



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

Present: Cllrs Steven Read, (Chair) Nicola Ainger, Nick Baker, Alex Cooke & Ali Cunningham.
Ward Councillor Dave Harding

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Minutes: 2024/10

- 1. Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Rowan Coleman, Carol Dyer and Nicola Wilson.
- 2. Declarations of interest** – None
- 3. Public participation** – 4 residents attended the meeting primarily to ensure CSPC was aware of the strength of feeling about tackling the speeding issues in the village. A petition asking for a pavement on Stoke Hill to Woodford Lodge has recently been set up and signed by 240 residents. One resident suggested there are 3 speeding issues, chronic speeding through the village, acute issues and incidents and the anti-social behaviour such as the bikes using the road at Herons Green (and reaching dangerous speeds and create noise disturbance). He has reported incidents to A&S Police and to the local MP Dan Norris. It was suggested residents may be prepared to contribute financially to any agreed measures to reduce speeding in the village. A resident is trying to obtain speeding data from B&NES to show extent of the problem, to work with Ward Councillor Harding to achieve this. Also noted there is a much greater volume of traffic in last few years.
- 4. To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 5th September 2024,** unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
- 5. Ward Councillors report:**
NPPF and Local Plan - BANES proposed extra allocation of housing being opposed by Council. 80% of extra housing needed in Bath is affordable homes- therefore needs funding. UNESCO world heritage status of Bath means most of proposed new homes would need to be built in NE Somerset.

Consultation Mendip AONB / National Landscape Management Plan:

<https://mendiphills-nl.org.uk/caring/management-plan/>

Signed by:

Date:

Chew Stoke Parish Council- minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024

Parish Council Liaison - asked re Chew Valley Transport Strategy update on (2017/8 action) future traffic survey through Chew Magna.

Police - Beat Officer Ross Cudd. or Sgt. Rob Turner (Keynsham) contact.

Speeding and more visible presence asked for again.

(3rd meeting in last 6 weeks with Police teams).

No increase in community Beat Officers likely for minimum of 2 years- funding needs to be put in place in April, then bid for, then staff recruited trained etc.

A368 and Active Travel Masterplan consultations- reviewing all responses. Not yet published. Note that Ward Councillor and Chew Stoke PC both requested pavement on Stoke Hill to Woodford Lodge.

6. Planning applications: none

7. Matters requiring a decision:

- i) Reviewed the latest proposals from B&NES Highways team regarding a modified 'crossing' on Bristol Road. Councillors discussed whether residents were fully aware of discussions about the crossing in the last few months. The minutes have been widely shared, and the proposals noted in the Parish Magazine, and comments encouraged from residents. CSPC has heard from residents who have views about street lighting, and these were included in their deliberations. It is not possible to have any type of crossing or raised road surface without street lights. The latest proposal from B&NES includes a coloured area of road at the Quarry Hay junction. The corners of Quarry Hay will be built out slightly to make the crossing distance across Bristol Road shorter. Bollards to be installed along the west side of Bristol Road from The Stoke Inn to Quarry Hay to prevent parking at this location as it impedes the sight lines for anyone trying to cross the road, especially when opposite the shop and Bilbie Road footpath. Agreed to ask for 3 bollards to the north of the Quarry Hay junction to prevent pavement parking. To check whether the PC can request the colour of the road surface, and confirm whether there will be any further consultation for the PC or residents. Councillors noted that a crossing had been requested by residents and pursued by the Ward Councillor on their behalf. B&NES have confirmed it is not possible to have a crossing at the current crossing point of choice (Bilbie Road footpath and shop to Quarry Hay) because it would be too close to the narrow section of road. There can be no zebra crossing, or similar, because street lighting is not wanted in this rural area. No raised surface/ramp for speed reduction is possible either due to lack of lighting. Finally, the location of the proposed crossing south of Quarry Hay was in the wrong place and would not be used.
- ii) Agreed to adopt the 2024 NALC version of the Financial Regulations following review by the Clerk.
- iii) Agreed to purchase a replacement sign for the wall on Bristol Road in memory of Hilary Padfield. Clerk to contact Arien Signs regarding order and fixing advice.

