

**MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2013
AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Mrs J Chubb-Whittle (Chair), Mr M Elsbury, Mrs K Mountford, Mr G Roscoe,
Mr M Naunton, Mr D Winstone, Ward Councillor J Sparks and three parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. J Swift.

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

There were no comments received for this meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The chair presented her report as follows: - This year has been on the face of it a very difficult year with the activities at The Old Colliery Site, however much more importantly it has shown us what can be achieved and has been achieved so far by the community when it pulls together.

This energy I would like to see harnessed for the future of our community as we formulate our Community Neighbourhood Plan – The Place-Making Plan in the forthcoming months under the leadership of Cllr. John Swift, with total support from all the councillors here present. This must be a team effort, you are not on your own John. John has launched The Place – Making Plan by hosting the two day forum in February, which was reasonably well attended and we met some new faces that are also keen to help.

This year has shown us too what amazing talent we have living in our community and what a vibrant community it is and can be. Foremost in my mind has been the members of the Stanton Wick Action Group, who have worked tirelessly but as we all know there will be more work to do in the future. But there are others;

The parish Plan team, headed by Mr Simon Whittle, finished the draft plan that will help set a foundation stone for the Place – Making Plan. Thank you to you and your team Simon; I know how onerous that task was towards the end especially with your work commitments. The Parish Plan highlighted that we have some 70 businesses running in and around our community, which is a very significant amount of talent.

Which brings me on to the issue of broadband. A certain Simon is deeply involved in the cross district team [Wansdyke Telecomm] getting better broadband coverage. This will be a huge boost for our economy making it possible for more people to run businesses needing faster broadband from the Chew Valley and more reliable home working. It will also enable the high end users of broadband, our youth, to operate more easily in the future and in the world I struggle to understand. I just hope they appreciate it's the middle aged that are achieving it for them! Our Ward Councillor, Jeremy [not so middle aged] is also part of the broadband group team. Much to my relief, Simon Whittle will act as our parish council advocate at the group, as gigabytes are a mystery to me.

As a parish council it is fair to say that we have really pulled together as a team this year and really upped our game. I wish to wholeheartedly thank each and every one of you on behalf of the community. I have realised how vitally important it is to attend meetings, however obscure on the face of it. Our clerk has always been very active in this area but it is good to see more of us attending meetings in particular thank you to Cllrs. Mountford and Swift. B&NES communicate almost solely by electronic means now and that has been a huge challenge to us, not least navigating the website and documents lurking within but John Harvey, our clerk, has masterfully got to grips with it, which is no mean feat.

Frustratingly residents are still having long waits or seemingly strange decisions made concerning planning applications. Planning issues should be an area that we encompass in our Place – Making Plan. Other more domestic issues but equally important in keeping this parish an attractive place to live, such as litter, have been on the agenda. Thank you to the community spirited people such as Shirley Edwards who has prompted us into organising at least two community litter picking days – one on 12th May and the next one in September to hopefully get the community galvanised. Martin Elsbury will be main man for those events

The Jubilee seems like a million years behind us but thinking about galvanising the community, in 2012, Cathy Swift and Sharon Croucher in particular, aided by the community and community groups such as the WI, did a cracking job at hosting a truly successful Jubilee day. Thank you to them both. They even organised beautiful weather.

So for 2013-14, there will be a lot of work on our plate. For the future of the community we must engage and I look forward to everyone working together to achieve the best outcomes for the future generations.

THE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR REPORT

Cllr. G Roscoe, council's co-ordinator, presented the report: - We again entered the competition but were not placed in the first three of the small village section, the judges' comments have not been received to date. The Armstrong Cup for the small village section was won by Chew Magna. A big thank you to the grass cutters at the village seat and churchyard areas, both splendidly maintained. Following discussion it was agreed not to enter the competition this year.

THE RICHARD JONES FOUNDATION REPORT

The clerk, who is also a village trustee of the foundation, presented the report: - A brief history of the foundation and its present make up was explained and the financial position at the end of August 2012, which is the end of the trust's financial year, was given. Total income was £9788 which included £5939 carried forward. Total payments were £3659, balances in hand therefore were £6219. Educational grants to 5 Stanton Drew recipients totalled £507 and payments for the benefit of the poor were paid to 6 Stanton Drew recipients totalling £120.

ADOPTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013

The clerk/Responsible Financial Officer presented the accounts: - Balances brought forward totalled £8,530.11. Receipts during the year totalled £9,251.40 and payments were £11,424.88. Payments exceeded receipts therefore by £2,173.48. Closing balances totalled £6,356.63. It was proposed by Mr C Osborne, seconded by Mr G Roscoe and agreed that the accounts should be adopted. A vote of thanks to the clerk/RFO for producing the accounts was proposed and agreed.

There were no other issues raised and the meeting was declared closed at 8.05 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE