

**STANSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 2021**

**PRESENT:** Parish councillors Sarah Hopkins (Chairman), Robert Dennis, Fay Gridley and Julie Ghirardani

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (clerk via Zoom), District Councillor Sarah Pugh and five members of the public.

**The meeting was chaired by Sarah Hopkins from the Parish Council.**

**APOLOGIES:** County Councillor Bobby Bennett sent her apologies.

1. **Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2019 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman
2. **Village Hall Report by Derek Adams** The full report is available on Stansfield Parish Council's website [Click here for Stansfield Parish Council website](#)
3. **Chairman's Report by Sarah Hopkins** The full report is available on Stansfield Parish Council's website as detailed above.
4. **Financial Report 2020/21** The full report is available on Stansfield Parish Council website at as detailed above.
5. **Any other issues** or concerns which residents would like to bring to the attention of the council. The following issues were raised:
  - a. **The wildlife project in the chapel burial ground.** A resident was concerned that children might disrespect the burial ground. He was reassured that it is checked on a regular basis by nearby residents and that this was unlikely to happen. He offered to undertake historical research regarding the incumbents of the burial ground.
  - b. **West Suffolk new Local Plan**
    - i. Questions were raised about submissions to the comments section of the Issues and Options stage of the draft new local plan. (All residents had the opportunity to submit their own comments; this was widely advertised in the village and several residents took advantage of this facility. The Parish Council submitted their comments as discussed in the meeting held on 16th November 2020) A question was also raised as to whether the PC would be holding a meeting to discuss these comments. It was explained that the PC submitted their comments at the Issues and Options stage and will hold a further meeting when asked as a statutory consultee to respond to the next stage.
    - ii. A call was made for public debate on the Masterplan Vision put forward in the new local plan process to WSC by H E Dennis and Son for circa 9 new houses on the field backing onto the High Street and Upper Street. The resident said this would amount to a massive change in Stansfield, probably the biggest change in 50 years, but this Vision proposal had not been discussed by SPC, or with residents. Residents had not had an opportunity to listen to, or participate in, any debate on it.
    - iii. One resident called for Shelaa sites WS166, 164, 162 and 163 to be erased from the lists held by West Suffolk Council. This was because a consultant, writing in the Masterplan Vision (mentioned above) had described several reasons for sites 166 and 164 being unsuitable for development and had not mentioned sites 162 and 163.

It was explained by Councillors Gridley and Hopkins that as the "Masterplan" had not been presented to the West Suffolk council as a planning application, it was not referred to the PC for consultation or discussion.

- c. Description **of the village** The village had been described as in decline to West Suffolk Council and in the Parish Pump magazine. Residents asked what would/could the PC and others do to dispel this slur on the village.
- d. **Minutes** A resident said that accurate and informative minutes are important as some residents rely on them to keep abreast of village and PC affairs. Also, they are a source of information for those who cannot or do not attend the meetings.

**The meeting closed at**

**Signed** .....

**Dated** .....