

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. J Swift (Chair), Cllr. J Hudson, Cllr. M Naunton, Cllr. G Roscoe, Cllr. D Winstone and Ms. S Jenkins (Wild Things Farm).

Due to the absence of the elected Chair and Vice-Chair the councillors in attendance agreed that Cllr. J Swift should chair this meeting.

15/76 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Chubb-Whittle, M Elsbury and Ward Councillor K Warrington.

15/77 – CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

15/78 – NEW BARN AT ‘WILD THINGS FARM’

Ms. Sally Jenkins had requested permission to respond to concerns raised reference the new barn at the last parish council meeting. She reiterated that both parish councils adjoining the site and local parishioners had been given the opportunity to comment on the design, location and size of the barn prior to its build, the plans had been readily available, and the planning application had been subsequently granted by B&NES Council under ‘Permitted Development’.

The frame of the barn has been erected to the exact specifications and in the best location agreed with the Planning Department. The external walls will be clad with the agreed materials, which in time will ‘weather in’. The decision to use cladding was made in a deliberate attempt to make the barn look better than the usual steel and corrugated construction.

On completion of the build an agreed landscaping and planting programme will be implemented. She further stated that a condition of the ‘Permitted Development’ is that the barn will not be lived in and if the business fails in the future the barn will have to be removed or used solely for agricultural purposes by any future owner of the land. So, in her opinion, the best way to ensure that this does not happen is to support the project.

There being no further relevant questions the chair thanked Ms. Jenkins for her presentation.

15/79 – URGENT BUSINESS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business stated.

15/80 – MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2015

The draft minutes, having been previously circulated to the parish councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

15/81 – THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE

Cllr. J Swift, Chair of The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, stated that the first OPEN Steering Group Meeting had been held on 12th October 2015, it was very well attended and had been very informative. One of the reasons for deciding to hold every third Group Meeting open to the public was to dispel rumours that are so detrimental to the process. Rumours such as: - The Parish Council is trying to build 50 houses in the parish, even though B&NES' suggestion is a possible 15 houses over the life of their Core Strategy. The Parish Council is planning to build on 28 sites in the parish. There are plans to build a Leisure Centre in the village and people are carving up the village for their own benefit – All of which were strongly denied and members of the public were encouraged to contact the chair reference any rumours or fears.

It was also reported that three Open Meetings have been arranged to hear about and discuss progress to date, ask questions and make suggestions, to be held on 11th, 14th and 22nd November. It was also reported that further Parish Questionnaires are pending.

15/82 – ACTIONS FROM THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Re: The barn at 'Wild Things Farm' – The Enforcement Officer had stated that he will investigate, there had been no report back to date.

Re:05/54 – The Play Area – The sub group to assess future repair costs had not yet met.

Re:09/21 – The blocked stile/PROW at Stanton Wick – No further action or correspondence to date.

Re:13/63 – Defibrillator/First Aid Training – Nothing further to report at this stage.

Re:14/96 – The status of Featherbed Lane – As B&NES Highways had stated that a decision was low on their priority list it was agreed to delete this minute.

Re: Anti-slip material on wooden PROW bridges – No progress to date.

Re: The damaged railings at The Causeway – It was reported that new railings had been replaced over the total length of The Causeway, this minute would now be deleted.

Re: Subsidence to the bank at The Causeway – It was reported that repairs had been completed, this minute would now be deleted.

Complimentary comments had been received from members of the public reference the work carried out by B&NES Highways at The Causeway.

Re: Planning decisions to date

15/03239/FUL – Mrs H Curtis – Erection of a service building for holiday lets at Druid Farm – No decision to date.

15/03769/FUL – Mr & Mrs P Sessford – Extensions at Wellforge End – Application has been withdrawn.

15/03787/FUL – Mr I Hudson – Installation of an underground gas tank at The Druid Arms – Permitted.

Re: The War Memorial Site – Nothing further to report at this stage.

Re: Risk Assessment and Management Scheme – Following adoption of the scheme at the last meeting, its subsequent inclusion into the new Transparency Code requirements and council's assurance to document internal controls more often, it was felt that the advice and suggestions given in the recent external auditor's report have now been satisfied. This minute would now be deleted.

15/83 – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15/04535/TCA – Mr J Reed – Removal of a tree (Thuta Pilicata) located in the churchyard, which is in The Conservation Area, due to shading and risk of damage to a wall – Council supported. Believed to be a sensible option and the tree is not of the indigenous type.

15/04446/FUL – Mr M & Mrs C Tibbs – Erection of new dairy unit and slurry store with associated groundworks and landscaping at Quoit Farm – Council supported, this well run agricultural business in planning for the future and the proposed development is in-line with National and Local Policy. Council would also support the applicants preferred request for 240 units to ensure financial viability.

