## Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council Meeting held at Appley Pavilion at 7:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Parish Councillors present: Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM)

Sarah Jones (SJ) Pat Sweet (PS) Matt Vellacott (MV) Clive Wall (CW)

Others present:- Dave Mansell (DM) (Somerset Councillor)

Seven parishioners

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence Gwil Wren (Somerset Councillor)	
2.	Declarations of Interest – None	
3.	Minutes of Last meeting These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4.	<ul> <li>Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere</li> <li>Parish WhatsApp Group. The last meeting proposed an agenda item in this one to discuss the setting up of a WhatsApp group for all parishioners. This is being delayed because of the full agenda.</li> </ul>	
5.	<ul> <li>Finance</li> <li>The current bank balance is £12,797.96</li> <li>Invoices;     An invoice for £1,272 has been received from Somerset Forge for the new fingerpost by Court Place Farm that is now in place. It was agreed that the invoice should be paid.</li> <li>Precept for 2024/25. DM informed the Council of the financial situation in Somerset Council. He confirmed that it is very unlikely that Stawley will receive any grants from Somerset in the future. In order to achieve a balanced budget during the coming year and maintain the grants that the Parish Council makes to help maintain the churchyards and pavilion it was therefore determined that the Parish Precept would have to increase by 10.85% to £3,291. This would require an increase of 8.29% to each Council Tax payer, £1.60 per year for a Band D property. As no increase has been made for a number of years the meeting agreed that this was a fair and proportionate increase.</li> </ul>	PS
6	Planning	PS
0.	<ul> <li>35/23/0008 - Erection of a single storey link extension between dwelling and barn with construction of a first floor rear extension to the barn at Rose Cottage, Tracebridge.</li> </ul>	
	This application had been commented upon by the Council however since then amendments had been made to reduce the extent of the extension to the front line of the building. Several parishioners made comments at the meeting. The	

unanimous decision of the Council was that the original objection should stand. A draft of the new objection would be circulated by the Chairman before submission to the Planning Officer. PM 35/23/0010 - Erection of a single storey extension to the side of Newhouse Farm, Kittisford Road, Stawley – No objection 35/23/0011 - Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing change of use of dwelling (C3) into a children's residential care home (C2) at Brookbank, Kittisford Road, Stawley Comments will be made to the effect that further expansion of the business should require an additional planning application. **Enforcement** Kittisford Hedge – It is believed that the owner of the hedge is appealing the decision to enforce replacement of the hedge taken out between two fields on the Appley-Kittisford road. Tracebridge Quarry – The owner has been informed by the Planning Officer that a shed built on the site and subsequent business activities require planning permission. No application has been made. 7. Reports from Members Roads -The fingerpost outside Court Place Farm has been replaced after refurbishment. Recent damage to a vehicle had highlighted the need for landowners to keep hedges and trees trimmed. MV will draft an article for the Parish News to remind readers of the requirement. MV Footpaths -. The Greenham to Elworthy path has been visited by Mr Melrose, the Somerset Footpath Officer. It has been suggested by him that a Diversion Order should be made so that this path does not go through the barn at the Elworthy end. A further diversion to take the path on to the bank of the old canal will also be investigated. SJ 8. Any Other Business - None 9. Date of Next Meeting

## Meeting closed at 8:43pm

TBC when required.