

STONEY MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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Unadopted Minutes of the Stoney Middleton Parish Council Meeting

Held on: Monday 13th April 2026

At: The Meeting Room, Rock Mill, The Dale, Stoney Middleton

Present:

Parish Councillors: Colin Hall (CH) Chair, Anne Flint (AF), Graham Goldspink (GG), Sue Bettney (SB), Carol Duncan, Clerk (CD), Barry Aldridge RFO (BA)

Minute No		Action
04-26-15479	1. WELCOME & TIME COMMENCED The meeting commenced at 19:20 – (CH) welcomed everyone present	
04-26-15480	2. SPECTATORS IN ATTENDANCE Cllr Peter O'Brien (DDDC) and thirteen members of the public	
04-26-15481	3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Accepted from Parish Councillors Harry Grafton and Richard Brisbin (RB), PC Boswell and DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton	
04-26-15482	4. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS Items 15) Affordable Housing was brought forward to Item 6) Public Speaking.	
04-26-15483	5. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS None received.	
04-26-15484	6. PUBLIC SPEAKING Item 15) Affordable Housing brought forward Cllr Peter O'Brien, Derbyshire Dales District councillor gave an update on affordable housing and an explanation of the long processes involved with seeking landowners who are willing to sell before anything can proceed. There has to be a level of confidentiality at this point of the process. The homes would be for affordable rent. An initial estimate suggests around fifteen houses, but the views of residents would be sought if a site becomes available, before any formal planning application is made. Normally, open market housing is not permitted on greenfield sites but if two or three open market homes were exceptionally included, it could generate a profit (around £20K per unit) to support village improvements such as parking. However, Peak Park Planners are not keen on this approach as it sits outside current planning policy. Any affordable homes would be developed and managed by a Housing Association.	
04-26-15485	7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9th March 2026 Minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Colin Hall (CH) Chair	

04-26-15486	<p>8. AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN WITH PUBLIC EXCLUDED</p> <p>There were no items which needed to be taken with the public excluded.</p>	
04-26-15487	<p>9. BATH HOUSE AND GARDEN</p> <p>A formal request has been made for a non-invasive geophysical survey of the spring area (not the Bath House) by a University of Sheffield research student and their department. Their request was read out by the clerk. The survey would take one or two days. There was no objection from the residents present and some are interested to come and see it being carried out. (SB) proposed (GG) seconded. The request was unanimously agreed by councillors.</p> <p>Clerk to inform the student.</p>	Clerk
04-26-15488	<p>10. CONCESSIONARY FOOTPATH</p> <p>Thanks were given to Garry Smith who put his unwanted rubble on top of the flooded area of the path which has made a big improvement.</p>	
04-26-15489	<p>11. JACOB'S LADDER</p> <p>Update from the meeting held publicly on the 19th of March 2026, involving residents who are the most affected by the misuse of Jacob's Ladder. All the residents consider that the only action that can be taken now is to request that two physical barriers be put on the lane as for 10 years, the TRO, banning motorbikes and 4x4 cars, has been repeatedly ignored by those users and the police are not able to respond adequately.</p> <p>This was discussed further because it's not an easy thing to achieve; DCC would have to lead on it and local landowners would need to be involved. The councillors were all in agreement that this action is pursued. Any barrier would have to allow horse and bicycle riders and any legitimate users, such as landowners, to access the lane. (CH) proposed (SB) seconded.</p> <p>Clerk to progress this and obtain the necessary information.</p> <p>Clerk to link with three neighbouring parishes also affected negatively by misuse of TROs</p> <p>Clerk also to request Jason Smith at DCC to arrange a clear up and dig out of the culverts below the cemetery where a lot of debris has collected.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
04-26-15490	<p>12. FLOOD MANAGEMENT ISSUES</p> <p>Two quotes have been obtained for the repair and maintenance of the Dale Brook flood gauge which is not working and requires replacement equipment. This is expensive as it needs to be done by qualified hydrological professionals. A third quote is needed before it can be agreed as it is > £500. Clerk to seek a 3rd quote.</p> <p>Clerk to speak to Dan (flood warden) and discuss the work needed. It was agreed at the meeting that the village does want the Dale Brook flood gauge to be repaired and maintained. Proposed by (GG) and seconded by (SB). A budget has been put aside for this.</p>	Clerk Clerk
04-26-15491	<p>13. TREE RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>PDNPA have recently completed two tree surveys for SMPC – one for the concessionary path alongside the Highway (not SMPC land) and one at Grove Gardens and the Bath House Woods (SMPC land).</p> <p>It was agreed to obtain a quote from a local tree specialist to cut down the dead trees that have been marked as needing attention in the Bath House woods. The clerk has sent the report to DCC via the online portal and reported all of the problematic trees along the Highway. Clerk to try to follow up with the DCC to see what the timescale is. There are two trees near the allotment car park which are over both the concessionary footpath and the Highway. and it</p>	Clerk

