Annual Report of Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council by Cllr Mike Stephens, Chairman, 2025-26

As Chair of the Parish Council, I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Parish Councils activities over the past year. It has been a period of continued community involvement, practical improvements, and thoughtful transition within the Council itself.

Executive Summary

I have been a Parish councillor now for 2 years with the last year as the Chairman, during this period we are witnessing much change to the Worcestershire Local Authorities administrative structure due to local Government reorganisation and devolution. As a parish council we can not ignore this impending change and must ensure we are able to move forward and carry out the best we can do for our Parishoner's within our local community.

The Parish Council

We are fortunate to have councillors who have extensive knowledge of our parish and community needs. Along with this experience we have been able to welcome 4 new members to our teams, Concillors Best, Lloyd, Gwilt and Gregory who will I am sure add value to our already committed team. We have managed to forge stronger relationships with the local Police team, in particular PC Lee Durran who now attends our quarterly meetings. With the impending change to local government and "One Worcestershire" we have attempted to understand how this change will effect our dealings with local authority and get closer to Justin Bowen a cabinet member and representative of the Tenbury division, our aim is to strengthen our relationship. Councillors now have specific roles such as police liaison, roads and potholes etc.. and report on these activities at our meetings.

It's fair to say not a lot goes on within our Parish, however we encourage Parishoner's to make contact with councillors and discuss their concerns, we need this dialogue to ensure we can maintain and improve the needs of our community. A reminder of our website where information of our council activities, councillors and minutes of our meetings and future meeting dates, 'https://www.stokeblissgroupparishcouncil.org.uk'

Acknowledgements
As a council we are very grateful that our Clerk Carole Hirst continues to act as our Clerk and guide us through the statutory requirements to ensure that the council runs both efficiently and within best practice. Carole certainly keeps me in check.

We have an exceptionally good "lengthsman" Chris Bunn who tidies up things around our parish with great efficiency and with minimum fuss, thank you Chris.

I would also like to say a thank you to Councillor Yarnold who has been on the council for many a year, who was up until May 2025 the chair and he continues to be part of our team, many thanks Andrew your experience and knowledge is irreplaceable.

Councillor Warren left the council due to his relocating, I would like to thank Warren for his commitment during his time with the council.

Finally thank you to all the councillors, we are all volunteers, but who's dedication is appreciated within the community.

End of report

Mike Stephens

Chair of the Parish Council