STOKE ST GREGORY FUTURE STRATEGY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting: 12th July 2018

Present: David House, Nick Sloan, Graham Gleed, Sue Hembrow, Gill Slattery, Sara Sollis

Apologies:

Notes from the meeting of 5th June: Approved

1. **Pub/Shop Project**
   I. Latest Updates
      i. The Shop remains on the market with several expressions of interest still open.
      ii. The future of the Rose & Crown appears secure, which is good news.
      iii. We do not have a public mandate to take on the Royal Oak as a community pub as the survey conducted made the assumption that the RO would be the last Pub, but the survival of the Oak is important to many in the village and would be a desirable outcome. If it proves necessary to set up a community shop —and nothing has changed to make that less likely— there are strong arguments for locating it in the Royal Oak building rather than in the existing shop, though both options (and others) need to be explored. These are decisions not for the PC but for the Steering Group of what may henceforward be thought of as Community Shop Plus. A second meeting of all interested parties will be convened as soon as possible, so that the group can finally be launched, and start making independent decisions.
   II. Creation of the Steering Team
      i. It was agreed that all of those who expressed interest in supporting the project as it was originally envisaged, should be invited to participate in the next meeting, which should be held as soon as possible. GG to arrange (tentative date 23rd July).
      ii. It was agreed that Ian and Nicola should be invited to contribute to this group
   III. Next actions
      i. The first action for the steering team will be to apply for bursary money in order to move the project forward. This will require creation of a bank account.
      ii. A formal constitution for the Steering Group will need to be agreed and established. The formal model provided by the Plunkett Organisation will used as the basis
2. **Housing**
   I. Draft Plans:
      i. Andy Lehner of West of England Developments presented options for building 29 houses on around half of the open area of the allotments

field. Of these, about 41.4% would be "affordable" and many would be open market but relatively small. This is consistent with the need for more smaller houses in the village, as expressed by many residents and the Parish Council.

    ii. Should the application be approved, ownership of the allotments would be transferred to the community and there would be enough money to finance the building of a new pavilion on the playing field.

    iii. It was clearly stated that development would only go ahead if there was strong support for it from the village as a whole. The developers will be holding a public presentation at the Village Hall early in September, when people will be invited to express their views.

  II. Date for Public Consulation

    i. The Public Consultation will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday Sept 4th between 3pm and 8pm. Notices will be posted in the Village announcing this event

3. Pavilion/Playing Field

  I. See note 2.II above. The provision of a New Pavilion has been a key priority for a number of years. The potential to achieve this objective without the challenge of major fund raising is a very positive step.

4. The Future of the FSG

  I. The FSG was created as an advisory body to the parish council with no executive powers but charged with the responsibility to research and advise the PC in matters that require more discussion than can be managed in the scheduled monthly meetings.

  II. The FSG has been largely successful in this although a key learning is that communication of the topics addressed needs to be improved.

  III. The purpose of the FSG remains valid even though immediate concerns which led to its creation now have a clear forward view.

Next Meeting:

In the light of the above comments no further meeting is planned for the immediate future other than a liaison meeting marking the start of the Steering Group.