	was requested that the Clerk gets a quote for these two trees. Proposed by (CH) and seconded by (GG). A budget has been put aside for the tree work.	Clerk
04-26-15492	<p>14. DEFIBRILLATORS</p> <p>(SB) to update clerk about the expiry date of recently replaced pads**</p> <p>G5 - opposite The Moon - replace battery 15/10/28; pads recently replaced TBC** CR2 - Alphaweld - replace battery 20/05/29; pads 31/05/29</p>	(SB)
04-26-15493	<p>15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p> <p>Discussed under 6) Public Speaking</p>	
04-26-15494	<p>16. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticeboards <p>Clerk has got a quote for a new metal notice board for £700 to replace two of the wooden ones that are currently out of use. There is a third one that is still useable.</p> <p>Clerk to get two more quotes.</p> <p>Clerk has contacted Mr Hancock owner of building and will follow this up to get permission before proceeding with ordering any replacement noticeboard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessionary path <p>Repairs are booked for the concessionary path gate and remake of the walls - there has been a delay on this from the contractor and clerk to follow up again to try and move this forward. The gate is in the container on the carpark being kept dry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath House left side door <p>A temporary repair is needed to the left side door of the Bath House to comply with insurance and prevent further deterioration. A quote of £250 has been obtained to make the door watertight and secure. Proposed by (GG) and seconded by AF. Clerk to inform contractor.</p> <p>Clerk to then seek clarification from PDNPA on the type of door they would specify for a Grade II Listed building. This information will enable accurate costings to support any future application for community funding, potentially through Derbyshire Dales, for a Grade II-appropriate door. However, this process will take time, and the door requires immediate attention.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Peter Thorpe for digging a channel on the left side of the Bath House, to Andy and Dan for offering to clear the gutters and to Jude and Patsy for all the work they have done over the years to maintain the Bath House which is much cherished by the village.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
04-26-15495	<p>17. PLAYGROUND, PLAYING FIELD & TENNIS COURT</p> <p>The annual playground inspection is due May. The appointed contractor is progressing repairs for the multi play climbing frame steps and repaint – there is a delay in getting materials needed. The playing field access will be temporarily improved with two short fence posts and a chain across it. Awaiting another contractor to confirm start date for this and the footpath gate work. Clerk to progress.</p>	Clerk
04-26-15496	<p>18. HIGHWAY ISSUES</p> <p>Following on from the public meeting on 19/03/26, the following ideas are to be looked at and decided upon by the councillors:</p>	

- 1) A new and larger Parish Council sign 'No Parking below this line *by order of the Parish Council*' to replace the small one at the end of the school wall on the High Street and one on the house opposite also (by agreement)
- 2) The pinch point is just below the school and outside a residential building. Clerk to pursue getting a new white line across there with agreement. New notices agreed - proposed by (AF) and seconded by (SB). Clerk to action both
- 3) Clerk also to follow up with Steve Alcock (DCC) for all the white lines to be repainted throughout the village and another new white line to be considered on The Bank where there is a problem with access.
- 4) Community Speedwatch is on hold because of not having enough people confirming that they can do it – minimum of 5 needed

Clerk

Clerk

04-26-15497

19. FINANCE

(BA) explained the year end figures which show a carry forward balance of £6,756 to start on 01/04/2026 which is a £3,887 increase on last year's opening balance. The actual Income for 2025-26 was £22,112 and actual expenditure was £18,226

However, the 2026-27 projected Income is £20,233 and projected Expenditure is £25,977 so a lot of the increased opening balance will be used up if those figures prove to be correct as there is a projected overspend of £5,744. The increased expenditure is mostly for maintenance, Assertion 10 compliance and tree work.