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- iv) Received update from Cllr Cooke about chronic, acute and anti-social speeding and driving issues throughout the whole village and approach roads. Discussed the possible options for autospeedwatch cameras / other options. CSPC in agreement about the need to acquire data from A & S Police to be able to evidence the problem. CSPC supportive of a pavement from Stoke Hill to Woodford Lodge, this has been considered before (last time in 2022 when residents were in discussion about the use of gardens and boundaries being given up to create space for a pavement). Actions:
- Agreed that Cllr Cooke to set up a working group to move proposals forward
 - Clerk to contact Bishop Sutton Clerk for feedback about their autospeedwatch camera and experience.
 - To note the Parish Council endorse the working group formation.
 - To liaise with Highways at B&NES at an early opportunity, they are responsible for roads and hold the budget, the Parish Council can help with road safety.
 - Working Group to consider costings and funding opportunities (crowd funding, increasing precept, grants (eg Bristol Airport due to increase in traffic because of airport expansion)).
 - To keep a record of incidents and to ensure these are reported to A&S Police. To look at online ways to report eg Operation Snap
 - To review Community Speedwatch group being reinstated in the village.
 - To work with Councillor Harding to acquire speeding data, and consider grant from Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund.
- v) No update on the National Grid pole that is to be situated near the ford in Pilgrim's Way.

8. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
- a. SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (September)
 - b. Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (September)
- ii) The bank statements and bank reconciliation for the 2nd quarter of the year were checked and signed by Cllr Cunningham. Financial update given for first 6 months of the financial year.
- iii) To note receipts:

| Date | Item | From | Net | VAT | Total |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 18.09.24 | Credit on account for bin bags | Glasdon | 42.20 | 8.44 | 50.64 |
| 27.09.2024 | 2nd precept payment | B&NES | | | £11,500.00 |

- iv) Agreed the following payments:

Signed by:

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| Date | Item | Payee | Net | VAT | Total |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 24.09.24 | HP Ink (printing) | SJ Streatfeild-James | £4.17 | £0.83 | £5.00 |
| 19.09.24 | Items for Community Bloom | Nicola Ainger | | | £436.57 |
| 19.09.24 | Hedges for Cook's Meadow | Nick Baker | £289.50 | £57.90 | £347.40 (Westaway funds) |

9. Matters of report:

- i) Westaway Field and Cooks Meadow – stone seat to be installed
- ii) The Recreational Trail – Chew Valley Reconnected is a B&NES initiative, for green infrastructure projects within the valley. Aims to work with local stakeholders, and they have employed a new manager to seek funding for projects.
<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/chew-valley-reconnected>
- iii) Monthly update from Groundsman – verbal update from Cllr Baker noted. To ensure groundsman aware of new mowing schedule for Bilbie Road from next spring.
- iv) Noted that Cllr Baker has discussed night disturbance complaints resulting from airport parking business (The Stoke) with the owners of The Stoke Inn. Residents confirmed the noise, and light issues have diminished since discussion. Also reminded that the bus stop is now in use as a bus stop again and should not be used to park minibuses.
- v) Chelwood Bridge Rotary Club have asked the Parish Council for a nomination for the 2025 award. Discussed possible nominations prior to submitting in the New Year (latest).
- vi) Correspondence received from Chew Medical Practice, to note their request not to have any double yellow lines on Chew Lane near the Dairy Way junction. Cllr Read will engage with the practice again regarding parking on Chew Lane and the option to use the Rugby Club car park.
- vii) To note Cllr Edgerton has resigned from the Parish Council. Clerk has notified B&NES and the vacancy has been advertised as per protocol. Aim to co-opt at the November meeting if no election called.

10. Closed Session: agreed to a revised contract for the Parish Clerk.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Next meeting Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

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Chew Stoke Parish Council- minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024