloom 2025 – thank you to Cllr Ainger for arranging a very successful Bioblitz event recently, it was attended by Primary School children and residents. 356 observations were noted and 198 different species.
Also discussed request to cut back vegetation on the riverbank in Rectory Field for the annual Duck Race, Cllr Ainger to discuss with Cllr Cooke.
- iii) The Road Safety Working Group have discussed restarting the Community Speedwatch initiative with PCSO Martin Bragg. Details of the volunteers need collecting, to request volunteers send information to Clerk for forwarding for GDPR compliance. Issues continue with bikes speeding around Herons Green area, residents continuing to log with A&S Police using the 101 service. Clerk to contact the Stowey Sutton Clerk for information about Community Speedwatch cameras, and their experience of them. CSPC to look at purchasing these to address persistent speeding in the village and surrounding roads.
- iv) Agreed the clerks request for 1 week’s annual leave.
- v) A request for a donation to the Chew Valley 10K to help with costs has been received from the CV10K committee, this was discussed but councillors felt it was inappropriate to use precept monies in this way and to be giving indirectly to charities.
- vi) Japanese Knotweed has been found in Rectory Field, due to the need to act quickly, CSPC agreed to the quote from B&NES to undertake treatment asap, this was undertaken on 28th April at a cost of £200.
- vii) Agreed to order a metal gilt bar for the current Chair for the Chair’s pendant, cost £55.43
- viii) Agreed the insurance renewal quote for 25-26 from Gallagher brokers.

8. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:

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- a. SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (April)
- b. Hugo King – ground maintenance payment (April)

ii) To note receipt of annual footpath grant - £849.20

iii) Agreed the following payments:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
24.04.25	HP Ink (printing) Canva	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£6.00 £4.33
24.04.25	ALCA subscription	ALCA			£295.36
24.04.25	Website support	JacksonBone	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
24.04.25	Annual payroll service	DM Malley Payroll			£120.00
24.04.25	Hall hire	VH Committee			£93.75
24.04.25	Hazel stakes	Mike Reed			£30.00
29.04.25	Ecology expert for Bioblitz event	Neill Talbot			£150.00
30.04.25	Domain name renewal	JacksonBone			£20.72
30.04.25	Parish Councils Airport Assoc subscription	PCAA			£95.00
01.05.25	Email system	Zoho workplace (clerk reimbursement)			£158.40

9. **Matters of report:**

- i) The Chew Stoke nomination for the Chelwood Rotary Award, Ruth Donlevy, is this year's winner. Congratulations Ruth.
- ii) Update on Westaway Field and Cooks Meadow – Cllr Ainger is hoping to arrange a wild-flower walk in due course.
- iii) To receive update on the Recreational Trail – the blocked drain at the top of Woodford Lane remains blocked, Cllr Read agreed to report again on Fixmystreet. Rubbish has been fly-tipped beyond the bollard in the lane, to report this and that an additional bollard is required to prevent reoccurrence.
- iv) Monthly update from Groundsman – thanks to groundman for assisting in filling holes that appeared in Bilbie Road playpark. Reported that mowing contractor was spoken to by parent about stinging nettles in playpark, advised to ask residents to contact Parish Council directly if they have concerns.
- v) Information has been received from the Ward Councillor and Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council about damage to Breach Hill Common caused by cars needing to drive on the verge. B&NES have been part of the communications and have requested that the issue is reported via Fixmystreet. NTPC to report.
- vi) Carol Dyer has resigned from the Parish Council creating a vacancy. CSPC wish to thank Carol for all her help and hard work during her time as a Councillor, and wish her well in the future. A 'Notice of Vacancy' has been advertised on noticeboards and website, if any resident or eligible person is interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Clerk for more information.

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vii) Cllr Ainger organised a very successful Bioblitz event on 27-28th April in Rectory Field as part of the Community Bloom initiative,

10. **Correspondence received:**

Annual Village Meeting Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke

Next meeting Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke

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Date:

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