

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs S Henley

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Stowe Nine Churches held at the Old School Rooms, Church Stowe on **Monday 30th May 2022** at 8pm.

Present: Parish Cllrs Henley, Lane, Brodie, Callear, Newitt and Overton
Cllr D Smith (WNC) Cllr J Gilford (WNC) and two residents

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Unitary Councillor Rupert Frost

2. Unitary Councillor's report – Cllr David Smith

Councillor Smith reported that establishing the new Council, with the exception of planning, had gone better than expected over the past year – there had been no urban bias as had been feared. There was confidence in the officers and, where issues were recognised they were being addressed.

The resettlement scheme in operation was being held up as an exemplar and the Ukrainian families arriving in Northamptonshire wanted to work.

Planning issues had already been raised with the Portfolio holder, Cllr Rebecca Breese, and the new Interim head of Planning, Colin Walker had come from an authority where two councils had been combined to form a Unitary Authority, so he was well aware of the issues being experienced at WNC.

3. Parish Council report – Chairman Cllr Sharon Henley

The Chairman of the Parish Council reported as follows:

There has been nothing remarkable about the business conducted by the Parish Council in the last 12 months and we continue to be beset with issues associated with planning. There have been further contentious planning applications and a continued lack of movement on long standing planning issues highlighted to both West Northants Council and our local councillors but to no avail. The Parish Council is seriously considering not dealing with planning matters going forward as there seems to be little point in voicing concerns which are ignored.

Planning issues have caused dissent amongst the village population as a whole and amongst councillors leading to the resignation of a well-respected and long serving member of the council. The council currently has two vacancies.

On a positive note, the council arranged for free Defib training for any interested parishioner which was very well received and the clerk very generously paid for a new bench to replace the dilapidated one on the road out of Church Stowe. The Parish Council has generously supported the Platinum Jubilee celebrations with the purchase of a tree for the Queen's Canopy and the Jubilee Beacon.

The Council has taken over production and distribution of the village newsletter which continues to be a main source of information for residents.

I would like to thank, in particular, Linda our clerk who works efficiently at keeping the Council in line with policy requirements and the other members of the council for their support.

4. Open Forum for Residents

There were no questions from residents

Signed

22nd May 2023