

**MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle (Chair), Cllr. M Elsbury, Cllr. J Hudson, Cllr. G Roscoe, Cllr. J Swift, Cllr. D Winstone and seven parishioners.

17/18 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. M Naunton and Ward Cllr. K Warrington.

17/19 – CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. D Winstone declared an interest in his planning application that would be discussed later in the meeting.

17/20 – URGENT BUSINESS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

The chair asked for permission to make a public statement at this stage of the meeting to allay potential misunderstandings or rumour within the community as to why she has decided to stand aside from the Parish Council for the time being. An 'IN CAMERA' discussion between the councillors has been arranged for after this meeting. Permission for the chair to speak was agreed and the following statement was made.

As the Councillors know, I have tendered my resignation to the Parish Council, which will come into force at the end of this year – i.e. the end of April 2017.

This is not due to a 'fit of peak' or a falling out, but simply a realisation that I can only offer so much volunteer time to either push the Neighbourhood Plan on to fruition, or to do the day to day Parish Council work. So, this is in no way a complete 'divorce' from the parish council but a time and sanity management issue.

Personally, I want to concentrate on the NHP because it is such an important piece of work for the community's future. The original Parish Plan was an informal piece of work which gave us some ideas of what the Parish wanted but the NHP is a vital piece of work that will guide us in the future.

I have been a Parish Councillor for 10 years – not as long as some, but I have given my all over the years and in particular dealing with the B&NES Gypsy & Traveller consultation on behalf of the community. That was all consuming in many ways for nearly 2 years. I have been Chair since 2011, and it has been really interesting & enjoyable accompanying John Harvey to various meetings.

In my view, Stanton Drew PC now has an important & positive presence within B&NES, something that should be continued for the long term good of our parishioners, so I hope you will all take turns to accompany John to meetings.

We are unpaid guardians of our community – a role which I have taken seriously and will continue to, just in a different way.

I hoped the NHP would have been further forward before diverting my attention to using my Masters in Planning more, but it hasn't quite worked out like that. So, with limited time and subject to the PC's approval, I want to concentrate my attention on piecing together all the evidence & consultations with the community in drafting the Options Document and after further consultation by others and myself to produce the Final Plan.

As our Caretaker Planning Officer said to me on Monday – “sorry, it's going to be a lot of work”. Well, I'm very prepared to do what is necessary to get where we need to be.

Cllr. M Elsbury thanked Judith for making her statement to the public.

17/21 – MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2017

The Draft Minutes, having been previously circulated to the councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

17/22 – WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Ward Cllr. K Warrington was absent from the meeting and no report had been provided.

17/23 – THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE

Cllr. J Swift reported that there had been a 30% return of the most recent Questionnaire/Survey, the compilation of the returns was being analysed by the independent survey provider.

Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle reported that she had attended a recent Chew Valley Forum meeting where the chair of the meeting had stated that the Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan preparation had 'stalled' and needed 'kick starting'.

She reported that she had disputed this statement, stating that it was incorrect. The actual source of the allegation is unknown at present. It was proposed that a statement disputing the allegation should be placed in the Chew Valley Gazette.

17/24 – ACTIONS AND UPDATES FROM THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Play Area – It was agreed that the minor repairs to the fascia's would be addressed when next year's precept is received. Cllr. D Winstone agreed to check the chains on the basket swing.

The blocked stile and PROW at Stanton Wick – No action to date.

The War Memorial Site – Cllr. M Elsbury reported that the Land Registry application form should be completed by Mr C Seaton shortly and will then be forwarded.

Actions from the Risk Assessment – It was agreed that the minor repairs identified would be addressed when next year's precept is received.

The Ward Councillor's Grant – No receipt to date.

Broadband Provision – ‘Truespeed’ had reported that their complex negotiations to secure funding were still ongoing but they are aiming to connect Stanton Drew and Stanton Wick by the end of the summer. They have also stated that even though the CDS vouchers expire on 31st March 2017 they will waive the standard connection fee where vouchers have been provided.

Possible Flood Warden Team – No interest shown to date.

Possible Planting/Garden at ‘The Circle’ in The Drive – No interest to date. The clerk reported that he had been advised, by two tenants of ‘Curo’ managed properties that face ‘The Circle’, that they had been told that their rent would be increasing by a small amount shortly to help pay for the upkeep of ‘The Circle’.

