

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2017 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. M Elsbury (Chair), Cllr. J Hudson, Cllr. M Naunton, Cllr. D Winstone, Ward Cllr. K Warrington and one parishioner.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's G Roscoe and J Swift.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016, having been previously circulated to the parish councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

THE JOINT CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The report, prepared by Mrs J Chubb-Whittle, was presented by Cllr. M Elsbury.

2016 – 2017 has been another busy year for all of us involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Thanks to all in the community who completed the Spring questionnaire, the results have informed the (Policy) Options Document that will be released to you all in the weeks in and around the Flower Show in mid July for your consultation. Following that the Draft Plan will be put together drawing us nearer to inspection by the Planning Inspectorate and the referendum in early 2018 if not before.

Stanton Drew PC has been proud to represent Small Parish Councils on the Parish Charter review team made up of parish and town council and B&NES officers and members representatives. The Parish Charter acts as the service level agreement between us, B&NES and the communities we serve. The Draft Charter goes to the CTE panel at B&NES and ALCA member next week. All our Councillors will and should review it as this is the document that helps us perform our duties in the correct way.

Financial pressures at central government level will continue to impact on us at this lowest tier of democracy and we have had to raise the precept in the last two years to give us a reserve. a buffer for the future. We rely on the huge generosity and public spirit of individuals too many to mention individually but you know who you are, involved in community activities such as the Community Café, litter picking, helping with the school, planting around the village and helping at the church, fund raising in all manners of ways, that helps us as a whole care for the parish. As the late MP Jo Cox said 'more connect us than divides us', long may that continue.

As both Martin and I stand down as Joint Chair's to the PC, we thank everyone involved in the community and as always John Harvey who has supported us so well. Onward and upward we wish the forthcoming Chair/s and the Council our full support

When the time comes we hope that all of the parish will continue to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan as it progresses and that we all have a really effective Community document to work from to guide the Parish Council in the future years.

Thank you.

THE RICHARD JONES FOUNDATION REPORT

The report was presented by John Harvey, one of the two Stanton Drew Trustees, the other being Mrs Judith Chubb-Whittle.

At the start of the academic year, 1st September 2016, the finance available for grants, which is generated from interest in the shares in the foundation, was £8,420. Estimated income for the year, September 2016 to August 2017, was £3,970. The policy is to keep one year's income of around £3,950 in reserve, a figure of approximately £9,140 was available for future grants in 2016/17.

During the year two meetings were held, in November 2016 and April 2017. Educational grants were paid to two Stanton Drew recipients totalling £500 and payments were made for the benefit of the needy at Christmas time to seven recipients totalling £140.

Despite intensive advertising applications for grants remain very low, more applications are encouraged.

THE PUBLOW WITH PENSFORD AND STANTON'S COMMUNITY TRUST

The report had been prepared by Mrs J Chubb-Whittle who is a trustee of the trust.

At the recent PPSCT AGM the chair, Andrew Hillman, reported that the second year of operations had strengthened the trust's position in the consciousness of the two parishes, which make up the area of benefit, and made some very significant grants to a number of key causes.

Grants

The grants made in the year totalling just under £19,000 demonstrate the Trust's wide reach and the range of needs in both villages:

St. Thomas Beckett Church Tower, Pensford - £119 for minor furniture and electrical items;
 The legal fees of £455 to facilitate a generous gift of land at Culvery Wood by Meg Thomas to The Woodland Trust;
 £4,000 to Stanton Drew Sports Field from unrestricted funds and a further £6,000 from restricted funds for the same cause;
 £1,400 to Pensford Primary School towards a number of minor projects;
 £5,000 to Stanton Drew School towards major works in their play facilities;
 £1,500 towards the Pensford "finger post" project.

Further Projects

The Trust is presently working on a significant number of further projects, with applications approved or in progress for:

The Acker Bilk memorial bench in Pensford;
 Restoration work on the old lock-up in Pensford;
 Various items for Pensford Primary School;

Improvements to Pensford playground;
 Facilitating the installation of a new bell, which has been gifted to Stanton Drew church;
 Major restoration works to the bell tower at Publow church, the first such works since 1905.

Finances

During the year, the Trust ate into its unrestricted reserves, by just over £4,600. This was a deliberate decision by Trustees meaning that Trustees are able to respond rapidly to any urgent needs for funds. The unrestricted funds at year end were just over £14,000.

The PPSCT's income from the 100 Club was lower than it would be in a normal year because the members agreed that the 100 Club needed to build a "fighting fund" of £10,000. This has now been reached. The major fund-raising event was the second "Rok the Stones" marathon, again a huge success thanks to the very considerable skill, enthusiasm and efforts of a large team led by Simon Whittle and Judith Chubb-Whittle with Phil Townshend organising an army of volunteer marshals. The Trust also received donations restricted to a particular cause, enabling the Trust to claim Gift Aid tax relief which would not otherwise have been available.

Post Year End

Since the Trust's year end, the third "Rok the Stones" Marathon was held, and this event seems to get more popular, more successful and with an ever wider range of participants, from near and far. Many thanks to all those many people who came together to make this a terrific event for the participants, a true community effort, and as well as being a lot of fun, raised about £1,400 for the Trust's funds. The chair felt it was invidious to name individuals but mentioned a few names, in addition to Simon. Judith and Phil who repeated their tour de force in overall organisation. Gillian Wookey was responsible for the publicity and marketing which ensured a "sell out" within hours of applications opening and followed up with the post event press coverage. Charles Wookey walked the course many times to check the route in advance and then to ensure that, despite the recent heavy rains, it was passable on the day. Karen Warrington organised the kitchen team which ensured that everyone was fed and watered - from bacon butties before the start to vegetarian chilli as runners came home. Anne Bennett and her WI colleagues provided huge quantities of wonderful cakes and other items to ensure that sugar levels did not drop. The Stanton Drew Village Hall committee must also be thanked, as without this facility the event could not possibly be run.

Looking Ahead

The Chair and fellow Trustees thanked the members of the 100 Club for their generosity in making a real difference to our communities, as may be seen from the list of projects, either completed or in hand, set out earlier. There are many causes that badly need support: the village schools; the church buildings; the village halls and playgrounds; sporting facilities; our wonderful open spaces; tackling projects such as the A37 and keeping our children and older people safe and able to move around; and the many local groups.

The Trustees are making it their mission this year to be seen as the facilitators of projects to assist these organisations and institutions. Whilst the Trustees do not intend to fund many, if any, projects

100%, they are able to use their financial strength to underwrite really worthwhile and needed projects so that they actually get done. Members' assistance in identifying and bringing such projects forward is hugely appreciated.

As I, Judith Chubb-Whittle stand down from the Parish Council to concentrate on the final stages of the Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan; the Parish Council must replace me as a trustee. Despite my offer to stay on as a trustee the Trust and communities really deserves either the new Chair of the PC or a nominated member of the PC to take my place. This will help to keep the feet of our local councillors, whose leaders are themselves Trustees of course, firmly to the fire to help deliver more benefit to the community.

Thank you.

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL'S UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

The unaudited accounts were presented by the clerk/RFO, having been circulated to the parish councillors prior to the meeting.

Balances brought forward totalled £3,706.86. Receipts during the year totalled £26,334.05 and payments totalled £26,020.41. Receipts during the year therefore exceeded payments by £313.64. Closing balances totalled £4,020.50.

It was proposed by Cllr. D Winstone, seconded by Cllr. M Naunton and agreed that the unaudited accounts should be adopted.

There were no other issues raised relevant to this meeting and the meeting was declared closed at 8.10 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE