SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of South Stoke Parish held at 7:00 p.m. on 7th April 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. M. Devenish (Chairman), and five other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 15 members of the Parish, 2 members of the public, and the two Cotswold AONB wardens

Apologies for absence: Patrick Dawson, Ruth Newman, Trevor John and Sheila Neil 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 Parish Council met on 16 occasions during the period 2013-2014. 6 full meetings, 4 special meetings, and 2 public meetings to address the consultations on the Bath and North East Somerset Council's Core Strategy, 3 planning meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting. In addition to responding extensively to the Core Strategy Consultations throughout the year, the Parish Council also responded to 3 Consultation Documents.

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 Millennium Wood
Robert Hellard	Vice Chairman	Planning, VHMC and liaison with BPT
Jenny John		Footpaths, Allotments and Open Spaces
Chris Winpenny		Highways, and Planning

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

In addition to the other planning matters detailed in the Annual Report the Vice Chairman reported on the current position in relation to the B&NES Core Strategy hearings, and highlighted the process undergone to obtain adoption of the Conservation Area Appraisal so that it might acquire full planning weight. He reported that the Inspector has now asked B&NES Council to include the Conservation Area Appraisal as a core document at the hearings. He also summarised the engagement of consultants to support the Parish Council in the consultation on the Core Strategy and representation at the Examination in Public.

The Vice Chairman also highlighted a current application for the Fosseway Environmental Park, the former Fuller's Earth works site.

The meeting gave a vote of thanks to the vice chairman for all his time and effort spent representing the Parish on all these issues, and Cllr. Jenny John proposed a vote of thanks for all his work on the preparing and making representations on the Core Strategy.

Councillor Jenny John gave an update on the Packhorse Public House as a community asset. She confirmed that following a valuation and estimates for the building works, an offer was made to the owner, who declined this and made what was considered to be an unrealistic response. She also confirmed that grant funding had been obtained to cover the cost of the preparation of the bid. B&NES Ward Councillor Neil Butters highlighted B&NES policy on change of use of such properties, and outlined the difficulties the owner was likely to encounter if this was attempted. It was also highlighted that B&NES could only intervene if the building was sufficiently neglected, and it is not considered to be in such a condition at the moment.

The chairman then turned to the matter of highways and highlighted the difficult winter, with many major issues and significant numbers of potholes.

The matter of suggested changes to South Stoke lane was then discussed in relation to improving the safety for pedestrians and issues of erosion of the embankments. A number of suggestions were made from the floor and discussed, and highlighting the inter-related issues of road width and traffic speed, the rural setting and urbanisation, green lanes and signage. The Parish Council will take this forward at their next meeting.

Also discussed was the ongoing matter of the location of the Bath Transportation Package Vehicle Management Sign, which will be further discussed by Ward Cllr. Neil Butters at a meeting on Wednesday 9th April. He will also raise concerns about the advertising consent granted for the illuminated sign at the new Cross Keys bus stop.

Neil Butters then outlined his year as Chairman of B&NES Council, highlighting his role chairing meetings, officiating at British Citizenship ceremonies, supporting his five charities and attending 500+ events.

Other matters were discussed:-

The forthcoming Village Hall Management Committee AGM at which they seek to elect two new members and co-opt two further members.

An opportunity to host a 'Beau Street Horde' road show event at which the entire collection would be on display for the whole village to view at the village hall. The meeting enthusiastically requested that the Parish Council take this forward and host the event early in this year.

The meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.