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The Lychgate



Brief notes from the parish council 19th Jan & 9th Feb.

Local plan part 2: The parish council has updated Mendip Council's documents relating to the district plan. Additions were made to their listings for public green spaces to include the playing fields, community run facilities to include, youth clubs, allotments, toddler group and the film club, and our sport provision to include caving, and skate boarding. The MDC housing allocations maps shows only land to the west of Frog Lane, not other areas, such as Yellow Gate Field, that we presumed were designated for probable development.

Parish chairman: Until the Annual Parish Meeting in May, the role of Chair will be held by Keith Holder.

Planning: An application for the conversion of barns at Goldsborough Farm was discussed. It appears that none of the immediate neighbours had formal notification. It was therefore recommended for refusal, as the correct processes were not in place.

Footpaths. Local farmers would like to remind dog walkers and ramblers that footpath signs indicate direct routes across farmland. Please do not take routes along hedgerows and boundaries unless this is the designated path.

There is to be a Spring Clean litter sweep on Sunday April 2nd. This will run similarly to the Queen's birthday tidy up last year. It will start around 10p.m. from the village hall and will take up a couple of hours of your time. If you can help out please contact: Sarah Stewart 01749 840275 or sarahstewart1488@hotmail.co.uk

Pedestrian safety: A working party of parish councilors is actively looking at proposals that could increase the safety of pedestrians in the central part of our village. When there are clear options available there will be a public session to discuss such developments. Hopefully this will be in the early spring.

Roadsigns: Somerset Highways will be asked to replace the finger post at Long Cross Bottom that pointed north to Stoke St Michael. Though it was incorrectly spelt as *Micheal* it was important signage for the locality.

Village phone box: BT is trying to decommission the phone box. This is the only connection to emergency services as mobile signals fail in the centre of Stoke St Michael. The parish council has opposed this move. **The contacts for the community police officers**, should you need them, are as follows:

Nicola Housley - nicola.housley@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Guy Dury - guy.dury@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Calls for non emergency events should be made to 101

Planning development on Coalpit Lane: The parish council recommended that the development of up to 36 house on Yellow Gate field be refused. This area is outside the development limit for our village. Residents voiced concerns over extra traffic, drainage, sewage and loss of amenity and privacy. The parish council is aware that other sites are offered in the locality that fall in line with Mendip Local planning policy.

Pedestrian Safety: A new design for traffic flow and pedestrian safety, in the centre of the village, will be aired at the parish council meeting on 23rd Feb. The engineers involved will be at the meeting to gauge parishioner's views on possible plans to present to the county council. It is hoped that the public session will open early at 6.30 so people can look carefully at the scheme. Fuller details to follow in time for the meeting.

Withybrook speed limits: Somerset highways will not install a 30mph limit through the Withybrook hamlet. They have explained that this is in line with UK wide practice for areas fringing towns and villages.

Defibrillator: The parish council will investigate the renewed request to install a defibrillator in the village. They are installed in Holcombe, Leigh on Mendip and Holcombe. There is a cost implication of leasing or buying equipment, training and security. It seems that Halecombe Quarry did sponsor the Leigh equipment.

Cheques:

Payments were authorized for cutting the burial ground hedge, hosting the Stoke St Michael website and grass cutting around the village.

Safety signs: The p.c. will put up signs encouraging safe play in the skate ramp and playground areas. Public liability insurance is in place. **Picnic benches:** It is planned to put paving under the picnic benches on the playground as this is awkward to mow and likely to become very muddy with use.

Date of next meeting: 23rd February Public session may be 6.30 council to follow at 7.30 ?