

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

10 Bay Hill, Ilminster, Somerset. TA19 0AT.

Minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2022

Present: Janice Pearce (Chair), Anne Merritt (Vice-Chair), Ann Finn, John Hembrow, Peter House, Ian Upshall, Jason Morgan, Danny James, Kelly de Silva (Clerk)

1. Election of Chairman

John Hembrow proposes Janice Pearce be elected as Chair. Ann Finn seconds the motion. There were no other nominations and JP was elected with 5 in favour and 2 abstaining. JP signs the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Ann Finn proposes Anne Merritt be elected as Vice-Chair. John Hembrow seconds the motion. There were no other nominations and AM was elected with 5 in favour and 2 abstaining. AM signs the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. Apologies for absence: Heather Venn

Declarations of Interest: None received.

4. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2022.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting were agreed by all to be accurate and signed by the Chair.

Ahead of the election of officers DJ requests to make a statement.

DJ informs that at the last meeting he raised the "to do" list for the PC for the next 12 months in relation to the community plan, with everyone needing to play a part and engage with the community.

DJ continues to state a "few phrases" of what the community think of the PC. "Talking shop of nothingness, no vision, no energy and no direction, invisible in both of terms of who they are and what they actually do, inconsequential" and whether the PC like it or not – this is what the community think.

It is now about where we are and where we want to get to – it is going to be a big year for the PC.

DJ expresses that over the years the PC members have done many positive things but argues that this year has not been as productive as it should be. DJ states he cannot think of anything in the last 12 months that does not have the fingers prints of DJ, IU or KdS on it and cannot think of anything that has been done by the PC as a collective.

DJ personally will not accept another 12 months of doing most of the work – it is not acceptable, and the PC need to work more as a team.

The PC need to change their approach, take responsibility and work in between meetings to communicate better and stop being reactive, be more proactive and deliver to the community which the PC represent.

The community plan is a fresh start for the PC and everyone in the room and all need to think if they have the time, determination, and energy to work together as a whole to deliver the plan.

It is the Parish Councils responsibility and obligation to deliver the plan which the PC has adopted and requested.

Being a representative on a village group doesn't mean attending the meeting and passively reporting back – its about using the Community Plan and the actions as a focal point, being proactive, facilitating actions and reporting back to the PC. It is an important upcoming 12

Signed by the Chair.....

Date.....

months when everyone is required to do more work, and this should be considered ahead of appointing the representatives on village groups for the next 12 months.

JP responds that over the last year all members of the PC have been responsible for doing something and when the PC decided to adopt the community plan, it was done with a view of having an action plan for the future – it is not something that has just turned up – it is something the PC instigated and some of the actions of the plan are already underway. The PC has achieved numerous objectives over the last 12 months, and it is the PC's job to primarily facilitate and enable – the PC should be enthusing and supporting groups to achieve the outcomes as a collective.

IU agrees with DJ – the representatives of each group need to be proactive, interact, engage with the different groups and report back to the PC. The PC must do better, as currently the PC has limited credibility in the village and people do not know what the PC do. IU continues that if the PC wish to enthuse, inspire, and add vigour to the village the PC need to be at the forefront.

JH mentions that during the last elections the PC was uncontested – the PC struggle to find people to stand. Previously the PC has always been contested. DJ asks why and the reason is communication – who the PC are and what they can do. JP informs there is also the misinterpretation that the council is political, and it is not.

AF informs the PC has not been sat back and resting on their laurels – the PC has achieved a lot over the last few years.

JP informs it is time to press on and be positive and move the PC forward in a productive way.

5. Election of the following officers:

Village Hall representative

It was agreed unanimously that John Hembrow would continue as the village hall representative. There were no other nominations and JH was elected.

Allotments Association representative

It was agreed unanimously that Jason Morgan would be appointed as the allotment association representative. There were no other nominations and JM was elected.

Heart of the Village representative

PH informs the PC does not currently have representation on the HOTV – it is a standalone business, and it is the decision of the HOTV committee whether or not they want PC representation on the committee. PH informs it would require the HOTV to change their constitution to include a member of the PC on the committee.

DJ and AM request that as the HOTV is a main organisation of the village it would be beneficial to the group and the community to have a PC member on the committee.

JP to contact to HOTV to formally discuss PC representation on the committee as it is an integral part of the village that all should be involved with and support.

Stoke Environment Group representative

It was agreed unanimously that Ian Upshall would be appointed as the PC representative for the SEG. There were no other nominations and IU was elected.

Project Play representative

It was agreed unanimously that Danny James would be appointed as the PC representative for the Young Peoples Project.

Playing Field representatives

It was agreed 6 for and 2 against, that Danny James, Anne Merritt, and Glynn Banks would be the PC appointed representatives.

SSG Community Plan – It is agreed this is a role of the PC as a collective and a specific representative is not required.

DJ will be setting up a small group for delivery of the plan.

7. Review of Policies:

Standing Orders – Last reviewed May 2022

Code of Conduct – Last reviewed June 2022

Burial Ground Regulations – Last reviewed June 2022

IU states that all of the policies are relevant in content, but they require to be reviewed to not be gender specific, reformatted, and considered again in July.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm with the Parish Council Meeting following immediately after.

Signed by the Chair.....

Date.....