

Stoke Albany Parish Council

Chair: Councillor David Benson; cldr-david-benson@stoke-albany.uk; 07754-059-907

Clerk: Mrs Justina Medwell; parish-clerk@stoke-albany.uk; 07813-696-387

MINUTES

Meeting Number 2607

Held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th July 2026 in Stoke Albany Village Hall

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

In attendance

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

J Medwell – Clerk

Andrew Deacon – Chair of Wilbarston Parish Council

CAN Champion Peter Holmes (arrived 7.20 pm)

2 members of the public

01. To receive apologies for absence

NNC Cllrs D and H Howes

02. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda or any changes to the Register of Members' Interests

There were none.

03. To verify the minutes of the previous meeting

Decision: It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 5th May 2026 be adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Kelly, Seconded Cllr Perry.

The Chair duly signed the minutes.

Reports

04. Reports of any new information from NNC Councillors

There were no Ward Cllrs present.

05. Reports of any new information from SAPC Clerk & Councillors

There were none.

06. Reports of any new information from the Climate and Nature Champion

There was no further information received.

Representations

07. To receive written representations from any members of the public submitted before the meeting.

a) Solar Farm. Innova indicated that it would support an extension to the consultation period. It also offered to signpost any queries raised at the meeting and provide clarification on the community benefit fund.

b) Weedkilling. The mowing contractor advised that he holds a licence to apply pesticide products, confirming that the products used are bio-friendly and has offered this service. CAN Champion Peter Holmes advised that he intended to prepare a map of the village areas requiring mowing, to clarify responsibility for each area. The Council agreed not to pursue weed killing and will instead seek a quote for strimming these areas.

New Action 2607D: The Chair will refer this back to the contractor.

c) Traffic Calming. A request had been received from a parishioner to re-visit traffic calming on the Harborough Road. Councillors agreed not to revisit this matter at this stage, as the parameters for traffic calming had not changed. The Council will place the mobile TVAS on Harborough Road to assess whether it helps to reduce vehicle speeds.

d) Muck-spreading. A parishioner raised a complaint about the type of sewage spread on a local field and the associated odour.

New Action 2607A: The Chair will speak to the landowner regarding nature of the material.

Projects

08. To review progress on outdoor gym / play area (Section 106) project

The Council was pleased to note that most of the new play equipment and picnic tables had been installed. However, the protective fencing remains in place.

New Action 2607B: The Chair will follow up with NNC both the fencing, the three extra items which haven't yet been put in and the painting of the swings.

New Items

09. Stoke Albany response to NNC Local Plan Scoping Consultation

A full and detailed response, setting out the core elements of a strategic planning vision for the parish, had been submitted to NNC as part of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

10. To consider a Village Tidy and appointing an 'Odd Job' Person

It was noted that the contractor had rubbed down and revarnished the flaking benches and had offered to carry out this work annually free of charge. The Council expressed its gratitude and agreed to pay for the materials. It was also agreed that the contractor should be approached as and when further village maintenance tasks arise. The Council also noted that consideration should be given to increasing next year's precept to provide for ongoing village maintenance.

11. To consider the merits of adopting a formal Parish Planning Policy

The Council agreed to use the produced consultation document as a basis of a formal planning policy which would provide structure and help inform planning considerations

Proposed Cllr Benson Seconded Cllr Donnelly

New Action 2607C: The Chair will draft a version for circulation.

Planning

12. 26/00857/HFUL 3 Chapel Lane Rear and Side Extension

The Council had no objection to this application

13. 26/01641/FUL Desborough Airfield Installation of Solar Farm

Andrew Deacon gave a detailed presentation on the proposed solar farm application. He explained that FAV is a group established to gather and review evidence relating to the proposal and emphasised that the Parish Council's role is to reflect the views of the local community. Mr Deacon advised that, at this stage of the planning process, it is important to identify any amendments to the scheme or additional mitigation measures that could reduce the impact on local communities. He highlighted a number of perceived inconsistencies within the planning application and raised concerns regarding proposals that he considered to be unworkable. He also stated that the impact on local amenity and views would conflict with North Northamptonshire Council policies protecting the Welland Valley and suggested that consideration should be given to an alternative grid connection point.

Mr Deacon left the meeting at this point

Following much discussion, where Councillors and visitors expressed their concerns, the Council **agreed** that, due to the scale and complexity of the planning application, additional time was required to review the substantial volume of supporting information before submitting a considered response. It was therefore agreed that North Northamptonshire Council be requested to extend the consultation deadline to 14 August. This would give the Council time to review the extensive application documents, assess and discuss the information fully in order to provide an informed response on behalf of the parish.

Meetings Management

14. To consider the date of the next meeting

1st September 2026

15. To review matters arising from previous meetings.

a) Laminated footpath map for bus shelter.

Previous Action 2605B: Cllr Kelly to cost up.

b) The Village Signs have been cleaned and leaflets regarding the email circulation list have been distributed.

16. To consider priorities for the next meeting cycle.

Parish Planning Policy

Banking**17. To review and verify the bank statement.**

The Bank Reconciliation was unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chair.

18. To review and verify the statement of accounts.

Current Account (Total Reserves) £15,726.62

The statement of accounts was verified as accurate and signed by the Chair.

19. To consider approval of any payment vouchers.

Decision: It was **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

Total Amount	VAT Element	Payee	Reason for Payment	Legal Authority
£8.64	£1.44	Cloud Above	Domain Renewal	LGA 1972 s.111
£23.36		Solopress	Printing Costs	LGA 1972 s.111
£350.00		Huxley Gardens	Tree Removal	OSA 1906 s.15
£216.00	£36.00	Birch Sports	Mowing	OSA 1906 s.15
£100.00		PCC	Flying Fortress Donation	LGA 1972 s.143

20. Meeting closed

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2115h.

Signed **Dated.....**