

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2025

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish, held in the New Memorial Hall, Latches Lane, Draycott on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7.10p.m.

Present: 6 Parish Councillors, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee, Martyn Warne, Somerset Councillor Wyke and the Parish Clerk. 4 members of the public were present.

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

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 21st March 2024, 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 of the Parish Council gave a report including the following matters: thanks to Steve Young who sadly stepped down from the Memorial Hall Committee and the Playing Field Committee after many years of dedicated service to the community. The Parish Council is to write to thank Steve; projects such as a new noticeboard, first aid courses, bin by the bus stop in Rodney Stoke, bat boxes, wildflowers in The Pound, the replacement oak tree, reinstating wooden fingerposts, painting fences, benches, gates and the Rodney Stoke bus stop; ongoing works including flooding on Bay Lane; planning applications and the potential development of the land to the rear of the Memorial Hall, members of the Parish Council present at the meeting indicated that they did not wish to attend a private meeting with the developer; thanks to Miles Whittle for his work for the Playing Fields Committee and the handover to the Parish Council; welcoming Axbridge Football Club; thanks to Somerset Cllrs Shearer and Wyke for their support; welcoming new Councillor Niall Wilkinson and recognising members who have stepped down; thanks to all the Councillors; it was also noted that the accounts are in sound order.

A new fingerpost will be ordered for the path adjacent to the Rodney Stoke Inn.

4. Police Report PCSO Jason Wyatt sent apologies and a report including: the beat team; recruitment for more PCSOs resulting in 16 new PCSOs, speed checks in local villages and a visible presence, a seized vehicle on the outskirts of Rodney Stoke. A copy of the report will be kept in the Minute book. It was agreed to write to thank the police and to ask if speed checks were being carried out on the A371 in the Parish.

5. Village Agent Report None was received.

6. New Memorial Hall Committee Report the Chairman introduced himself and gave a report including the following matters: the Committee and the need for new members; the finances including setting up the cinema, utility bills and cleaning; increasing need for work to the hall; grant funding and events to raise money; the success of the cinema group; the hall master booking system and heating system working well; hallmark accreditation; installation of solar panels; planned projects; quarterly meetings with hall users. A copy is held in the Minute book.

8. Somerset Cllr Report: Cllr Wyke gave a report including the following matters: finances and lobbying on government funding; Council Tax and permission to increase by 2.5%; @70% of monies allocated to adult and children's social care; access to services, and a better future for Cheddar recycling centre; increased timetable to 6 days, with a better service, for the 126 bus between Wells and Weston; Hinkley power station increasing the workforce; the Gravity site; Bridgwater and Taunton College, outstanding Ofsted inspection, degree awarding powers, merging with Strode college; the Strawberry Line and working with Kings Academy to improve hedging and fencing; the new Major Road Network scheme on the A38; upcoming South West Water consultation on the second Cheddar reservoir; sitting on more planning committees to support residents.

9. Footpath Walkers Report Chairman of the Footpath Committee, Cllr McGovarin, gave a report. Matters discussed included: need for a new post by the Rodney Stoke Inn and the need for a kissing gate at the other end of the path; that all paths are passable; the standard height for stiles.

The meeting closed at 7.52 p.m.