

Stoke Albany Parish Council

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

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

MINUTES

Meeting Number 2609

Held at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 1st September 2026 in Stoke Albany Village Hall

01. To open the meeting, note attendance and determine the quorum.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1700h. There being 3 SAPC councillors present, the Chair declared the meeting to be quorate.

02. In Attendance:

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

J Medwell – Clerk

2 members of the public.

03. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr H Perry

NNC Cllr D Howes

04. To receive any Declarations of Interest or Changes to the Members' Register of Interests.

There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

There were no Changes to the Members' Register of Interests.

05. To verify the minutes of the previous meeting.

Decision: It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th July 2026 be adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Donnelly, Seconded Cllr Kelly.

The Chair duly signed the minutes.

Reports

06. To receive reports of any new information from NNC Councillors (if present).

There was nothing to report under this item.

07. To receive reports of any new information from SAPC Clerk & Councillors.

a. Bowd Field Hedge – It was noted that the occupants of Bowd Field had cleared some scrub away from the access area and removed about a metre of scrub/hedgerow in order to improve visibility. This had been reported and is now under investigation by NNC Planning Enforcement.

b. Bottom Lane footpath – Cllr Donnelly reported that the public footpath at the top of Bottom Lane leading to the playing field was overgrown and that dogs from an adjacent property were escaping onto the footpath and causing a nuisance.

New Action 2609A: Cllr Donnelly will report the overgrown footpath on Fixmystreet and will endeavour to talk to the owner of the dogs.

08. To receive reports of any new information from Climate and Nature Champion.

There was nothing further to report on this.

Representations

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

a. **Suggestion for boules pitch** – The Council considered the suggestion and agreed that a boules pitch would be a worthwhile community project. It was noted, however, that there did not appear to be any available Section 106 funding for this purpose.

New Action 2609B: The Chair will request a breakdown of previous play area expenditure and explore further funding opportunities.

b. Planning application 26/02272/FUL, to reinstate an existing agricultural access, was brought to the Council's attention. Concerns were raised about the newly repaired drainage works at the entrance and the position of the access opposite another field gate. The Council agreed to submit a response to NNC on the following grounds:

Stoke Albany Parish Council has no objection in principle but asks that the following matters be considered:

1. The access has been affected by a long-running water leak, only recently repaired. Any works should be robust enough to prevent heavy agricultural vehicles from damaging the surface and causing the leak to recur.
2. The access is opposite another field gate, so visibility splays and traffic safety should be carefully assessed.

Projects

10. Update on outdoor gym / play area (Section 106) project.

The Council noted an update from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) on the ongoing outdoor gym and play area project. The supplier was still awaiting some additional items, but completion was expected soon, with the remaining equipment due to be installed shortly.

New Items

11. Parish Planning Policy

This item was deferred to next meeting

12. Consider Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council noted that its previous internal auditor had retired. Having considered NCALC's competence and independence in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint NCALC as the Council's IAS internal auditor.

Proposed Cllr Benson Seconded Cllr Donnelly

Planning

13. 26/01641/FUL Desborough Airfield Solar Farm

The Council had submitted a detailed response to NNC. This can be viewed at

<https://publicaccess.northnorthants.gov.uk/online-applications>

Residents expressed their gratitude for the Council's thorough response and for the hard work undertaken by councillors on this matter.

Meetings Management

14. Date of next meeting

3rd November 2026.

15. To review matters arising from previous meetings.

a. Weedkilling.

Previous Action 2607D: The Chair will refer back to the contractor the Council's previous decision not to pursue weed killing at this time.

b. Laminated footpath map for bus shelter.

Previous Action 2605B: Cllr Kelly to cost up.

16. To consider priorities for the next meeting cycle.

Parish Planning Policy

To commence 2027/28 Budget Setting

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.

Savings Account **£12,912.13**

Current Account **£1,738.85**

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
£180.00	£30.00	Birch Sports	Mowing	OSA 1906 s.15

20. Meeting closed

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1758 h.

Signed **Dated.....**