

MINUTES OF THE STANTON DREW PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2015 AT 7.30 PM

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. K Warrington, the newly elected Ward Councillor.

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

No written comments had been received.

MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2014, having been previously circulated to the parish councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The parish did not enter the Village of the Year Competition, as was minuted, due to the competition not being held.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The theme is teamwork – Another busy year and a much more constructive year, as we progress through the Neighbourhood Planning process, under the leadership of John Swift. As with all good things team work is the key. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group team members are Karen Cross, Steve Croucher, Peter & Shirley Edwards, Andy Strickland, Felicity James, Clarke & Sue Osborne, Karen Warrington, Derek, Mike and I. Thank you to all on both the Steering Group and the sub-groups who have given up so much of their valuable time to get us to the preparation of the plan stage following the results of the Parish Survey.

We had in the region of 40% return of the parish survey, which is a very good result as surveys go and again thank you to everyone who replied. There is no plan without constructive feedback. We first held an open weekend in February 2013 then last year we held two consultation weekends in February and September when we shared the background 'broad-bush' work with the parish and explained the legal process through which we have to work to formulate a plan for inspection.

So this year, the months to come will be the busiest and most crucial as we draft and release the plan. I request that all parish councillors keep themselves updated on progress so that they can effectively answer parishioners' queries. This will require those on email to check email daily (for NP and all other business) and regularly look at both the NP and PC websites to make sure we are communicating effectively.

To any parishioner out there who thinks this is just another boring plan I say think again, this may be the only chance we have in the next few years to make a positive and proactive difference to our community rather than reacting to situations as we had with the Old Colliery Site.

That issue seems to be working towards a more acceptable outcome for the community which is good. At this point I want to remember the contribution that Peter Duppa-Miller (Clerk to the Clerks of B&NES Parish Councils, to name but one role he held) made in helping the community. Very sadly Peter died a couple of weeks ago, which is a great shock. Peter was a real friend and oracle to this parish council and John Harvey and I soon learnt that if Peter was on the phone you paid absolute attention because he would refer us to some deeply but vital reference or piece of information. Where we as the PC could not use the information we knew a team of people who could and that made a huge difference. Team work again.

John and I are attending his funeral tomorrow. Parish Councils have lost a great advocate and protector of communities and he will be sorely missed.

Stanton Drew Parish Council remains a very visible and proactive partner on the local government scheme, which is vital for safeguarding our community as funding and resources become increasingly under pressure.

We've seen some great team work in the community with the Community Café celebrating its first birthday! Well done Karen Lyne, who got the ball rolling. It's a very social event for all the family, the second Saturday of every month. It's just a shame I seem to be at a race whenever it's on but come the autumn I shall look forward to my bacon sarnie again.

The Stanton Drew Picture House has also been a welcome addition to the autumn and winter social calendar. Run by Andy and Julie Vickery, Rob Taylor and Sharon Croucher on the bar.

I must mention Shirley Edwards' stalwart work getting a very active bell ringing team together and energising the school children into litter picking in her self-declared role as 'Mrs Womble'.

After a few uncertain terms the primary school will have a new head in September, Dieter, who is currently Head of Cameley Primary. He is an outstanding head and joins a really great team of teachers. Andy Marriott is the Acting Head at the moment doing a sterling job. He will remain as Deputy Head so our children will have the opportunity of a great start to their academic life. The governors headed by Matt Hunt have done a great job resolving a very difficult time. I am very excited and positive for the future of the school; however as part of the NP, I believe it is incumbent upon us to look at the future to ensure we can provide the right facilities for our children in the future.

So exciting things to come and a great deal of teamwork to be done by the PC and the parish in the year ahead. Before I leave you with my final request I must say a big thank you to two people in particular, firstly to John Harvey who works so hard on our behalf, if he can check his emails so can you! Secondly but not least Kris Mountford who very unfortunately was not re-elected but did a huge amount of work in the background for us. She will be sorely missed. She has kindly said YES to continue helping John with HMRC matters so thank you Kris.

And finally, thinking of the famous J F Kennedy quote, I'll leave you with my request;

My fellow councillors and parishioners ask not what the Parish can do for you; ask what you can do for the Parish and make 2015 – 2016 a really vintage year for the community.

Judith Chubb-Whittle.

Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle was thanked for her excellent report by all members of the Parish Council.

THE VILLAGE OF THE YEAR REPORT

Cllr. G Roscoe, the co-ordinator, presented the report. Calor had ceased their funding this year so the competition was not held. Never the less the War Memorial, the Churchyard, the Village Seat Area and the flowers at the Village Hall were as good as ever. Thanks are due to Mr Sam Budd for keeping the village seat area in splendid condition and also to the team of grass-cutters for keeping the churchyard in excellent order.

To date we have not received any indication that a competition will take place this year. Damage to a coping-stone at the War Memorial has been reported, thanks to Michael Naunton who has offered to carry-out a repair.

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 its present make up was explained. Cllr. J Chubb-Whittle is the second village trustee, having replaced Mrs R Nixon during the past year.

The financial position at the end of August 2014, which is the end of the trust's financial year, was given. Total income was £11,907 which included £7,901 carried forward. Total payments were £3,158, balance in hand therefore was £8,749. Educational grants to five Stanton Drew recipients totalled £1,001 and payments for the benefit of the poor were paid to six Stanton Drew recipients at Christmas time totalling £120.

ADOPTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS TO THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015

The clerk/RFO presented the accounts, having been circulated to the parish councillors prior to the meeting. Balances brought forward totalled £5,860.53. Receipts during the year totalled £15,980.97 and payments were £14,068.31. Receipts exceeded payments therefore by £1,912.66. Closing balances totalled £7,828.10.

It was proposed by Cllr. M Naunton, seconded by Cllr. 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 relevant to this meeting and the meeting was declared closed at 8.30 pm.

_____ CHAIRMAN _____ DATE