15/04591/FUL – Mr & Mrs K Rudman – Erection of two storey front porch extension, new roof covering and external wall covering at Beech House – Council supported, no deleterious design considerations on the street scene.

15/84 – MEETING DATES FOR 2016

It was agreed to continue with the existing format, i.e. bi-monthly parish council meetings and alternate monthly parish surgeries. The following meetings were arranged subject to the availability of the parish hall.

Parish Council Meetings – 7th January, 3rd March, 5th May (To include the Parish AGM and Council's Annual Meeting), 7th July, 1st September and 3rd November.

Parish Surgeries – 4th February, 7th April, 2nd June, 4th August, 6th October and 1st December.

15/85 – COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – HALF YEAR REVIEW

A half year statement of the budgeted figures, the actual spend to date and the estimated spend to the end of the financial year had been produced by the clerk/RFO and circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the figures were satisfactory and council's budgetary controls were under control

15/86 – CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

B&NES – Mapping and Parish On-Line AGM – 9th December 2015.

AED HeartSafe – Advised of an up-dated defibrillator maintenance checking form and the availability of recording by smart-phone.

The B&NES Play Area Inspector had advised of a piece of equipment that required urgent attention. Cllr. D Winstone had completed the repair.

B&NES had stated that their Local Tax Support Grant, which accompanies the Precept Requirement, will probably be reduced gradually from 2016/17 onwards during the next eight years until it is phased out completely. This decision has been forced on the Authority due to Central Government

reductions in grants. Parish Councils' are therefore advised to budget accordingly.

Following the reported fall of a pensioner accessing a footpath from the road in Moorledge Lane due to a very uneven surface, B&NES PROW Department had been asked to repair if possible. They had stated that they will attend.

B&NES had stated that from April 2016 they will regrettably have to charge for their quarterly operational inspections and their annual inspection of council's play area equipment. Their charge for this service, if council wish to continue with the B&NES service, will be £325.00 per annum.

B&NES Group of ALCA Meeting – 23rd September 2015 – Chair attended.

ALCA AGM – 3rd October 2015 – Clerk attended – Paperwork circulated.

Chew Valley Area Forum – 15th October 2015 – Clerk attended – Paperwork circulated.

Parishes Liaison Meeting – 21st October 2015 – Chair and Clerk attended.

B&NES – Planning Enforcement Training – 21st October 2015 – Chair attended.

Bristol Airport Community Review – 9th December 2015.

Newsletters received and circulated for information included: - Local Councils Review. The Police Update. ALCA Up-dates. Clerk & Councils Direct and the CURO Magazine.

B&NES – Outline of Financial Plan for increasing efficiency and protecting frontline services – Circulated. There will also be a public budget engagement meeting to be held at the Chew Valley Area Forum Meeting to be held on 23rd November 2015.

15/87 – PARISHIONERS COMMENTS AND VIEWING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no comments received.

15/88 – COUNCIL'S WEBSITE-MANAGEMENT

It was reported that at present the web-site is up-dated by Mr S Whittle, work commitments are making it difficult for him to continue. Council are looking for someone to take over the task, our poor Broadband service is complicating the issue.

Council are committed to publicise the records of meetings and as much relevant information as possible to the entire parish, the problem is, how to achieve this. Not everyone receives the Parish Magazine, not everyone reads the Noticeboards and not everyone has access to Council's Website. Cllr. M Elsbury had produced a 'discussion document' which had been circulated, in which the possibility of utilising the services of the Parish Magazine in more depth, and ensuring that it was delivered to every household in the parish were major discussion points.

The biggest problem is – money. To ensure every household received a copy it would have to be free and at present the church receives an income from sales and advertising, and they provide the finance for the production of the magazine. There would also probably have to be a cost for delivery to every household.

Further discussion with representatives of the church was obviously required before deciding how to proceed.

15/89 – FINANCIAL REPORT AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE

The clerk reported that a cheque had been paid between meetings: -

G G James – Hedge cutting at the Play Area - £63.00.

The second half year payment of Precept/Grant had been received from B&NES - £4,488.00.

Cheques for signature: -

Filer's Coaches – Surgery Coach (Sept £125), (Oct £100)	- £ 225.00
DPM Lucas - Grass cutting (Play Area £468.75) (Allotment Site £100.00)	- £568.75
S Edwards - 9 weeks Play Area Inspections	- £108.00

Proposed: Cllr. M Naunton, seconded: Cllr. J Hudson.

15/90 – BUDGET/PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2016/2017

The clerk reminded the councillors that a draft for discussion would be required for the January 2016 meeting. Cllr. J Swift volunteered to produce a draft.

15/91 – DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Surgery - 3rd December 2015 – 6.00 to 7.00 pm.

Parish Council - 7th January 2016 – 7.30 pm (Confirmed since this meeting).

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE