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The Lychgate



STOKE ST MICHAEL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER January 2017

Planning: There have been applications from the Knatchbull Arms and the Sycamore Stud. The Knatchbull is planning to renew the signs and lighting outside the pub. As this is a listed building, the conservation officer at Mendip District Council should oversee all such possible alterations. This has not been the case. The parish council recommended that, as such, it should be refused until the correct procedures have been followed.

The Stud farm and stables at the top of Burges's Hill wishes to replace the site security man's caravans with a larger, single mobile home. This was recommended for approval.

Millennium Woodland: The period given for people to object to it being transferred to parish ownership has passed. The parish council are not aware of any objections.

The skateboard ramps: These were closed until new insurance guarantees were in place. These are now established. The new flat ramp should be in place soon. The laminated surfaces come from America and have yet to arrive.

Grass cutting: The parish council are seeking quotes for the cutting of all the grass areas in the village including the Burial Ground, Moonshill and St Michael's Close.

The Village Asset Register: This is complete and now requires details of the original cost and present values. This may be on a best guess estimate for some of our older items, where records no longer exist regarding their origins.

Playing fields: This facility is to be run by the parish council, so the community field committee will be disbanded. The work on the pavilion is ongoing. Our thanks to all those who have managed the field's affairs over many years, particularly Irene and Alan Webb.

The Draft budget: The budget proposals for the new financial year were discussed. The 2017/18 payments will be close to £19,000. This year's will be closer to £22,000. The proposed purchases of the woodland and pedestrian safety consultations were exceptional items. Grass cutting and the clerk's salary were also major annual items. Grass cutting alone costs is in the region of nearly £5,000 a year.

Website: The parish council is aware that village website is difficult to navigate. We are going to look into improving access.

Parish council vacancy: With the recent resignation of Ray Watts there is a vacancy on the parish council. A by-election will be held to fill the vacancy if 10

electors from the parish give notice in writing to the Returning Officer, within 14 days of the 12th January to request such an election. The address to write to is :
Stuart Brown, Returning Officer, Mendip District Council, Cannards Grave Road,
Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT.

If no such notice is given the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Vandalism. A car was keyed along the length of one side on Christmas Day when parked in the centre of the village. If anyone has information regarding this crime please ring the police's 101 number to give details or contact the PCSO Nikki Housley at Nicola.Housley@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd February.

SSM Community Events Group raised over £200 at the Christmas Fayre and this was our first chance to use the 2 marquees funded by grant from the Mendip Hills Fund (<http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/special-projects/mendip-hills-fund>) to the tune of £1,100, managed by Somerset Community Foundation. These marquees are to be used for community events in Stoke and will be available for hire later in the year.

The Juniors Youth Club has become extremely popular, getting more than 20 young children every Monday night (6pm – 7.30pm) volunteers always welcome. We are also looking for people to join the Youth Club committee to help with the running and administrative functioning of the club. Please ring Ginny on 01749 841750 for further details.

The Stoke St Michael Village cinema is coming back for the spring season with a line-up of great films, all chosen by our regular viewers. First up in January will be Absolutely Fabulous which has had great reviews from film critics and fans alike and is a must-see for anyone who has yet to watch it. In February we're showing The Magnificent Seven, the recent re-release starring Denzil Washington, Chris Pratt and Ethan Hawke which promises to be even better than the original 1960 version and in March you can watch the mystery thriller The Girl on the Train. Finally, in April it's the turn of Captain Fantastic, a comedy drama starring Viggo Mortensen. Tickets are still only £5 (buy them on the door) but we've changed the day of the shows from Saturday to Friday nights – get them in your diary now so that you don't miss out:

•Fri 20 Jan 17: Absolutely Fabulous (15).

Publicist Edina Monsoon and best friend Patsy Stone are still shopping, drinking and clubbing their way around London's trendiest hot spots. While attending an elite party, they wind up knocking supermodel Kate Moss into the River Thames. Her untimely demise creates a media firestorm, leading the paparazzi to relentlessly pursue the hapless duo. Seeking refuge, the gals flee to the French Riviera where they hatch a plan to make their escape permanent and live the high life forever.

- Fri 17 Feb 17: Magnificent Seven (12A).
- Fri 24 Mar 17: The Girl on the Train (15).
- Fri 21 Apr 17: Captain Fantastic (15).