

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2014 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle (Chair), Cllr. M Elsbury, Cllr. K Mountford, Cllr. M Naunton,
Cllr. G Roscoe, Cllr. J Swift, Cllr. D Winstone and one parishioner.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

No parishioner's comments were received.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes, having been previously 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: - **Community** is a wonderful word with profound meaning; *fellowship, common intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, risk, 'affecting the identity of participants & their degree of cohesiveness* (Wikipedia). Last year I hoped the community would continue to pull together and work to make this parish the special place that is home and you have.

Following on from last year, this year has been an extremely busy one. The community, galvanised by Stanton Wick Action Group continued to work very hard to demonstrate the sheer unsuitability of the Old Colliery site as a gypsy & traveller site. In September, the cross party Planning Committee unanimously rejected the landowner's planning application for a 5 pitch site, which was vindication of the immense amount of work SWAG, the Parish Council and the community has done.

As you may know the action group raised a considerable amount of money to fund legal expenses relating to the Old Colliery site action. The action group decided that any remaining funds would be transferred into a community trust fund so the Publow with Pensford & Stantons Community Trust (PPSCT) was formed. Parishioners can apply to The Trust for grants to help community projects in our parishes. Please speak to John Harvey, our clerk.

The PPSCT is a really positive outcome for the community from the past two years' action. Thank you once again to you all and in particular members of the action group headed by Clarke Osborne, who we nominated for the B&NES Chairman's Award for Volunteer Leader of the Year.

We also nominated Shirley Edwards for The Good Neighbour Award for her litter picking diligence keeping the village looking good. We were delighted that she won the award, presented to her at The Guildhall in February. I would like to mention Peter Edwards because I believe he shares in the award. He is also notable for getting the church clock working again. Both Shirley and Peter do a lot for the community and have recently joined the Neighbourhood Plan team.

The team consists of Derek Winstone, Michael Naunton, Clarke and Sue Osborne, Karen Cross, Felicity James, Dave Ashton, Karen Warrington, Steve Croucher, The Edwards, Andy Strickland and me, under the chairmanship of John Swift. Keeping the mob on the straight and narrow isn't easy and I'd like to thank John and the team for the really valuable work they are doing. But it's a community effort, requiring community involvement; it's a piece of work we have to do so everyone who wants to help is welcome, whether it's posting questionnaires & newsletters to helping on specific items of work. Please get in touch with John Swift or any member of the team. We are very proud that our heritage asset document is being used as the B&NES template for good practice, well done team.

This year we piloted the chair's surgery, which is held on the first Thursday of the month, in between the Parish Council meetings from 6-7 pm. Although, it has been my faithful stalwarts John Harvey and John Swift attending, it does offer you a chance to come to talk to us about issues you may have and I see it as an ideal opportunity to keep informed as the Neighbourhood Plan progresses.

You can also follow us on both the NP and the PC websites. The NP team will be on hand at this year's Flower Show and at the new Community Café, as I'm sure a number of us will be supporting it regularly. It's difficult to resist the lure of a good cup of coffee, bacon sarnie and a chat. The Community Café is being organised by Karen Lyne and will be held once a month on a Saturday, 10 am to noon at the church server. Let's support her project and have some fun together.

Another important activity, which has the Parish Council's support, is Wansdyke Telecoms' plan to bring community- owned true fibre optic broadband to rural B&NES, including the Chew Valley. A very significant part of the initial funding for the pilot scheme in Newton St Loe came from within our Parish, and there is a growing number of parishioners working to raise the funds to bring some of Britain's fastest broadband to Stanton Drew and Stanton Wick in 2015.

It is always very heartening to be able to nominate a person from our parish for a community award and although I can't let the cat out of the bag just yet, I am absolutely delighted a member of our parish has won the Chelwood Rotary Community Award 2014. Fantastic news, well done you!

If you know of anyone who deserves a special thank you for the voluntary work they do or for being an especially good neighbour please let us know. A little thank you goes a long way.

So that brings me to my fellow councillors, we are a good team and as we go into the last year of our tenure I can't thank you enough for all the work you do, seen and unseen. The Parish Council couldn't function without you or the lovely John Harvey as Clerk. Thank you so much for everything you do and have to put up with, John.

Councillors and community, let's make this year a special and positive one as we commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War. If we work together we can achieve good things. For our common futures, I really hope that lots of positive things will continue to happen.

Thank you everyone.
Judith Chubb-Whittle.

Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle was thanked for her excellent report by all members of the Parish Council and Cllr. J Swift also thanked her for her personal contribution to the Heritage Project of the Neighbourhood Plan.

THE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR REPORT

Cllr. G Roscoe, Council's Co-ordinator, presented the report: - He stated that although we had decided not entered the competition this year, grateful thanks are extended to Mr Sam Budd for keeping the village- seat area in perfect order and to the team of grass cutters who also keep the village churchyard splendidly maintained. Following discussion it was agreed to re-enter the competition this year.

THE RICHARD JONES FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr J Harvey, the clerk and a village trustee of the foundation, presented the report: - A brief history of the foundation and it's present make up was explained and the financial position at the end of August 2013, which is the end of the trust's financial year, was given. Total income was £11,215 which included £6,219 carried forward. Total payments were £3,315, balances in hand therefore were £7,900. Educational grants to 4 Stanton Drew recipients totalled £699 and payments for the benefit of the poor were paid to 6 Stanton Drew recipients at Christmas time totalling £120.

ADOPTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS TO THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014

The clerk/Responsible Financial Officer presented the accounts, having been circulated to the parish councillors prior to the meeting: - Balances brought forward totalled £6,356.63. Receipts during the year totalled £12,764.68 and payments were £13,260.78. Payments exceeded receipts therefore by £496.10. Closing balances totalled £5,860.53. It was proposed by Cllr. M Naunton, seconded by Cllr. J Swift 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