

SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of South Stoke Parish held at 7:00 p.m. on 15th April 2013 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. M. Devenish (Chairman), and five other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 27 members of the Parish.

Apologies for absence: Patrick Dawson, Neil Butters, Robert Parfitt 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 2012 -2013 has been another busy one the Parish Council met on 10 occasions, 6 full meetings and 3 planning meetings plus the Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council also responded to 4 Consultation Documents in addition to the major items in the report.

He then introduced each of the Parish Councillors identifying their area of responsibility as follows:-

Patrick Dawson		Midford Sweeper and liaison with Midford.
Michael Devenish	Chairman	Planning and Liaison with Midford
Sue Dustin		Village Hall Management Committee
Tom Geake		South Stoke Sweeper, Police liaison and Millenium Wood
Robert Hellard	Vice Chairman	Planning, VHMC and liaison with BPT
Jenny John		Footpaths, Allotments and Open Spaces
Chris Winpenny		Highways

and gave a brief summary of the duties and work carried out by each. The details of which are given in the Annual Report.

In conclusion to the summary of Policing in the Parish, Robert Hellard proposed a vote of thanks to Beryl Murray for her contribution in attending the PACT meetings.

In concluding the summary on Planning matters and the Core Strategy in particular, Michael Devenish thanked Robert Hellard for all the work he has done in responding to this document and for informing the Parish so well.

Tom Geake also drew attention to the registration of the Packhorse Pub as a community asset, in particular that it was the first such registration in Bath and North East Somerset. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for all the work undertaken in order to achieve this.

In responding to the statements regarding the Parish finances and Precept, Robert Williams pointed out that the Council Tax Bills had not decreased as expected. The clerk undertook to investigate this. In response the clerk can report that the reason for this is that although the contribution to the Parish has decreased, the Combined Fire Authority contribution increased by more than this amount.

On completing his report, the chairman invited questions and comments from the meeting.

Bob Honey drew attention to the forth-coming re-union of Packhorse Pub customers on 18th May from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Van Aken raised the issue of irresponsible dog owners leaving dog waste on the footpaths through and around the village, and asked whether notices and / or dog waste bins might be provided. She also raised the issue of inconsiderate cyclists, and again asked if notices could be displayed indicate that cycling was prohibited on the footpaths.

Robert Hellard then discussed the consultation on the amendments to the core strategy, drawing attention to the most recent newsletter (No. 47) and the key points on which residents should respond.

Following a discussion of these key points Robert Hellard proposed the following actions by the Parish Council:-

- That the Parish Council should seek to employ legal counsel to advise on the preparation for the Examination in Public of the Core Strategy.
- That the Parish should employ a specialist to question the assumptions in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

This to be funded by the Parish Council with support from Parishioners.

By show of hands there was a clear majority of those present in favour of both motions.

The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.