

STANSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

21st May 2018

PRESENT: Parish councillors Sarah Hopkins (Chairman), Robert Dennis, Ed Cardozo, John Underdown and Andrew Foster

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), County Councillor Mary Evans, Derek Adams and Dolly Whilems (Stansfield Village Hall) and three members of the public. Borough Councillor Peter Stevens arrived at 8.30pm.

APOLOGIES: Parish councillor Martin Slater

The meeting was chaired by Sarah Hopkins from the Parish Council

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. Report from Councillor Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- She thanked the parish council for the invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting
- She was re-elected as councillor last year
- She has been appointed as chair of the scrutiny committee Highways
- Highways and the problems experienced over the winter.
 - The procedures for topping up grit piles is going to be reviewed this summer. They are going to move away from grit piles and parish councils will need to provide grit bins. She will find out when this change will take place.
 - Potholes will be filled but this will take time. Central Government gave some extra money and SCC is investing 21 million pounds. Highways has purchased a new machine which should improve the quality of repairs. If there is a particularly bad stretch Highways will come out and repair a whole stretch of road rather than just isolated potholes.
- The County Council is looking at ways to be more commercial to bring in more income.
- Education is improving in Suffolk. 80% of schools are now good or outstanding
- Children's Services received a 'good' in the latest inspection. There are over 800 children in care in Suffolk.
- Suffolk County Council has appointed a new chief executive, Nichola Beech.

3. Village Hall Report by Derek Adams

- The village hall remains well used by the bridge club, the cricket club and Knit and Natter.
- A weekly Tai Chi classes is being held but attendance is variable
- The bi-monthly film nights are popular as are the bi-monthly 'Talks nights'.
- They have held a number of events including a village fete, a plant sale, a quiz night and a Christmas shopping event.
- The hall is hired out for a range of events including parties.
- They are creating a safe route from the car park to the play area.
- They have secured the grant funding for the refurbishing of the play equipment.
- They are setting up a village Mail Chimp system.

The Parish Council asked if it would be possible to put a bench on the playing field to commemorate the centenary of WW1 and some information about the Fallen from Stansfield inside the village hall. They agreed to put it to the Village Hall Committee at their next meeting.

4. Report from Borough Councillor Peter Stevens

Peter Stephens spoke about the following:

- The Rural Initiative's Grant for the play equipment in Stanfield which he supported
- The amalgamation of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council. Elections will take place in May 2019. There will be a reduction in the number of councillors and changes to ward boundaries.
- The West Suffolk Operational Hub.
- The Borough Council would like to take over civil parking enforcement from the Police. This is taking longer than anticipated.
- The number of people subscribing to the brown bin collection is within expectations. They are encouraging subscribers to pay by Direct Debit.
- He sits on the Development Control Committee. The Borough Council will be bringing forward a new Local Plan which will set out how towns and rural villages will develop.
- The Borough Council did not increase its share of the Council Tax.
- He agreed to give some of his locality budget towards the cost of a memorial bench

5. Chairman’s Report

Sarah Hopkins presented her report. There have been two changes in the make-up of the Parish Council. John Underdown and Andrew Foster were co-opted on following the resignations of Trevor Lang and Sarah Douglas Pennant. She thanked Sarah and Trevor for all their hard work over the years.

The Parish Council has worked hard to support the village.

- Work on the footpath leaflet has continued.
- Research on Broadband and mobile network coverage in the village continued with a meeting arranged with James Cartlidge MP. The main parts of the village now have cabinets installed but they have not yet been enabled.
- Fit Villages set up some subsidised some Tai Chi classes in the village hall.
- Some verges and corners got a second cut in the early summer in addition to the cut carried out by the County Council, which improved visibility and therefore safety
- The post box was repainted.
- The Parish Council has arranged for a second cut of the verges.
- Painting and renovating the telephone box in the High Street and converting it into a book exchange and information point. She thanked the residents who were involved in this project.
- Ensuring that the dog bins (including the new all-purpose bin at the village hall) are emptied on a timely basis
- The Parish Council has applied for a grant for a defibrillator, which will be installed on an external wall at the Village Hall; there will be training on how to use it for as many as would like to receive it
- Following changes in GDPR, the Village Hall committee has decided to set up a village email list via MailChimp, which will provide the required security, for those that agree to be included
- The Parish Council continues to support village organisations with a donation to the Village Hall towards running costs.
- Potholes have been particularly bad this winter, but have been reported and there has been some success in getting them repaired along the top road. Grit piles have been checked after the hard winter.

She thanked Mary Evans and Peter Stevens for their continued support and the fact that they are very pro-active in offering helped. She thanked Fay Gridley for producing the village newsletter which is very impressive and Tony Hook who has taken over the roll.

The Parish Council is elected to represent the members of the community, so it is important that Stansfield residents make their concerns felt to their elected representatives. There are 6 Parish Council meetings each year, not counting planning meetings, and anyone is welcome to attend and have their say at the beginning of each meeting. Advertisements are always placed on the village notice board, giving at least 3 days’ notice in advance of each meeting or you can look on the village website and click on the Parish Council link.

She thanked her co-councillors and Joanne Kirk, our Parish Clerk, for helping to make the Parish Council a real benefit to the community of Stansfield.

4. Financial Report 2017/18

The parish clerk presented the Council’s financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website at www.stansfield.onesuffolk.net

5. Village issues

Will the village be carrying out a litter pick this year? The parish council agreed to check when the verges are going to be cut by Suffolk County Council and then set a date after that.

Would it be possible to put some information in the newsletter about the roll out of Broadband in Stansfield? The Parish Council agreed to include something in the next newsletter.

6. Any other issues or concerns which residents would like to bring to the attention of the Council

No other issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

Dated.....