



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

Present: Cllrs Steven Read (Chair), Nick Baker, Ali Cunningham, Carol Dyer and Steve Hicks.

Ward Councillor Karen Warrington.

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Minutes: 2023/03

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Dick Raffety, Nicola Ainger and James Edgerton.
2. **Public participation** – no members of the public present.
3. **Declarations of interest** – none.
4. **To accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 2nd 2023**, unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:** B&NES have agreed their budget for 23-24 at £132m. Ward Councillor Warrington received a letter from Cllr Rigby responsible for highways at B&NES regarding road safety, many of the responses were not acceptable so she will pursue the issues noted. Speeding remains an issue. Changes to bus services will take place from April, some routes will be lost, but a 'Demand Responsive Transport', (DRT) is to be piloted in the area, this service is on demand and will take residents to arterial bus routes. Once more information is available, clerk will share with residents.
6. **Planning applications:**
 - i) Reference number: **22/04892/FUL** Site location: **Parcel 2727 Kingshill Lane, Chew Stoke**. Description of proposal: **Erection of rural workers dwelling in association with the equestrian business on site following removal of a temporary mobile home.** *The Rural Consultants Report was received this afternoon, this was commissioned by B&NES to assess the viability and sustainability of the business, and*

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*the need for the owners to live on site. The report concludes the business is viable and growing, with approximately 15 horses on site at present. However this planning application is in a sensitive location, because of this the council **agreed to support** the application with the following conditions – that there be an agricultural tie to the house, that trees be planted to improve screening from the highway, and to ensure any light pollution is minimised by the requirement for external downlighters and automatic blinds be fitted and used in all roof windows.*

7. The following matters were resolved:

- i) Following further details being seen that confirmed the wishes of Brian Westaway were for only agricultural use or public amenity use on the fields bequeathed to the Parish Council, the council **resolved not to pursue** any siting of solar arrays on the land.
- ii) Road safety issues, update on action agreed at the last meeting:
 - A reporting form on google docs has been designed for residents to complete to give evidence of dangerous incidents or near misses. This will be posted on the village website and advertised on social media.
 - Clerk to contact Dundry Parish Council to gather further information about the use of variable speed cameras they may have in their parish.
 - Local MP, Jacob Rees-Mogg has visited the village to assess the concerns of residents, advised to collate information (see above).
 - Requested B&NES for white lines to be painted down the edges of Stoke Hill and Pagans Hill (gives the impression the road is narrower than it is).
 - Cllr Hicks to contact RoSPA regarding any funding available in order to reactivate the speed indicator sign at the top of Stoke Hill.
 - Clerk to research any possible grants for help with road safety.
 - Chew Stoke Community Speedwatch is due to be set up imminently, volunteers now need to undertake roadside training with local PCSO's, then the speedwatch can begin.
- iii) A request has been received from a resident to hold outdoor Bootcamp exercise classes on the Rectory Field, unanimously agreed to this request subject to verifying the trainer's public liability insurance and a risk assessment. To request the organiser asks clients to park considerately and not on pavements, no equipment is left on site, and to report any wear to the grass.
- iv) Village Hall lease update - no further update, clerk to contact member of hall committee again regarding meeting to discuss day to day management.
- v) The following policies were approved and adopted:
 - Standing Orders
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Diversity & Equality Policy
 - Data Breach policy
 - Grievance Policy

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- Disciplinary Policy
- Health & Safety Policy

8. Finance:

i) To note standing orders:

SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (February)

Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (February)

ii) The following online payments were agreed:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
21.2.23	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
21.2.23	Purchase of Clerks Manual (halved with EHPC)	SJ Streatfeild-James			£23.75

9. Matters of report:

- i) Update on the shop rental – an offer to rent the property was submitted by the Community Shop Group in December 22, a business plan was requested which was supplied at the end of Jan 23. Awaiting further information.
- ii) Update on Rectory Field – a tree survey will be undertaken in June this year to assess the condition of the ash trees. Continue to discuss small orchard at the top of the field and a nursery for new trees near the gate and stream at the bottom.
- iii) Update on the Recreational Trail – a snagging inspection took place recently, noted the flooding and drainage issues at the end of Woodford Lane and the trail. B&NES have created a new staff position to look at the feasibility of extending the path to the south of the lake, and discussions with landowners are taking place.
- iv) Update about Bristol Water Stakeholder Consultation – Cllr Baker has been in contact with the new owners of Bristol Water, Southwest Water, to establish better relationships. The intention is to have 1 employee at BW to liaise with the Parish Council.
- v) Update on the reduction of bus services in the area – covered earlier in the meeting. Clerk to disseminate information about new system when information is available.
- vi) An area in the wooded area at the top of Rectory Field has been dug up creating an uneven, it appears to be for a bike track. Groundsman will level out again, but children to be advised to make any tracks visible and keep them in the trees.
- vii) Police report noted.

10. Closed session:

- i) A new contract for village ground maintenance, with quote for 1 year agreed.

Next meeting Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 20th April 2023 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

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Chew Stoke Parish Council- minutes of meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023