SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of South Stoke Parish held at 7:00 p.m. on 16th April 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. M. Devenish (Chairman), the six other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor N. Butters, Cotswold AONB Warden Pauline Vincent, Parish Sweeper David Brown and 16 members of the Parish.

Apologies for absence: John Summers sent apologies.

The Chairman opened the meeting and drew attention to the Annual Report which had been distributed to each home in the Parish, and summarised the key points. The period 2011 -2012 has been another busy one with the Parish Council meeting 14 times, 6 full meetings and 8 planning meetings, together with the Annual Parish Meeting and a Public Meeting. The Parish Council also responded to 5 Consultation Documents in addition to the major items in the report.
He then introduced each of the Parish Councillors identifying their area of responsibility and each councillor then addressed the meeting in turn discussing the key points in their area and taking questions from the floor.

Robert Hellard - Planning, VHMC, and Liaison with Bath Preservation Trust.
Robert Hellard highlighted the main points concerning the Neighbourhood Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Core Strategy and the examination at Public Inquiry, the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (NPP) and the Localism Bill.
Cllr. N. Butters was able to update the meeting with latest position in respect of these. The Inspector had kept the Examination process of the Core Strategy open because of the NPPF, and is now expected to report in 2-3 months. That because of reductions in planning staff, work was concentrated on the Core Strategy and Applications, and this meant that the South Stoke Conservation Area Appraisal had been put to one side for the time being.

Tim Haines - Highways Inspection and Management.
Tim Haines reported on the sum of £97,000 that has been included in the budget for 2012/13 for footpath improvements between Midford and South Stoke. Questions were raised about the resurfacing of the B3110 and this is expected to take place as part of these footway improvements. There were also questions and discussion about what could be done in respect of the damage to the Midford Castle wall as a result of numerous collisions.

Rhona Harvey - Midford Sweeper & Liaison
Rhona Harvey thanked David Brown, the Midford sweeper for his excellent and diligent work throughout the year. Questions were raised about the damage caused by the Wessex water works.

Tom Geake - South Stoke Sweeper & Millennium Wood
Tom Geake thanked Martin Bambury for his excellent work throughout the year highlighting the difference it had made. He suggested people to stop and talk to Martin.

Jenny John - Footpaths and Open Spaces
Jenny John described the work that was being done to provided Interpretation Boards along the length of the Wansdyke funded by the B&NES Ward Councillors Initiative funds. She introduced Pauline Vincent, the Cotswold Warden, to the meeting and she spoke about the walks that were taking place in and around South Stoke.
Jenny John also explained that there was one allotment to let and that the Parish Council would consider letting it to someone outside of the parish if there were no demand for it within the parish.

Sue Dustin - VHMC Representative
Described the improvements that were taking place or were planned for the village hall. These were a new Loop System and new curtains.

Geoff Davis – Clerk
The clerk described his role in the council and discussed the budget and precept for the coming year.

The Chairman concluded by highlighting that the issue of a playground had been raised, and by requesting support for a working party to repaint the white railings at a date to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.