

# **SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of South Stoke Parish - 7:00 p.m. 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Mr. C. Winpenny (Chairman), and three other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, B&NES Ward Councillor Neil Butters and 15 members of the Parish, and the four Cotswold AONB wardens (two retiring and two new).

**1. Apologies for absence:** Jim Summers, Trevor John

**2. Chairman's Report.** - The Chairman opened the meeting, and welcomed everyone. He drew attention to his report and highlighted the main points. He asked the Cotswold Wardens to identify themselves to the meeting and thanked them for their work in maintaining the footpaths and giving guided walks, very much as 'unseen heroes'. He drew attention to the current vacancies for councillors resulting from resignations. Ward Councillor Neil Butters was thanked for his contributions to the parish.

**3. Presentation to retiring wardens and introduction of new wardens** – Councillor Jenny John introduced Wilf and Pauline to the meeting who have been voluntary Cotswold Wardens for 30 and 15 years respectively. They lead guided walks and keep the footpaths in the area in good order. Their work is much appreciated and the Parish Council presented them each with the Book of South Stoke as a gift and token of this appreciation. Pauline said that they would be continuing the walks and introduced Philippe who is taking over in South Stoke, and Tim who is taking over in Combe Hay.

**4. Sulis Down Development - Update.** - The Chairman reported that the application was understood ~~thought~~ to be considered at the Development Management Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May. It is now known that this is not the case, and no future date is currently available. The main issues of the lack of sufficient detail in the Comprehensive Masterplan and the findings of the Traffic survey by WYG which predict 'Carmeggedon' were highlighted. It was reported that a further submission by WYG (the traffic consultants) had been provided, but as yet there had been no comment whatsoever from B&NES Highways. It was also reported that the Parish Council were seeking legal advice on the status of the Masterplan given the lack of detail, and the consequent status of the Planning Application itself. The Chairman thanked Robert Hellard, for his very valuable advice throughout this consultation process. Ward Councillor Neil Butters said that he had spoken to B&NES Councillor and Cabinet member for Highways and the Environment, Mr. Mark Shelford and reported that he had said that there should not be 450 houses accessing Combe Hay lane. However, he also reported that Mr. Shelford had instructed his team to look at an Eastern access. It was pointed out that such an access had been entirely ruled out in the Local Plan in the Core Strategy and was contrary to the Planning Inspectors express statements on the that matter. The meeting asked Neil Butters to investigate further and keep the PC informed . The meeting expressed the need for a wide ranging review ~~aeross~~ of traffic across the entire South side of Bath, and it was reported that the Odd Down Community Association were meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May from 11:15 to look at traffic issues in the area. The Bath MP – Wera Hobbhouse will be present.

**5. Parking in the Village** – Councillor Jenny John summarised the return of 33 questionnaires from the parking survey. Nearly all considered there was a parking problem in the village and nearly all thought an advisory speed limit was needed. Jenny John summarised the options available with their various pros and cons, including issues with the Green Belt. People had volunteered some individual spaces, and discussions were in place for shared use of other facilities. Progress was therefore being made on a piecemeal basis to improve parking for residents.

Liz Brooks said that the survey had been done before the re-opening of the pub, and that the centre of the village was now much worse during the day, and especially at weekends, with staff parking for the pub being a particular problem. Dom Moorhouse said that he would take these matters up with the pub and use social media, signage, and other methods to get the message across. He said the pub was open to all ideas that might help the situation.

## **6. Village Road Safety and Speed Limits**

The Chair first asked Ward Councillor Neil Butters for the current position of B&NES on 20 m.p.h. limits. He highlighted the existing schemes in place and confirmed that no further ones would be considered until the finding of the DfT review were known.

The Parish Clerk presented the possible schemes for the village, being a mandatory 20 m.p.h., an advisory 20 m.p.h., or a Quiet Lane scheme, each with associated costs and limitations. The costs being likely to be borne, at least in part, by the Parish, rather than B&NES Highways. A show of hands was taken on which scheme the Parish Council should take forward. There were 2 votes for a Mandatory Limit, 1 vote for an Advisory Limit, and 12 votes for a Quiet Lane scheme. The Parish Council noted the vote and would take the various options forward.

## **7. Midford Road / Village Road Safety Issues**

**Midford Village** - Cllr. Patrick Dawson summarised the issues within Midford Village. He reported that, in the context of the low bridge, residents were no longer attempting to turn lorries around, but were taking photo evidence and reporting to the transport company concerned. He reported on the difficulty that families were encountering crossing the road. However, a 20 m.p.h. speed limit and Zebra Crossing had been rejected by B&NES. Speed bumps had also been ruled out due to traffic volume.

**Castle Bend** - B&NES were been being lobbied on the whole of the B3110, and based on accidents per Km it was the 12<sup>th</sup> worse road at 2.7 (with the A4 1<sup>st</sup> at 15.4). Most of these accidents had occurred at Castle Bend, with 6 recently, one with the car ending up on its roof, but as yet no serious injuries. Ward Councillor Neil Butters had raised questions to Cabinet on the matter and reported that officers were drawing up a safety scheme for the site, but with no definite progress at this stage.

Patrick Dawson also highlighted the social aspects of the village, pointing out the other pub in the Parish, the Hope and Anchor, and also the South Parish Boundary Walk and Barbeque which starts at Ivy Cottage on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 2:00 p.m. with the Barbeque at 4:00 p.m.

**Combe Path Lawn BA22/7-8 Diversion and Crossing** – Cllr Jenny John explained that this proposed footpath diversion in conjunction with signage and drop-kerbs etc. provided by B&NES Highways, was designed to improve pedestrian safety when crossing this busy road on a dangerous bend with limited visibility. The proposal was supported by B&NES Highways and had received support from the Ward Councillors Initiative Fund. Geoff Davis speaking as a resident of the Parish (not as Clerk) objected to the proposal. In his view the diversion could be achieved as a permissive path at no cost and that it was B&NES Highways responsibility to determine road safety matters. As there were other options to achieve the safety objective the Parish Council should withdraw its financial support for this proposal.

The Chairman noted the objection which Geoff Davis had sent to B&NES Footpaths (PROW) team. He confirmed that this matter would be discussed again at the next Parish Council Meeting.

## **8. Parish Council Vacancy** – The Chair had discussed this item in his report.

**9. Open Discussion of any matters raised by any attendee.** The matter of dog waste and the provision of dog waste bins was raised. The clerk highlighted that it was not within the duties of the Parish Sweeper to deal with a dog waste bin. The Parish Council will ask B&NES Council how the installation of dog waste bins might be achieved and managed.

Ward Councillor Neil Butters proposed a round of applause as thanks to the Parish Council for their work.

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.