

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

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May Parish Council Minutes 2024

7pm, 8th May 2024 at The Council Offices

Present: Cllr Foley (Vice Chair), Cllr Nelms, Cllr Gould, Cllr Foley, Cllr Hulett, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Fryer, Cllr Dullaghan, Cllr Middleton.

Apologises: Cllr Philips

10 members of the public

Somerset Cllr Pearlstone and Somerset Cllr Bailey

24/109 Recording of meetings

Cllr Foley and Cllr Hulett.

24/110 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Phillips

24/111 Declarations of Interest

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

24/112 Approval of Minutes.

To consider acceptance of minutes of full council meeting, the clerk hasn't completed the minutes of the last meeting, unable to retrieve the recording.

24/113 Casual Vacancy.

No one identified at the point.

24/114 Public Session

Limited to a total 30 minutes, parishioners can raise points relevant to items in the agenda. A maximum 5 minutes per person and not per question or topic.

Cllr Gould proposed suspended 10a and 9b of standing orders.

Motion to suspend Standing Orders 9b and 7 - agreed

A gentleman asked how much money had been spent on the Council Office set up, Chair will come back in writing. Only allowed one question, a lady then question why the clerk's salary was blanked on the agenda. A lady asked about the village newsletter as a voluntary editor she wanted to know where she stands, clarity. A lady asked agenda reference item 24/115 she wanted to ask council given the toxicity and malevolence of the behaviours that has been portrayed past and present, how will this council ensure a balanced view point of the community and not personal ideology. Council answered, they had witnessed the toxicity, but they will deal with it and serve the parish, moving forward they want a council that is driven by leadership and initiative not personal interest. An HYG representative has done a report and will circulate it via the newsletter.

24/114(a) Somerset Council Ward Members

Report taken as read.

24/115 Confidence Vote

The following motion submitted under standing order 9 by Cllrs Gould & Dullaghan, that:

“This Council has no confidence in the Chairman and Vice Chairman of council” Reasons were given from each councillor either for or against the motion.

Motion to pass no confidence in the Chair - agreed

Motion to pass no confidence in the Vice Chair - agreed

24/116 External HR/Recruitment Advisors

Council asked to consider appointing an external body to assist council with the recruitment of a new clerk and to create a budget line from the general reserve. SWCA was selected to assist with HR and recruitment at a £541.00 for a year’s membership, would be beneficial, council is mindful of turnover of councillors. SALC was a possibility but only available to clerk and chair.

Motion to appoint SWCA to assist with the recruitment of a permanent clerk

Motion to Create a budget line of £600 to be reviewed annually

1. Cllr Gould 2. Cllr Hulett - Council agreed

24/117 Alarm Installation - Unit 7

A request has been made to revisit the installation of an intruder alarm at the Council offices. It had been agreed in October to have existing alarm to be brought into service by the previous maintainer PG Security. It wasn’t considered economically viable to replace parts and other consumables and a new installation was recommended. In consultation with the chair and vice chair this was further reduced to a minimum standard. The chair and clerk authorised this additional spend from the existing unit 7 budget line under delegated authority of council.

Council voiced their concerns about this action - the clerk said it was done as council instruction clerk to produce a timeline. The alarm was installed for the documents stored. Too late to stop now, move on. Working group to see how this happened and so it doesn’t happen again working group Cllr Gould, Cllr Fryer and Cllr Nelms, to come back with TOR to be voted on by council.

24/118 Parish Council Newsletter

Articles for the parish newsletter have been sent to the parish clerk of many years and it forms part of the clerk’s job description, which was disputed. TORs were presented by Cllr Gould for the main contributors of the parish newsletter. The acting chair questioned the TORS in detail.

Cllr Nelms left the meeting also members of the public left the meeting.

The Chair questioned the council on liability for the content of the newsletter

The volunteer newsletter Editor left the meeting.

