

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 4TH JULY 2013 AT 7.30 PM

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

13/51 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

13/52 – CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All councillors' declared an interest in the on-going Gypsy and Travellers Site planning application.

13/53 – URGENT BUSINESS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

It was agreed to receive a report on a 'Planning Referendum Meeting' held at Pensford Memorial Hall on 30th June 2013. Cllr's. Mountford and Elsbury had attended the meeting and provided the report. The meeting had been called by a Pensford parishioner, Mr Paul Baxter, he had previously declined invitations by both Pensford with Publow and Stanton Drew Parish Councils to attend their meetings prior to the 30th June, and in the case of Stanton Drew Parish Council also to attend their meeting of 4th July.

Briefly, Mr Baxter stated that he had no confidence in Neighbourhood Plans and B&NES Council appeared to be ignoring parishioners' comments on recent large scale planning applications, especially in The Green Belt. He proposed that three monthly meetings (Moots) should be held, by both of the Parish Councils', where-by potential developers / applicants should explain detail of their proposals and ascertain parishioners' comments before submitting their planning application. He then called for a vote, by those attending the meeting, on his proposal, which was carried in favour. He then proceeded to arrange a voting date, 12th July 2013, for parishioners' of both parishes to vote on his proposed referendum – 'That Both Parishes Adopt The New Model Planning Constitution'.

Although not wishing to dismiss Mr Baxter's ideas out of hand the Stanton Drew Parish Council are aware that any such referendum vote as this has no legal basis as it does not satisfy specific conditions. It has to be as an outcome from a Parish Council Meeting, The Local authority has to be informed and an Official Returning Officer needs to be employed, probably at the Parish Council's expense. None of these conditions have been satisfied.

The Parish Council resolved therefore that they would not, indeed cannot; recognise any outcome of the planned referendum for legal reasons.

It was unanimously agreed that a leaflet explaining the parish council's legal position should be quickly produced and delivered to all properties throughout the parish.

13/54 – MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND MAY 2013

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

13/55 – ACTIONS FROM THE 2ND MAY 2013 MEETING

Re:13/23(3) – The possible register of the old colliery site as a Community Asset – The Parish Council are aware that this initiative is being led by The Stanton Wick Action Group. No further action to date. It was agreed to delete this minute until further information is received.

Re:13/23(4) – The litter picking day – The litter picking took place on 12th May 2013. This minute would now be deleted until the second day is arranged.

Re:13/03 – The register of areas as Community Assets – No further action to date mainly due to some confusion in the official process. It was agreed that the chair and the clerk would establish the correct procedure.

Re:06/66(2) – Repairs to the walkway/road to the play area – Still no action to date, B&NES Council have promised repairs.

Re:05/54 – Maintenance work to the cycle track at the play area and inspection report issues – It was reported that recent grounds maintenance had improved the cycle track area, it was therefore agreed that additional work was not required at this stage. Cllr's Elsbury and Winstone agreed to carry out the inspection reports' suggested repairs, where possible. B&NES Parks Inspector had been asked for advice on replacement bushes for the Basket Swing, no reply to date.

Re:09/21 – Blocked stile/footpath at Stanton Wick – No action to date.

Re:12/88 – The revised Welcome Pack – Still awaiting printing.

Re:13/46 – The Community Trust – The chair reported that Mr Ken Payne had been elected. This minute would now be deleted.

Re:13/47 (Correspondence) – Available funding for PROW Clearances – The clerk reported that the £803.20 had been claimed and had been received. This minute would now be deleted.

Re:13/47 (Correspondence) – Proposed tree work in the churchyard (Conservation Area) – B&NES had stated that they have no objections to the proposed work. This minute would now be deleted.

Planning decisions to date – Filer's Coaches – To increase the number of parking spaces on site from 12 to 20 – No decision to date.

Parsons Farm – Extensions and Alterations (13/02113/FUL & 13/02114/LBA) – Both Refused.

Although not an action from the last meeting it was agreed that repairs to the bus shelter at The Crescent should commence. Cllr's Swift and Naunton would liaise to purchase and fit a new shatter proof sheet.

13/56 – NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13/01640/FUL – Mr & Mrs Farmer – Erection of a new dormer style dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow at Keppel Gate – Council support, subsequently permitted.

13/01915/VAR – Mr & Mrs D Eastwood – Variation of condition 2 of application 00/01520/FUL to allow the proposed garage to be of timber construction at Field Cottage – Council support.

13/01965/FUL – Mr T Smart – Change of use of land from B2 to 12 pitches for gypsy and travellers use with associated works – 12 dayrooms and hard standing (resubmission) at The Old Colliery Yard,

Wick Lane – Public meeting held, questionnaires circulated – Council object on the grounds of past planning history, contravention of planning policies, lack of detailed and inaccurate information in the planning application and on the grounds of overwhelming local opposition to the proposal.

13/02113/FUL & 13/02114/LBA – Mr & Mrs S Rustom – Internal and external alterations to include the erection of an extension and extension of accommodation into an attached barn at Parsons Farm – Council support.

13/02265/FUL – Mr & Mrs A Strickland – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling following demolition of existing outbuildings and conservatory at Box Bush – Council support.

13/02720/TCA – Mr J Reed – Tree work at Churchside House (Conservation area) – No council comment at present due to late receipt of the application, plans in circulation.

13/57 – CORRESPONDENCE

HMRC – Council's Annual Return (P35 & P14) required by 19th May 2013. Completed and returned by Cllr K Mountford.

B&NES – Stronger Communities Interagency Newsletter – Circulated.