The Chairman of B&NES – Volunteer of the Year – Community Awards – Mrs Penny Cross had been nominated jointly by the Parish Council and the Primary School. It was reported that unfortunately Mrs Cross had not been advised of her nomination or invited to the presentation evening by B&NES.

Planning decisions to date

16/05556/FUL – Erection of two storey annexe and single storey extension following demolition of existing single storey annexe at ‘Box Bush’ – Refused.

17/25 – PARISHIONERS COMMENTS AND VIEWING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was reported that an invitation to nominate for the Rotary Club’s Community Award would be arriving shortly.

A parishioner stated his dissatisfaction with – yet another – planning application for the Old Colliery Site.

Another parishioner stated that he would be forwarding comments on the latest planning application for the Old Colliery Site, he was asked to copy council in on the comments.

17/26 – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

17/00145/FUL – Mrs L Goldsmith – Change of use of land to recreational purposes, to set up part time ‘Woodland Kindergarten’, a day nursery, pre-school based on the principles of ‘Forest School’ and to run therapeutic activities for injured veterans, birthday parties and educational courses at Parcel 3274, Pensford Lane – Council supported but made the following comments. – The development would seem to be a sustainable activity on the land and therefore complies with the B&NES Core Strategy Economy Policy but we would recommend that the Planning Officer should consider the B&NES Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Strategy & Management Scheme in the determination.

The site is a site of nature conservation interest, which does not/should not preclude the land used for such activities, however siting of any ‘associated tipi/building may have a bearing on the SNCI. The Woodland Management Plan mentions a ‘cabin’, it is described but a plan/photograph would be useful to ensure ‘no harm to the Green Belt’, especially bearing in mind the comments forwarded reference the neighbouring ‘Wild Things Farm’ planning application.

There should be a proper ‘species appraisal’ for the area, as the land has been unmanaged for a long time and ‘managed’ can then endanger some species.

There could be both negative and positive impacts on Environmental Quality Policy CP6 & CP7 Green infrastructure. The application complies with Policy CP5 Flood Management Risk. Walking to and from the site will help encourage activity and help towards the B&NES Health & Wellbeing objectives.

16/06234/FUL – Mr & Mrs D Winstone – Replacement barn dwelling (retrospective) at Eastwick Farm – Council supported – The original application was permitted under permitted development rights and an unforeseen collapse of an original wall has rendered the permission invalid. This seems to be an unnecessarily unfair use of planning law.

Despite Green Belt restrictions, this proposed development will enhance the local environment and will not in any way threaten the quality of the Green Belt.

17/00754/OUT – Mr & Mrs D Thomas – Erection of dwelling and two new garages (resubmission of 16/05265/OUT) at 53 Highfields – This application is still in circulation, therefore no comments were made at this stage.

17/00781/FUL – Mr T Smart – Erection of two detached houses and residential conversion and extension of industrial building into five dwellings following demolition of existing industrial building at the Old Colliery Yard – This application is still in circulation; therefore no comments were made at this stage.

17/27 – COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

B&NES Council have approved a Community Empowerment Fund as a one year scheme to start with. It is an allocation across towns, parishes and the City of Bath of 0.50p per head of population based on the 2011 census. There is a minimum grant of £250 and the idea is that based on the population in a town or parish area there is an amount of money on the table about which there can be talks. Match funding will be required. Volunteer time can be offered as a match. The funding could be required for anything, but broadly focussed on public realm. The whole idea was to come up with a simple process, which will be based on talks. There will be an application form.

17/28 – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

It was reported that council's application for any CIL finances, which was for the installation of safety warning lights at the Stanton Wick and the Toll House junctions, had been unsuccessful on this occasion.

17/29 – CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

B&NES had acknowledged receipt of council's precept requirement and advised that payments will be paid in April and October 2017.

B&NES Group of ALCA meeting – 18th January 2017 – The chair and the clerk had attended and relevant paperwork had been circulated.

B&NES Parishes Liaison meeting – 15th February 2017 – The chair and the clerk had attended and relevant paperwork had been circulated.

B&NES have requested detail of any 'Community Places of Safety' to provide safe environments where the community can go if evacuated by the emergency services when threatened with a risk such as gas leak, fire or flood.

'Dial a Ride' have asked for a donation of £45.00, it was agreed not to donate.

Chew Valley Area Forum meeting – 27th February 2017 – The chair had attended and relevant paperwork had been circulated.

17/30 – FINANCE REPORT AND CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE

The clerk/RFO reported that £390.00 had been received to date as Allotment Plot Rents.

Cheques for signature: -

Filer's Coaches	- Surgery Coach – (Jan £125), (Feb £100)	- £ 225.00
J A Harvey	- Clerk's net salary – (Jan – Mar)	- £ 1,246.40
HMRC	- Tax due on clerk's salary – (Jan – Mar)	- £ 311.60
M Sherborne	- Cemetery maintenance – (Oct – Mar)	- £ 235.00
S Edwards	- 13 weeks Play Area Inspections – (To end of March)	- £ 156.00
P Edwards	- Hosting charge for the Neighbourhood Plan	- £ 24.00

Proposed: Cllr. J Swift, seconded: Cllr. J Hudson and agreed.

17/31 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Parish Annual Meeting, Council's Annual Meeting/Parish Council Meeting – 11th May 2017 at 7.30 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE

The following agenda items were discussed 'IN CAMERA' after the Parish Council Meeting

17/32 – TENDERS FOR PARISH COUNCIL WORK – 2017/2018

Parish Cemetery Maintenance – Three Tenders received:

Mr M Sherborne - £ 470.00 for the year.

Mr D Lucas - £ 720.00 for the year.

J & K Primrose - £ 687.50 for the year.

Proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the tender of Mr M Sherborne.

Grass Cutting at the Allotment Site – Two Tenders received:

Mr D Lucas - £ 350.00 for the year.

J & K Primrose - £ 350.00 + VAT for the year.

Proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the tender of Mr D Lucas.

Grass Cutting at The Play Area – Two Tenders received:

Mr D Lucas - £ 850.00 for the year.

J & K Primrose - £ 850.00 + VAT for the year.

Proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the tender of Mr D Lucas.

Play Area Inspections – One Tender received:

Mrs S Edwards - £ 12.00 per monthly inspection.

Proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the tender of Mrs S Edwards.

PROW Kissing Gates & Stiles Clearances – One Tender received:

Mrs S Edwards - £ 10.00 per hour.

Proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the tender of Mrs S Edwards – Up to a maximum of £500.00 in the year.

17/33 – ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CLERK'S SALARY

The clerk left the meeting whilst this minute was discussed.

It was agreed to increase the clerk's annual gross salary by approximately 1%, from £6,232.00 to £6,420.00 to start from 1st April 2017 in line with the budgeted proposal.

The clerk expressed his grateful thanks.

17/34 – FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – DISCUSSION

Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle had left the meeting prior to this item being discussed.

The clerk stated that he had received two letters in early February but was asked not to make them public until this meeting. The first was from Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle in which she had stated that she intended to resign from the parish council at the end of the parish council year. The second was from Cllr. M Elsbury, who was aware of Cllr. Chubb-Whittle's intention to resign, in which he stated that he will not be prepared to be elected to the position of chairman, at Council's Annual Meeting in May, for the following year. Both letters were read in full to the parish councillors.

Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle had made a public statement reference her intention at the start of the open meeting, but her letter had also included her offer, if acceptable to the parish council, to continue to represent the parish council as a trustee on the Richard Jones Foundation and the Community Trust. Cllr. M Elsbury categorically confirmed his reasons for not wishing to be considered for election to the role of chairman at the May meeting, and stated that it was time for someone else to take a turn.

General discussion ensued in which several points were raised and options debated, such as: -

To thank Judith for her outstanding contributions to the parish council in the last 10 years 6 as chair. To ask her to re-consider her decision. To accept her offer to continue representing the parish council on the Richard Jones Trust and the Community Trust, and for continuing to be a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

With regards to the pending vacant parish councillor position: - Should we ask the person that was unsuccessful at the last election to join us. Should we continue with six councillors until the next elections which are due in May 2019.

Note from the clerk – One of you **will** have to chair the 11th May meeting.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE

