

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

No.7 North Street Workshops,
North Street,
Stoke-sub-Hamdon,
TA14 6QR

Clerk: Mr Neil Bloomfield, clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 6pm Thursday 21st March 2024 No. 7 North Street Workshops

Present: Cllr Foley (Chair), Cllr Gould, Cllr Hulett, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Middleton,
Cllr Dullaghan. Cllr Nelms
15 members of the public
Cllr Pearlstone

24/072 Recording of meetings

It was announced that in accordance with council policy the meeting would be recorded. A question was raised regards recording confidential session. Members were notified this was not permitted.

24/073 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Holder, Cllr Philips
AGREED

24/074 Declarations of Interest

Interests remained as declared on the register of interest available from the clerk or on the website.

24/075 Approval of Minutes.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of Full Council held 6th March 2024.

AGREED

24/076 Public Questions

Members of the public were asked if they had any questions other than the planning issue where they would be invited to during that item. There were no questions.

24/077 Casual Vacancies

A member of the public expressed an interest and would speak after the meeting.

24/078 Planning

To consider Application 24/00125/COU

A change of use from agricultural land to residential garden at Lochindore, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon.

Members of the public were invited to speak. A presentation was given which singled out disturbance to wildlife by the installation of a perimeter fence, in particular Badgers, a protected species. General disturbance and additional vehicular access via a bridlepath were also raised as concern.

The applicants agent spoke to support the application and felt the objections were not reasonable and that the application although retrospective had been carried out without malice and believed he was acting within permitted development rights.

The council considered the arguments put before them. Council **RESOLVED** to recommend the planning committee refuse the application for the following reasons:

- It was felt on the evidence presented there would be an excessive disturbance to wildlife in particular to badgers who have established corridors thru the site.
- Loss of amenity as car use would increase with legal or other use of the bridle way.
- change from agricultural to residential would have a significant and negative impact on the character of the area with the enclosure of a large plot of agricultural land.

RESOLVED TO REFUSE

24/079 Banking Mandate

It was reported by the clerk that enquiries were on going with Lloyds Bank to align the councils needs with the processes in place at the Bank

24/080 Council Insurance

It was reported that requests for quotations had been sent out to obtain a 3-year policy. The question was raised regarding combing HYFC and SRT assets under the councils policy. There is a significant variance between start dates. The clerk had approached both Trusts raising these points.

24/081 Somerset Council Services

There was no update other than the 25/26 budget is likely to have a significant shortfall but service delivery was still very much in flux.

24/082 Motion to Exclude Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the item was to follow it was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public as to discuss staffing matters in public was detrimental to the public interest.

AGREED

24/083 Confidential Staffing Matter

No information was available for members to consider.