

# Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council

## MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Vets' Meeting Rooms, Hurleston, on

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm**

at The Vets' Meeting Rooms, Hurleston

**Present:** Councillors Christine Bowen (Chair), Leigh Bowen, Russell Harper, Iain Menzies and Paul Presland

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council),

1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b> All Councillors were present and so there were no apologies.
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations</b> There were no declarations.
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b> The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a true record.
4.	<b>Unitary Authority Ward Councillor Report</b> The Ward Councillor was unable to attend on the revised date.
5.	<b>Public Forum</b> No matters were raised.
6.	<b>Council Membership and Co-Options</b> There were no co-options to consider.
7.	<b>Councillor Reports</b> Cllr Presland reported that the roadside paths on the A51 had become very narrow due to overgrowth and represent a danger to pedestrians and to school children cycling to school. The lay-bys (in Wardle Parish) were very messy with much unpleasant litter and an approach to Wardle Parish council would be made to see if they could arrange for this to be tidied. It was noted that water flows from by the tennis courts over the bridge and that this presents a serious problem in icy weather. The source of the water seems to be a leak of very long standing (decades) water needs to be diverted into the ditch to stop it flowing across the road. The drain is also blocked. The Clerk will take pictures and report this to CEC.
8.	<b>Planning</b> <b>a. Planning Consultations</b> <b>i. 24/3295N - Stoke Hall, Stoke Hall Lane, Stoke CW5 6AS</b> <i>Full Planning Application for the reconfiguration of Stoke Hall, a grade II listed country residence currently subdivided into three residential dwellings. Alongside partial demolition of contemporary link to form a detached dwelling.</i> Following discussion, the Council resolved to proffer no objection to this application. <b>b. Updates on Planning Applications considered at previous meetings</b> - There were no updates.

9.	<p><b>Damage to Bridge N° 100</b></p> <p>The bridge had been damaged yet again and the discussion was focused on ways of preventing the damage in future. Various options were discussed but now workable solution was found.</p> <p>In terms of getting repairs done, the Canals Trust had repeatedly determined that, although damaged, the bridge was safe. This is clearly not true, as bricks have fallen onto the tow path. The question arose as to whether the problem was that responsibility for the surface sits with CEC whereas the structure is the Trust's responsibility. As the bridge is listed it must be kept in good repair. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the Canal trust to seek information about their assessment and would follow up, if necessary by pointing out their responsibilities under heritage legislation. If they then fail to address the need for repairs Historic England and CEC will be contacted in relation to a breach of listed buildings regulations.</p> <p>The Clerk will also ask about the burnt out boat that has been abandoned on the canal.</p>
10.	<p><b>Correspondence and Clerk's report</b></p> <p>Section 106 Monies Relating to Traffic Calming on the A51 - A response had not yet been received but it was expected that the information would be available for the next meeting.</p> <p>There will be a police cluster meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at Worleston Village Hall.</p>
11.	<p><b>Contribution to Christmas Tree Costs</b></p> <p>It was resolved to contribute £25 to Sandra Brenchley Green towards the cost of electricity for lighting the Christmas tree.</p>
12.	<p><b>Finance &amp; Governance</b></p> <p><b>a. Receipts and Payments</b> - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.</p> <p><b>b. Summary Accounts to 30.11.24</b> - The Council received the financial reports for the year to date and approved them.</p> <p><b>c. Budget for 2025/26</b> - The Council considered the draft budget and, following discussion, resolved to adopt version C for the next administrative year, with an allowance of £200 included in the existing total for a Christmas tree and illuminations.</p> <p><b>d. Precept for 2025/26</b> - The Council resolved to levy a precept of £6,924.00 for 2025/26.</p>
13.	<p><b>Items for Future Agendas</b></p> <p>No items were identified.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Signed as accurate on the authority of the Council:

(Chair) 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025