



# Chew Stoke Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

**Present:** Cllrs Steven Read, Nick Baker, Alex Cooke and Steve Hicks

Ward Councillor Anna Box

**Clerk:** Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

### Minutes: 2023/11

1. **Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Nicola Ainger, Ali Cunningham, Carol Dyer and James Edgerton.
2. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Read declared an interest in item 6i.
3. **Public participation** – one member of the public in attendance.
4. **To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:** The Green New Homes event is being held in the Chew valley, with houses open Stoke and Chew Magna this weekend. A minibus will be available to take residents between villages.  
Council tax benefit changes have been agreed by B&NES, this will result in a £70 increase for the whole of Chew Stoke in 24-25 (not per household).  
Bristol Airport have made changes to waiting areas along the A38 restricting waiting times.  
Clean & Green week was held last week in the Chew Valley and Mendip, to send feedback to Cllr Box.  
Fly-tipping on Limeburn Hill was discussed, this is in North Somerset, but discussed the fly-tipping on Walley Court Road which is on private land. Cllr Hicks to contact B&NES again to ask about enforcement, suggested to copy in Cllr Box.
6. **Planning applications:**
  - i) **Application Reference: 23/03616/FUL**  
**Application address:** Chew Cottage, Pilgrims Way, Chew Stoke BS40 8UD  
**Description of Proposal:** Erection of two storey rear extension. *The proposed extension is small and to the rear of the property, and aims to make better use of the layout. It will have no effect on the openness of the greenbelt, and is not visible from the highway. The extension*

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would be up the boundary with the neighbouring property and the volume increase would be 33% which is within the limit allowed. Agreed to SUPPORT the application (Cllr Read abstained).

ii) **Application Reference:** [23/03686/FUL](#)

**Application Address:** Mayfield House , Bristol Road, Chew Stoke, Bristol, BS40 8UB

**Proposal:** Conversion of the integral single garage to another bedroom and the erection of a rear single storey flat roofed garden room extension. *This property is set in a large plot of land, and well set back from the road. It is within the 35% permitted volume increase limit , and has no effect on the openness of the greenbelt. Unanimously agreed to SUPPORT this application.*

**7. Matters requiring a decision:**

- i) Parking and traffic issues in the village – feedback about the Autospeedwatch cameras is very positive, and shows they help to decrease traffic speeds in rural villages. Agreed to look into funding help from B&NES initially, as they offer grants to parish councils with a Community Speedwatch set up. Cllr Hicks to contact B&NES. Also, members of the parish council to meet representatives from Chew Stoke Church School on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November to discuss parking and other road issues. The police have been posting notices on cars parked on the pavements, this has been circulated on Facebook to raise awareness to residents. Clerk to contact Rugby Club again following information that there should be a notice at the club entrance asking players and visitors not to park on the pavements.
- ii) A meeting took place with residents, members of the WI, Chew Valley Plants Trees and the Parish Council in Rectory Field on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October to discuss recent plans to improve the field. The WI will choose a tree to be added to mark their centenary, this will be discreet and towards the top left corner. Agreed the need for openness to be maintained, with good sightlines, as mentioned by neighbours. Agreed to contact the manager of the Forest Club for input, agreed to a mixed orchard in the top right corner, which will be a community asset, a more detailed design will be provided for that corner. Also discussed the areas that have been allowed to grow long grass over the last couple of years, this has not been popular especially with dog owners, agreed to cut these areas shorter again in future. The wildflower meadow has not flowered satisfactorily for the last few years, agreed to remove this and replace with more trees that would create a barrier between the road and field. To also plant a low mixed hedge near the gate. Plan to put stakes in the ground to review layout of new trees. To keep the parish updated by previous means, and to engage with neighbours again and at key times. To also discuss with Compton Martin Parish Council following their tree planting recently.
- iii) As discussed above.

**8. Finance:**

- i) To note standing orders:  
SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (October)  
Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (October)

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ii) To agree following online payments:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
23.10.23	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
23.10.23	1 yr web hosting	JacksonBone	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
23.10.23	Annual Information Commissioners Office (GDPR) payment	ICO/SJ Streatfeild-James (reimbursement)			£40.00

**9. Matters of report:**

- i) To note that the engrossment lease has been signed by two councillors and the Statutory Declaration has been sworn by the Chair and witnessed by a solicitor. The forms have been returned to the solicitor, now awaiting further information about completion date. A separate bank account is being set up for the hall committee with Unity Trust Bank. The Hall Treasurer to contact insurers again to have new policy in place when date is confirmed. Cllr Cooke offered to use the lease agreement to set out the different roles and responsibilities of the parish council and hall committee for clarity and understanding of parish council and hall committee remits. Cllr Baker has received information about energy improvement initiatives that may be of benefit to the hall. To gather further details.
- ii) A report has been received from the groundman with details of work undertaken in the last month. This was circulated to councillors. Clerk to look at creating a report form for future use. Following recent sickness issues within the maintenance team, adequate resources are now currently in place to maintain the work. Also discussed previous plans to create a cage to cover the ends of the pipes under the ford to keep them clear and free flowing. Recent high rainfall has evidenced that the pipes remained clear and the river level dropped to below the road very quickly, suggesting keeping the pipes clear is very important. The resident who designed the cage to look at prices of materials and construction following a quote of £2K to undertake the work. The pavement on Stoke Hill has recently been swept of leaves but it remains dangerous with overhanging hedges and the falling bank making the pavement very narrow. Clerk to contact landowner re hedge-cutting, and check land registry re boundary of bank on the lower part of Stoke Hill to try to clarify ownership and responsibility.
- iii) Update on the shop rental – the lettings agent website states the shop is now let, but no change within the premises. Clerk to contact owners to ask for an update, copying in the Ward Councillors. *Note – since the meeting, activity has been noted in the shop, to monitor.*
- iv) Update on the Recreational Trail – no update at this time.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Extra General Meeting Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Next monthly meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Signed by:

Date:

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Chew Stoke Parish Council- minutes of meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023