Clerk should write the council news and the VE collates the rest, the Chair signs off the final proof

The meeting was extended by 30 minutes 1. Cllr Fryer 2. Cllr Lewis - agreed

Motion to agree the newsletter TORS 1. Cllr Dullaghan 2. Cllr Lewis - agreed

24/119 Hamdon Youth Group (HYG)

The Hamdon Youth Centre Trust (HYFC) is charged with ensuring minimum policy requirements for all users of the Youth Centre facility on behalf of this council. The Council is of the view the HYG policies appear to be to the required standard and that HYG will comply with those policies going forward. Any future concerns will be directed to the HYFC Trust.

Action for HYG to back to check wording is acceptable

24/120 Match Funding

Council asked to consider a proposal to match fund any monies raised by voluntary groups within the parish council area. (2 18)

Motion to agree the difference of the Management HYFCT 1. Cllr Hulett 2. Cllr Middleton - agreed

The meeting was extended by 30 minutes 1. Cllr Fryer 2. Cllr Dullaghan - agreed

The Clerk left the meeting, being rude to a parishioner and councillors (2.30)

Motion to not to match fund any other organisations - agreed

24/121 Hamdon Youth Centre

Council asked to consider a request to improve wheelchair access to the front entrance to the building. Also to note attempts to obtain quotes to safely remove and replace the asbestos roof at side of building.
Defer

24/122 Account Balances and Schedule of payments.

Account Balances as at 01/05/24

Lloyds Business Acc xxxx0860	£132,395.24 **
Lloyds BB Inst Acc xxxxx260	£44,429.06
**Precept Credit	£97,280.80

Available figures

Melton Building Soc.	£33,428.98
Cambridge & Counties	£23,026.17

Payments to be agreed by resolution:
 (Standing orders/salary pre resolved)*

Ionos	Web host	£21.00
Evis	Ground Maintenance (Feb)	£750.00*
Cloudy IT	Monthly M/Soft 365 Licence fee	£71.16*
Stable Print	April Newsletter	£210.00*
Sports & Rec Trust	Contribution to Skate Park	£10,000.00
Allotment deposit refund		£25.00
Clerk (agreed by contract)	April salary	£xxxx.xx
	Total	£11,077.16

Payments previously Approved

Evis	Ground Maintenance (Feb)	£750.00*
Cloudy IT	Monthly M/Soft 365 Licence fee	£70.68
Stable Print	April Newsletter (colour)	£295.00
Som. Council	Parish Ranger	£422.51
SALC	Playground Inspection Course (MF)	£50.00
PG Security	Unit 7 Alarm	£561.47
Amazon	Office	£57.86
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£627.31
Clerk	Salary (late payment)	£xxxx.xx
ICO	Data Licence (annual)	£35.00
Lloyds	Bank charges	£7.00

Motion to agree the finances - 1. Cllr Gould, 2. Cllr Middleton - agreed.

24/123 Skate Park

The Sports & Rec Trust (SRT) have requested the draw down of the £10,000 agreed by council toward the total cost. The original motion was procedurally incorrect so council are asked to resolve the following:
 This council resolves to make a single one-off payment of £10,000 as its contribution towards the cost of the new skate park to be built in the recreation ground.
 These funds were allocated into a earmarked reserve from the 23/24 budget.

Motion to agree the grant for payment - 1. Cllr Middleton, 2. Cllr Fryer - agreed.

24/124 Grant Application

To consider a grant application from the Sports & Rec Trust for £500 to fund the May Fayre programme

Motion to agree the grant for payment - 1. Cllr Middleton, 2. Cllr Gould - agreed.

24/125 Exclude the Press & Public

Owing to the nature of the following items the press and public are to be excluded as public discussion of these items would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential/sensitive nature of the business to be transacted. Sec.1 The Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960

Motion to exclude Press and Public - agreed.

24/126 To consider a confidential staffing matter.

Amendments to the clerks' terms of engagement