Parish Hall Committee – Notification that meeting hire charges will increase next year, from £10 to £15.

B&NES Parks & Spaces Officer – Additional Play Area Inspection Report.

Agenda and paperwork for The Parishes Liaison Meeting on 19th June 2013. Chair and clerk attended, information circulated.

Local Council Revue (Summer 2013) – Circulated.

E mail – Mr Clive Setter – The defibrillator is reaching the end of its useful life – Agenda item 13/63.

A parishioner had questioned the legality of the apparent car sales operation at Greenlands and asked council to ascertain. The B&NES Enforcement Officer had stated that he had visited the site and that he would be sending a letter to the owners of the property advising that the vehicles should be removed from the site within 28 days.

B&NES – Parish Cluster Group Meeting, 15th May 2013 – Clerk attended, paperwork circulated.

B&NES – Communities Facilities Survey, update requested – Completed and returned.

B&NES – Chew Valley Area Partnership Meeting, 3rd July 2013 – Clerk attended, paperwork circulated.

Grant Thornton, the external auditor – Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2013 had been satisfactorily audited.

HMRC – A reminder that the parish council has to register for 'Real Time Reporting' when payment to their employee, the clerk, is made. Cllr K Mountford agreed to activate the new system.

Clerk & Councils Direct – July – Circulated.

Broadband – Connecting Devon and Somerset – Progress Report Update – Circulated.

13/58 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Cllr J Swift reported that progress was underway, the committee had been formed, one meeting had been held and another had been arranged.

13/59 – PARISHIONERS COMMENTS AND VIEWING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The chair stated that this minute had been placed further down the agenda order, as a trial, to enable parishioners to comment on any items that may have arisen in the earlier part of the meeting.

A Councillor reported that he had received a request from a parishioner to investigate what appeared to be rubbish dumped in a field off Stanton Wick Lane. A site visit and discussion had established that the materials belonged to a land owner and were in his field.

A Councillor stated that he had received a request from a parishioner to have the willow tree located on the river bank near the bridge over The River Chew topped for safety reasons. The clerk would forward the request to the land owner.

13/60 – ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PARISH CEMETERY FEES

The clerk reported that Whitchurch Parish Council had not made any significant alterations to their fees at their annual review. It was agreed that our fees should remain as they are.

13/61 – THE OLD COLLIERY SITE

The chair reported that B&NES Planning Department had asked the applicant / his agent for further information before making a decision on the application, to date they had not received the requested information. It appeared highly likely that upon receipt of the information a revised application would be advertised.

13/62 – INTERIM PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

The chair stated that following discussions with some other parish councillors it was thought that, at least for a trial period, there was a need for interim parish council surgeries due mainly to recent activities in planning applications, the need to update parishioners and the fact that our arranged meetings are bi-monthly. After discussion it was agreed to arrange three surgeries between July and December 2013. They would be of one hour duration between 6.00 and 7.00 pm. At the parish Hall subject to availability, on the first Thursday of August, October and December. Parish Council members would be available to provide latest up-dates and answer any questions wherever possible.

13/63 – FUTURE DEFIBRILLATOR REPLACEMENT

Recent correspondence from Mr Clive Setter, the original donor of the defibrillator equipment had stated that the five year warranty expired in March 2013, it is not likely to last much longer and the manufacturer has confirmed that they no longer repair the model that Stanton Drew has.

One defibrillator, at Bishop Sutton, had failed, has been taken out of service, and has now been replaced. There is a UK manufacturer which produces a defibrillator that is more efficient at a price of £975 + VAT and has a longer battery/pad unit shelf- life, four years, the cost of replacing this unit is about £125 + VAT.

After discussion it was felt that the parish council would wish to retain a defibrillator unit but did not have the finance available, at this stage, to purchase a new replacement. Mr Setter's correspondence had suggested other possibilities for raising the required finance such as sponsors or donations. It was also suggested that there may be some finance available from the Ward

Councillor's Grant and the existing unit will remain in use until a malfunction occurs. It was agreed to initially ask Cllr J Sparks, the Ward Councillor, for his comment on his grant.

13/64 – PAPERLESS PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOTIFICATION

B&NES Planning Department had stated at a recent Parishes Liaison Meeting that they would be introducing this system from 2nd September 2013. The chair and the clerk had attended this meeting and reported that there was discussion, both for and against, the intention. The main comments against the introduction were financial, such as the probable requirement to purchase projectors, screens and not all councillors had access to a computer, coupled with the fact that budgets for this financial year had already been set and precepts applied for. It was generally agreed to address the possible implications as and when they occurred.

13/65 – CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE

The clerk reported that the outstanding Allotment Rent had now been received.

J B G Roscoe	- Plants for Village of the Year display	- £ 49.21
S Edwards	- Play Area Inspections (1/4 to 30/6 2013 – 13 weeks)	- £ 130.00
J A Harvey	- Clerk's salary (April to June) net of tax	- £1168.00
HMRC	- Tax due on clerk's salary (April to June)	- £ 292.00
Grant Thornton	- External Annual Audit Fee	- £ 120.00
C Swift	- PROW Clearances (April to June) – 8 Hours	- £ 60.00
Filer's Coaches	- Surgery Coach – (May £100 & June £100)	- £ 200.00
B&NES Council	- Annual Play Area Rent	- £ 250.00
D J Winstone	- Play Area & Allotment Area Maintenance	- £ 900.00

Proposed: Mrs K Mountford, seconded: Mr M Elsbury and agreed.

13/66 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 5th September 2013 at 7.30 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE

