

# STANSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

16th May 2016

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

**Also present:** County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillor Peter Stevens and four members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Safer Neighbourhood Team.

**The meeting was chaired by Sarah Douglas Pennant from the Parish Council**

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

### 2. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

Seven crimes were reported in Stansfield in 2015/16 an increase from 3 in 2014/15. The crimes were as follows:

- 2 burglaries of dwellings
- 1 burglary of other building
- 2 incidents of thefts
- 1 incidents of criminal damage
- 1 offence involving a malicious communication

Following the Local Policing Review St Edmundsbury Rural South SNT has merged with Haverhill Town SNT. The team consists of 5 regular police officers and 3 PCSO's. PCSO's will no longer be working past 6pm. Police attendance at parish councils meeting will no longer be routine. The Police will, however, come to meetings if there is a police issue which needs addressing.

### 3. Report from Councillor Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Speeding traffic is an ongoing problem everywhere. The new smaller speed cam van has started to be deployed and can follow up in areas where speeding has been flagged up as a problem. There is also a new traffic unit in Bury which will come out if there is evidence of persistent reckless speeding.
- Highways and education in Suffolk did not fare well last year, but things are slowly improving.
- Children Services got a rating of good from OFSTED
- Highways – the system for setting up contracts has been streamlined to make it more efficient. Suffolk County Council is hoping to reduce the number of emergency repairs which can cost up to £90 per square metre whereas planned repairs cost significantly less. Three times more surface dressing will be carried out this year compared to last year to help reduce the number of emergency repairs.
- Community Transport organisations are going to be working more closely together. The aim is for the service to start earlier and finish later so that people can use it to get to work or college.
- Devolution - it would have advantages and disadvantages for Suffolk. No decisions have been made yet but concern has been raised that having an elected mayor will increase bureaucracy.
- The result of the fire service consultation has been announced. As a result of feedback from members of public some of the proposals have been revised.

Sarah Douglas Pennant thanked Mary Evans for all the work she does for the village.

### 4. Report from Borough Councillor Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens spoke about the following:

- Charging for brown bins. The take up in Stansfield is 43%. Great Barton has the highest take up with 61%.
- There are restrictions to the type of garden waste which can be taken. BSE and Foot and Mouth regulations mean that the brown bins can only be filled with garden waste and nothing from within the kitchen.
- A waste transfer station will need to be built to manage waste. The results of the second consultation will be published in June.
- Devolution. Agreement has not been reached yet between the different local authorities involved (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire).
- Parking. Bury is now one of the top ten market towns in the country. One of the major priorities is to build one, if not two multi storey car parks.
- The link road between Moreton Hall and the Rookery crossroads is due to be built soon and will relieve pressure on Bury St Edmunds.
- He would like to see vibrant rural communities and would support a neighbourhood plan in Stansfield
- A new secondary school is being built in Bury St Edmunds. It was due to open in September but this has been delayed until January 2017.

- He has some locality funding available.

The Chairman thanked Peter Stevens for his regular attendance

## 5. Village Hall Report

- A number of committee members have left. There is a core of people who attend meetings but some of the committee members who have left continue to help organise events.
- Unfortunately, the fete will not go ahead this year. An autumn event is planned instead.
- Money has been spent on refurbishments.
- Work has started on hedge clearing.
- Everyone on the committee works full time so they all struggle to find the time to complete projects.
- There are a lot of regular events throughout the year.
- There is still work to do on the village hall. Sufficient funds have been built up to match grant applications.
- Trevor Lang thanked the Parish Council for their donation.

Sarah Douglas Pennant thanked Trevor Lang and the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

## 6. Chairman's Report

Sarah Douglas Pennant presented her report.

- Five councillors stood for election in May 2015. One more councillor was co-opted to bring the Council up to strength. The new team works well together and she would like to thank all the councillors for their positive input and support.
- A grant of £300 was received from Peter Stevens to repaint the phone box. Ideas are now needed for possible uses.
- She thanked the clerk for her support, Jane Ballard as vice chairman and Borough Councillor Peter Stevens and County Councillor Mary Evans.
- In a recent Community Governance Review organised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Stansfield Parish Council requested that it have seven parish councillors in line with villages of a similar size. They also requested a change to the parish boundary to include the properties at the western end of Assington Green.

## 7. Financial Report 2015/16

The parish clerk presented the Council's financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website at [www.stansfield.onesuffolk.net](http://www.stansfield.onesuffolk.net)

## 8. Village issues

### a) Should Stansfield Parish Council produce a Neighbourhood Plan so that it can have more influence over future housing growth in the village

Mary Evans spoke about Hargrave Parish Council, which is working on a Neighbourhood Plan as they would like to see more development in the village to make it more sustainable. It is a time consuming and costly undertaking and evidence would be needed that there is a need for more housing.

Peter Stevens explained that it is possible to link with neighbouring villages to produce a plan.

The possibility of producing a village questionnaire was discussed with questions about what sort of housing growth residents would support. It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda of the next parish council meeting and that the clerk would e-mail a sample questionnaire to councillors.

### Possible uses of the phone box

The following suggestions were made:

- An information point
- An art gallery
- Purchasing a defibrillator and keeping it in the phone box
- An indoor garden

### b) Should Stansfield Parish Council produce a footpath map and leaflet?

The consensus was that this was a good idea. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and that an advert would be put in the village newsletter asking for people to send in details of their favourite walks around Stansfield.

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

Trevor Lang thanks Sarah Douglas Pennant for being chairperson through a difficult year.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

Signed .....

Dated.....