

## Stoke Albany Parish Council

Chair: Councillor David Benson; [cldr-david-benson@stoke-albany.uk](mailto:cldr-david-benson@stoke-albany.uk); 07754-059-907

Clerk: Mrs Justina Medwell; [parish-clerk@stoke-albany.uk](mailto:parish-clerk@stoke-albany.uk); 07813-696-387

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting Number 2603**

Held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 in Stoke Albany Village Hall

#### **01. To open the meeting, note attendance and determine the quorum.**

The Chair opened the meeting at 1900h. There being 3 SAPC councillors present, the Chair declared the meeting to be quorate.

#### **02. In Attendance:**

Cllrs D Benson (Chair), H Perry and L Donnelly.

J Medwell – Clerk

Cllr H Howes

2 members of the public.

#### **03. To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr M Kelly

NNC Cllrs D Howes and B McElhinney

#### **04. To receive any Declarations of Interest or Changes to the Members' Register of Interests.**

There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

There were no Changes to the Members' Register of Interests.

#### **05. To verify the minutes of the previous meeting.**

Decision: It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Benson, Seconded Cllr Perry.

The Chair duly signed the minutes.

### **Reports**

#### **06. To receive reports of any new information from NNC Councillors (if present).**

NNC Cllr D Howes advised that there was nothing to report as far as NNC matters were concerned.

#### **07. To receive reports of any new information from SAPC Clerk & Councillors.**

a) A bid for the Ward Initiative fund has been made to NNC on behalf of the Stoke Bells Committee. The Parish Council will receive any monies allocated and will hold as a ring-fenced amount until such time as the project goes ahead.

b) There will be a nature walk and talk on 14<sup>th</sup> March given by the Climate and Nature Champion Peter Holmes. Full details of this have been circulated to residents.

c) There will be an 'Illustrated History of Stoke Albany' event on 29<sup>th</sup> April in aid of the 'Save the Bells' project.

d) There will be a memorial service on 25<sup>th</sup> July to commemorate 85 years since the 'Flying Fortress' came down in Stoke Albany. Donations are being sought for a memorial plaque. The Council will consider making a donation at the next meeting.

e) It was noted that a new light had been installed to replace the faulty one on the Ashley Road Hill.

f) The large potholes and blocked drain on Ashley Road Hill were raised. NNC Cllr H Howes undertook to refer this on to NNC.

New Action 2603A: Cllr Donnelly will provide photographic evidence.

#### **08. To receive reports of any new information from Climate and Nature Champion.**

There was nothing further to report on this.

### **Representations**

#### **09. To receive any written representations from any members of the public submitted before the meeting.**

a. The Council referred to a request from a resident for contact details of the NNC Officer in charge of the recently completed drain works on the Ashley Road.

b. Solar Farm – The Parish Council discussed the proposed Solar Farm development at the airfield. The Chair reported attending a recent community consultation event where the main topics of discussion included wildlife, visual and noise impact, footpath access, and the proposed community benefit funding.

With regard to the community benefit funding, it was noted that only a very small part of the proposed site lies within Stoke Albany Parish. The Chair suggested that it may therefore be more appropriate for Wilbarston Parish Council to receive and manage the funds, with Stoke Albany Parish Council and other local community groups able to apply to Wilbarston Parish Council for grants on an ad hoc basis.

A representation had been received from a resident asking what the Parish Council is doing to represent residents, particularly those who may be directly impacted by the application. The Chair advised that the Parish Council will formally consider the proposal and provide a response on planning grounds once a planning application has been submitted.

Cllr Donnelly reported that she had attended an Extraordinary Meeting of Wilbarston Parish Council, which is looking to establish a working party made up of representatives from surrounding villages to gather further information and consider the implications of the proposal.

New Action 2603B: The Chair will contact Wilbarston Parish Council with a view to Stoke Albany Parish Council sending a representative to the working party.

Residents who may be affected were encouraged to make their views known and to consider joining the working party.

NNC Cllr H Howes left the meeting at this point.

### **Projects**

#### **10. Progress on outdoor gym / play area (Section 106) project.**

The Council had received an update from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) regarding the ongoing outdoor gym and play area project. NNC's legal team is currently working on preparing the necessary contract to progress the scheme and the installation of equipment is contingent on improved weather conditions, with drier weather required before works can commence on site.

#### **11. Progress on Memorial Refurbishment Project**

The Council was pleased to note the completion of the memorial refurbishment project. Residents had provided positive feedback regarding the improvements, reflecting the community's appreciation for the work undertaken. The Council's bid to the North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) Community Capital Grant was successful, and the grant fully funded the project, ensuring its delivery without additional financial burden on the parish.

### **New Items**

#### **12. Community Governance Review**

Following consultation with parishioners Stoke Albany Parish Council agreed that its current community governance arrangements are entirely appropriate and that its preferred outcome in the context of the Community Governance Review is NO CHANGE.

Proposed Cllr Benson    Seconded Cllr Perry    All in favour

#### **13. Risk Assessment**

The Risk Assessment was circulated to all Councillors for prior to the meeting. This was reviewed and approved with no changes.

Proposed Cllr Benson    Seconded Cllr Perry    All in favour

#### **14. To Consider the condition of the Memorial Plaques for the Phone Box.**

The Chair advised that the these had been installed onto the phone box.

#### **15. To Consider Management of the Airfield Solar Farm community fund**

There was nothing further to report on this item.

The Members of the Public left the meeting at this point.

### **Planning**

#### **16. 26/00030/LBC Internal alterations including the removal of lift and creation of internal staircase The Manor House**

The Council has no comment to make on this application .