April 2026 Financial Payments

Payments since last meeting in March

Bank Transfer 24/03/2026	Peak District National Park Village Tree Survey			£720.00
Direct Debit 25/03/2026	Graham Watkins Allotments Ground Rent			£3.50
Direct Debit 25/03/2026	Water Plus Allotments Water Supply			£18.32
Bank Transfer 01/04/2026	Carol Duncan Clerk's salary 01.03.2026 – 31.03.2026 29 hours @ £16.62 Tax Office expenses: space, lighting, heating, electricity, broadband and telephone calls; March 2026	£481.98 -£20.20 £22.00		£483.78
Bank Transfer 01/04/2026	Barry Aldridge RFO salary 01.03.2026 – 31.03.2026 5 hours @ £17.85			£89.25

A list of annual subscription renewals was checked and one is to be cancelled - Guardian Angel £33.60/year antivirus as the laptop has Mc Afee installed. The others will be renewed:

04-26-15498

ANNUAL, QUARTERLY AND MONTHLY PLANNED SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS / PAYMENTS 2026-27	
123Reg – Website Domain Renewal	
Clear Councils – Parish Council Insurance *BHIB Limited	
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) - Membership Renewal	
Clerks Salary (inc Expenses and Stationery & Office Supplies) – up to (25) hours per month, depending on workload. (2025-26 includes new laptop expense)	
DALC - Membership Renewal Incl Group 1 Training	
DALC – Clerk and Councillor Training not included in Group 1 Training	
Defib Store - Defibrillator replacement parts and pads	
East Midlands Audit Services – Internal Audit	
PFK Littlejohn LLP – External Audit	
Graham Watkins – Allotments Ground Rental	
HMRC – Clerk Income Tax (By Direct Debit)	
Hopkinson Waste Management Limited – Skip for Allotments	
Hydrologic Services – Renewal & Maintenance of Dale Brook Telemetry Sensor and Credit Bundles as required	
John Naylor – Christmas Tree	
Markovitz - Village building & landscape supplies including grit	
Microsoft MS365 Subscription – PC Storage	
Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) – Annual / Rolling 15-month Tree Survey for Bath Garden Woods	
St Martins Church / Wesleyan Reform Chapel – Backup for Parish Council Meetings	
Playsafety Limited – Play Area Inspection	
Responsible Financial Officer Salary (RFO) – up to (10) hours per month, depending on workload.	
Tideswell Brass Band – Well Dressing Concert	
Harry R White Plant Hire– Gritting of Village Streets	
Village Maintenance Contractor as contracted	
WaterPlus – Water supply for Allotments (By Direct Debit)	
Wix – Website Hosting Renewal	

Proposed by (CH) and seconded by (SB)

Water reading to be obtained by Clerk to avoid being overcharged by estimated readings

Clerk

04-26-15499	<p>20. AUDIT – Assertion 10 requirements</p> <p>The Parish Council is not yet compliant with the requirement to move to a secure Gov.UK domain for our website and official email addresses (particularly the clerk's). Current costs for the website are approximately £130/year for hosting and £16/year for domain registration. It is recognised that the website requires more regular maintenance updating.</p> <p>Three options have been circulated to councillors. The Clerk will research costs and recommended registrars and bring detailed information to the next meeting. A budget has been allocated for this work.</p>	Clerk
04-26-15500	<p>21. POLICY UPDATES</p> <p>The IT policy was formally agreed – proposed by (GG) and seconded by (SB)> (CH) to sign.</p>	
04-26-15501	<p>22. SMILE</p> <p>Allen (SMILE) attended to update the meeting about the current position of the charity. He gave out a notice (to be circulated to the village) outlining the history of the Community Village Hall building project which has been SMILE's main focus over the last 20 years. Even though a substantial amount of money has been raised during this time it falls way short of what would be needed to fund a new building and it is no longer feasible to attract funders for a project of this size.</p> <p>Two trustees have recently resigned and SMILE can no longer run as a fundraising charity (Charity number 1087095). The remaining trustees are therefore looking to allocate the funds raised in alignment with the Charity's stated aims.</p> <p>An Extraordinary General Meeting for SMILE has been organised for 30/04/2026 at The Methodist Chapel at 6.30pm. All residents wishing to participate in deciding how the funds should be used and to discuss the future of this organisation and its aims are encouraged to attend.</p>	
04-26-15502	<p>23. CLERK'S REPORT</p> <p>All items have been covered in the meeting</p>	
04-26-15503	<p>24. CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>All correspondence circulated ahead of the meeting</p>	
04-26-15504	<p>25. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OR ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <p>SMILE has been asked to report to the Parish Council after their meeting on 30/04/2026</p>	
04-26-15505	<p>26. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday May 11th 2026 –at 19:00</p>	
04-26-15506	<p>27. CLOSE OF MEETING AT:</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:20</p>	