

STANSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

15th May 2017

PRESENT: Parish councillors Sarah Hopkins (Chairman), Sarah Douglas Pennant, Robert Dennis, Ed Cardozo, Robert Dennis and Trevor Lang

Also present: County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillor Peter Stevens and one member of the public

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

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 16th May 2016 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

One crime was reported in Stansfield in 2016/17 crimes:

- A burglary of a dwelling. A property in the parish was broken into whilst the occupants were away. Entry was made via the forcing of wooden frames at the rear of the premises and high value jewellery was taken.

Other matters reported were:

- A complaint against a known party of malicious communications.
- The village hall was broken into, damage was caused but nothing was taken.
- A car window was smashed and a chain saw which was on show was stolen.
- An incident of disorder occurred between road users in the Thurston Lane area of the village. One person was walking 3 horses and the second was driving at the time. All parties have been spoken to and suitable advice issued all round, no formal action was sought from this investigation.
- A front number plate was claimed to have been stolen from a car in the High Street.
- Five separate sheds, barns or garages were broken into and cycles, power tools, strimmers and the like stolen.
- The nearside casing to a car's wing mirror was removed and stolen.

The clerk was asked to contact the Police to find out why all the other matters reported were not listed as crimes when they actually were and that a valuable clock was stolen from Stansfield Village Hall. The clerk was also asked to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner about the way the figures have been reported in police crime reports.

3. Report from Councillor Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- **New LED street lights in Stansfield**

New LED street lights have been fitted in Stansfield which are a big improvement.

Mary Evans was asked to contact the Lighting Team to ask them to adjust the brightness of one of the street lights on Plough Hill.

- **Request for a reflector sign in Water Lane**

She has put in a request for a sign.

- **Education**

Suffolk is now ranked in the top half of all authorities for progress at GCSE level, at 55th out of 151. This is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119th for English progress and 108th for maths. Nearly 90% of the county's schools are rated by OFSTED as good or outstanding and our aim is for all our schools to be at this high level. At higher level education, the University of Suffolk has now been granted full university status

- **Suffolk County Council's bid for a fairer funding formula for education from central government**

In the past money was taken from rural counties to put into inner city schools. A child in Suffolk attracts £4,000 of funding whereas a child in Hackney attracts £6,000 of funding. Early years education is also underfunded. From September, the Government is offering free childcare for three and four year olds, but education providers are not going to be paid enough for each child to meet their own costs.

- **Highways**

Although it may not always seem like it, progress has been made. The head of highways is reforming the service, which is taking too long but is now near completion. The aim is to have a true county wide universal highways service. At the moment, there are odd inconsistencies and disparities between the approach in West Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal, Ipswich and Mid-Suffolk. There are now specialist teams to deal with various highways issues like drainage and lighting.

- **Devolution**

Although proposals for a single unitary authority between Norfolk and Suffolk have been rejected, Mary Evans believes it is worth discussing further as it could be more effective and more efficient.

4. Report from Borough Councillor Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens spoke about the following:

- The merger of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council by 2019 subject to approval of both councils.
- Brown bins. The take-up is well up to expectations. The garden waste goes to Red Lodge for composting.
- The decision has been made to locate the Waste Transfer Station at Hollow Road. A planning application should be submitted in early July.
- The Bury Masterplan is in progress. One of the proposals is to build an additional multi-storey car park in Bury St Edmunds.
- Locality funding. He is always willing to help provide locality funding

5. Village Hall Report by the Chairman, Trevor Lang

- The village hall remains well used, particularly by the bridge club and is now making a profit.
- There are some grants in the pipeline which has allowed some external repairs to be carried out along with repairs to the play equipment.
- There will be additional fundraising to allow for the refurbishment of the playing field.
- Regular working parties have taken place.
- The VHMC would like to thank the Parish Council for their annual donation which is much needed.

6. Chairman's Report

Sarah Hopkins presented her report.

- One change in the make-up of the Parish Council. Martin Slater was co-opted on following the resignation of Jane Ballard. The Chairman thanked Jane Ballard for all her work over the years, which is greatly appreciated.
- The Parish Council has worked hard to support the village, starting with a village survey.
- Work has started on producing a footpath leaflet.
- Martin Slater has carried out some research on Broadband delivery in Stansfield.
- She thanked Sarah Douglas Pennant for planting daffodil bulbs.
- The Parish Council has arranged for a second cut of the verges.
- The village litter pick was very successful and well supported.
- The Parish Council continues to support village organisations. They purchased a waste bin for the playing field
- A speed check was carried out last June which showed that the problem of speeding was more a perception than a reality. Traffic numbers are very low compared to other villages.
- She thanked Mary Evans and Peter Stevens for their continued support and the fact that they are very pro-active in offering help.
- She thanked Fay Gridley for producing the village newsletter which is very impressive.
- The Parish Council's role is to represent the community.
- She thanked her co-councillors and the clerk for all her hard work.

Ed Cardozo thanked Sarah Hopkins for taking on the role of Chairman.

Mary Evans spoke about Clare's 'Walkers Welcome' campaign.

7. Financial Report 2016/17

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

8. Village issues

a) Update on the village review

A lot of actions have been carried out following the review.

b) Broadband in Stansfield

This item is ongoing.

c) Footpath leaflet for Stansfield

This item is ongoing.

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

Would it be possible to purchase bin stickers for the village? Sarah Hopkins agreed to look into the possible cost.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm

Signed

Dated.....