

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2023

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish, which was held in the New Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00p.m.

Present: 7 Parish Councillors, County and District Councillor Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 1 member of the public was present.

The Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming everyone.

### Open Forum

Cllr McGuire introduced herself and spoke on the following matters: standing as an MP in the next election; her principles, background, and experience; health and social care; rural policing; local issues.

### **1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, had been published prior to the meeting. They were agreed as a true record by those present and were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave a report. Matters discussed included: planting an Oak for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, particular thanks was given to Adam Brumfitt, who gave up his time to help plant the tree and install the tree guard; the Councillors, who were thanked for their time and work, noting the good mix of skills and expertise among the members; the Clerk was thanked; the new goal posts, which are well used; the accounts, which are in good order. There were no questions.

**4. Police Report** the PCSO had given apologies but sent a brief report including: that there was nothing to report, which was good news; patrols are being kept up within the villages; a Beat Surgery is held at the Garden Centre along with a PCSO from Cheddar, other sites proposed will be considered to see what may be best suited to all residents. County Cllr Wyke is to raise the absence of police representation at Parish Council meetings to County Cllr Shearer.

**5. Village Agent Report** Apologies had been received from Bella Lapwood, the village agent. A report had been received and was circulated prior to the meeting and is available on the website and in the Minute Book.

**6. New Memorial Hall Committee Report** the Secretary had given his apologies for the meeting. A report had been received and was circulated prior to the meeting. A copy is held in the Minute book.

**7. The Rev Cobley Playing Field Committee Report** the Secretary had given his apologies for the meeting. A report had been received and was circulated prior to the meeting. The change in the officers of the football club was noted and it was hoped younger members would take more roles. A copy is held in the Minute book.

**8. District Cllr Report:** Cllr Wyke gave a report. Matters discussed included: the role is to disappear at the end of March; the many meetings attended and the people met through the role; the delay to the Butterfly Garden due to a tree root under the tarmac that must be addressed; the cycle path through Shepton connecting the housing estate with the town centre, and the permission to use the Historic Railway bridges; fly tipping and prosecutions; the significant amount of social housing; unlocking the phosphates issues; funding for culture and new projects.

**9. County Cllr Report** Cllr Wyke gave a report. Matters discussed included: her responsibility for economic development, planning and assets; assets; schools, decarbonisation, support to improve results and grow skills to support businesses; Hinkley power station moving towards producing energy again; the Gravity site at Puriton, the provision

of new jobs and rail and motorway links; Quarries in Mendip looking to extend, and rail links; working towards commencement of the new Council, planning is to stay local with officers based in Mendip, the Parish Council will be able to refer to the Chair of planning to refer an application to Committee.

Questions were asked and answered on the following topics: the working from home policy, including that committees must be in person, national issues and losing optimisation of workforce, difficulty of recruitment and large numbers of vacancies, the refurbished Council office as an employment centre; availability of car charging points including 86 new points, planning policy, lack of superfast chargers, commercial charging units, difficulty connecting to the grid, that the Strawberry Line route is useful for active travel and electric bikes.

**10. Footpath Walkers Report** Chairman of the Footpath Committee, Cllr McGovarin, gave a report. Matters discussed included: the refurbishment of Brangay Lane path including that a 6ft length of the the drain has been replaced and a manhole cover has been installed; Baggs Lane surface has been reported to the County footpaths officer; other paths are all right; some overgrowth on Wet Lane to Bay Lane path. This will be reported to the County footpaths officer. Cllr McGovarin is to investigate the path onto the hill from the narrows in Draycott. The Clerk is to chase up the movement of the barriers from Cross Farm Road.

The meeting closed at 20.20 p.m.