

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF STOKE ST. MARY, held on THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008 in the VILLAGE HALL at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. D. Fothergill, in the chair, Mrs S. Kilbey, Mr. S. Burgess, Mr. V. Freir, Mr. M. Newport & Mr. R. Pearse.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. J. Williams – TDBC Councillor, MR. D. Greig - TDBC Parish Liaison Officer, Mr. G. Clifford - TDBC planning officer, WPC 1146 Maria Jennings – Community Beat Manager and a PCSO colleague, Mr. M. Amos- Thurlbear School Headteacher, Mrs M. Pearse – clerk and 32 members of the parish.

APOLOGIES were received from Mr. D. Parsons, Mr. A. Clark indicated he would arrive after another meeting

THE MINUTES having been circulated were taken as read and signed as correct by the Chairman.

Proposed by: Mrs S. Kilbey seconded by: Mr. S. Burgess.

The representative from the Affordable Housing Forum did not attend so the meeting continued with the

#### BEAT MANAGER'S REPORT

WPC Maria Jennings explained her area covered 150 square miles, including North Curry and the Blackdown Hills. Posters with all the relevant contact details & information have been put on all the local notice boards. It is hoped to start up a Rural Watch Scheme, similar to the Neighbourhood Watch, to run alongside NW but to cover the more isolated properties, property & equipment will be marked, photographed and two discs made, one the police records & one for the owner, hopefully enabling stolen property to be recognised and returned, signs would also be erected to discourage the thieves. Monthly Beat Surgeries now being held at differing times of the day to make them more accessible. Hoping also to get PCSO vehicle back on the road, but they are still understaffed.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman highlighted the moving of meetings from Wednesday to Thursday, enabling return to the Village Hall, where the Parish Councillor's could face the meeting, now 6 from 4 meetings per year.

Financial Regulations now introduced thanks to Mr. V. Freir and a template from a Mallerstang Parish Council, Cumbria.

Individual portfolio responsibilities published on the Web site which is kept up to date by Mrs. S. Kilbey

The A 358 upgrade through Henlade has not yet been decided, the Park & Ride at Cambria Farm been passed by SCC but not the Highways Dept. There has been no significant flooding in the village since the drain improvements.

The new road layout has slowed down some of the traffic, the major road repairs at Haydon not yet started, although promised for this financial year. New signs "Haydon please drive carefully through our village" are being ordered.

Finally the policing of the area seems to be more organised after several frustrating years.

The Village Newsletter (sponsored by the Millennium Committee) has been delivered to every house in the Parish and the editors look forward to more contributions to make it worthwhile. Two new notice boards are to be erected.

The Parish Poll ( re EU referendum) was defeated twice and the £1000.00 allocated for its cost now placed on deposit.

The Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors for their hard work and support, in particular Mrs. S. Kilbey the Vice Chairman, and the Clerk.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

Mr. A. Clark reported that 82% of the population responded by saying 'No' to the unification of the 5 District Councils. However the Govt. still trying to 'semi' unify parts. The Local Area Plan, the Local Area Agreement and the Local Area Panels all ceased.

Of Mr. Clarke's 'local' problems, the biggest is the Park & Ride at Cambria Farm and the ensuing rat runs through the neighbouring villages' narrow lanes. The initial compulsory purchase orders have been issued, but the Highways Agency has not yet approved the Traffic Forecasting Model, their next meeting is planned for June. With regard to the A358, nothing is likely till 2011, if then as it will be done piecemeal as no money has been allocated.

## TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.

Mr. J. Williams reported that the A 358 upgrade had been linked to the Stonehenge improvements, but when that was thrown out, the A 358 plans went too. He thought it would be 2014 at least before any alterations were made and indicated that it was now SCC responsibility to sort out the traffic through Henlade.

Taunton had been granted Principal Urban Area status – the focus on new housing, the original plan had been for 6 -700, but now 9 -1000, this not practical, now appealing to the Minister. The majority of the dwellings would be in the Monkton Heathfield & Comeytrove area, not this side of the motorway.

Three major new road works to take place in Taunton, the East Park & Ride, Third Way and the Northern Inner Distributor route. Money is to be invested for the regeneration of Firepool, the decision as to which developer will probably be made in June –for housing, retail and employment and to upgrade The Brewhouse.

## SCHOOL LIAISON REPORT.

Mr. V. Freir reported that Mr. B. Crudge, the headmaster for 27years had retired in September and had been replaced by Mr. Michael Amos. The former chairman of the Governors- Mr. John Garland had retired after 30 years and Mrs. Jenny Sydenham – school caretaker had also retired after 26years service.

Mr. Amos was formally welcomed by the Church in February, the congregation included the local MP –Mr. Jeremy Browne, other local dignitaries, staff & pupils.

The Governors under the chairmanship of Mr. Roger Millard had reviewed and refreshed the plans & policies of the school, Mr. V. Freir reminding everyone that it took "staff, parents & governors to work together for the teachers and pupils to do their best". He then introduced Mr. M. Amos who stated that of the last intake of 30 children only 5 were in the catchment area, but 44 had applied for September 2008, only 30 would be able to be accepted. The school now had an interesting website.

## PLANNING REPORT

Mr. M. Newport thanked his fellow councillors, in particular Mr. S. Burgess and Mr. R. Pearse for their help. 9 applications had been received, 8 approved to date.

A year ago the Planning Department agreed to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to define Delegated Powers, this has still not taken place and conflict has arisen over the 'grey areas' Mr. Clifford and Mr. Greig made a note of this.

## VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mrs. S. Kilbey stated that the Village Hall continues to be a viable operation, with income covering costs. The outside lighting has been updated, the barge boards replaced, new signage added, the oil tank and new bin storage area have been enclosed and planting has enhanced the site

The Millennium Stone has been fitted with a new white light.  
New booking terms & conditions have been issued to ensure hirers know their responsibilities.  
The Committee has agreed to the Police holding their monthly beat Surgeries in the Hall.  
The Dancing Club & the Whist Drives have ceased, but increased use by Pre School has compensated.  
Three successful functions were held by the Social Committee –The Polish Play & Carolling and Crumpets were attended by the maximum number of 80 people, mostly villagers and a Craft Fair which was attended by 200 people.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27p.m.

Chairman ..... Date .....