

**The Civil Parish of Stoke Park & Cheswick**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Boston Tea Party**

**Present:** - Cllr Anthony Hyde, Cllr Bethan Candlin, Cllr Kolawole Olure, Beat Officer PC Sam Norster  
10 members of the Parish Community. Graham Smith (Clerk to the Parish Council).

**Apologies:** - Non given

**1. Welcome by the Parish Chairman**

Cllr Anthony Hyde introduced himself as Chair and welcomed all to the first annual meeting of the Parish. Agendas had been distributed and welcomed all those participating and residents. These will be followed by a question / answer session.

**2. Community Reports.**

**2.1. Simms Hill Community Woodland Group**

Report given by Nicola Rivett.

Ms Rivett informed those present of the activities of the Simms Hill Community Woodland Group and explained that the wood is situated on land belonging to South Glos Council. It was planted two decades ago predominantly of 75% Ash in rows and now that the trees have matured give an extensive cover. However, the rise of Ash Die back had caused many a severe problem resulting in felling and thinning at huge expense.

Much of the work has been funded by South Glos Council s106 monies.

**2.2. Splatts Abbey Wood Group**

Report given by Jenny James

Ms James informed those present that this ancient woodland is situated on land owned by the MOD and explained to those present of the activities of the group.

**2.3. UWE Students Greenspace Group**

Report given by Stefan Bigsby

Mr Bigsby explained in detail the activities of the group to those present. The volunteer students assist with the upkeep and maintenance of the local woodland and help provide items for the wood such as birdboxes.

**3 Ward Council Representative**

Cllr Ayrden Pocock (SGC) was invited but not present and no apology given.

**4 Police Beat Team**

Report given by PCSO Sam Norster

Informed those present of current policing issues within the Parish which covered; anti-social behaviour, quad bikes & motorcycles on the pavements, vehicles without insurance and delivery bikes driving in incorrect areas without due care and attention.

“Walk and Talk” and “Street safe” initiatives were introduced and explained.

One resident asked a question relating to Neighbourhood Watch schemes and the potential of expanding the existing scheme was discussed.

#### **5. Parish Finance Report**

(Clerk) presented report for Cllr Anil Mishra who was unavailable.

It was explained that the first council internal audit would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> May and that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return would be published on the website. Income was broken down with an explanation of what CIL was and the reason for a £40K payment from Stoke Gifford Parish Council.

The reasoning behind the increase in precept was explained and that a Parish Plan would follow over the course of the year as soon as a strategy for community use had been agreed with Wallscourt Farm Academy.

It was explained how spending was to be broken down as far as possible under CIL and any remainder of precept would be placed as reserves with the view to establishing a community hub, and to introduce sport facilities subject to agreements being reached.

#### **6. Open Forum – Questions & Discussion**

The floor was handed to residents' for questions and feedback

Question was raised to woodland groups asking how to become involved.

Question was raised regarding the installation of public benches.

Question was raised relating to public consultation for initiatives raised in meeting.

Question was raised relating to stall holders at community markets.

Question was raised relating to Parish Plan and informing community of how precept was to be spent.

Time was spent to answer all questions raised.

#### **7. End of Business**

Chair closed the meeting thanked those who presented and attended and to Boston Tea Party for hosting the event.

**The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.**