

# **Draft: Minutes of Stansfield Annual Parish Meeting**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 in Stansfield Village Hall**

**Present:** Seven electors of the Parish, plus Ezra, aged 8.

The meeting was chaired by Rex Barnes, Chairman of SPC.

Meeting notes were taken by Cllr Pat Barnes.

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Pallett, Martin Howe, Cllr. Sarah Pugh (WSC), Cllr. Bobby Bennett (SCC).
2. **The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2024** were unanimously voted as an accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.
3. Reports submitted by Cllr Sarah Pugh (WSC) and Cllr Bobby Bennett (SCC) to Stansfield Parish Council will also be attached to the minutes of this meeting.
4. **Chairman of the Parish Council's Report** of activities for the year:

These were verbally summarised to those present and will also be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

**Rex said that steady progress was made during the past year on the Parish Council's main responsibility to focus work on ideas and concerns voiced by residents.**

Three successful informal events had been held to add to the opportunities for residents to engage with the PC afforded by the four formal parish council meetings held, and a Policy for Community Engagement was in process of being drafted with the help of residents.

**Costs** to residents were being kept to a minimum for all the work of the PC.

Volunteers, including the Good Neighbour Scheme, were thanked for their time and help freely given on village projects.

**Special thanks** were given to Andrew and Jan Pallett for keeping the village defibrillator maintained during the year, and volunteers were being sought to continue this duty. Village Hall Committee and Derek and Dolly Adams were thanked for putting on an array of interesting films and events during the year. Cllr Sarah Pugh (WSC) and Cllr Bobby Bennett (SCC) were thanked for their support during the year.

5. The annual financial report from the Parish Council. This was said to be in a healthy state and could be found on the Parish Council website.
6. **Updates** were given about the work of various working parties: the Old Chapel Graveyard, the website upgrade, community engagement. Also by the Good Neighbour Scheme which had handled 50 requests for help during the past year, and the Village Hall (report attached to these minutes).

7. **Speeding** and intimidating driving through the village and the surrounding lanes. Concerns about dangers to pedestrians and wildlife this were raised, particularly about courier vans, and even the school bus, along various lanes including speeding vehicles on Thurston Lane late at night.

It was reported that the posters produced at the Village Coffee morning in April would be put up around the village to remind drivers to slow down. And that 50 signatures had been collected for the petition to Parliament asking for greater powers for parishes to deal with speeding in villages, being led by our MP Nick Timothy.

The meeting voted unanimously to request the Parish Council to ask for a 20mph limit to be imposed on roads through Stansfield.

8. **Assets of Community Value.**

In addition to the list currently being compiled by the Parish Council, suggestions were made to include the Village Sign and the old postbox on Plough Hill.

9. **Any other Issues:**

i) **Footpaths:** two issues were raised: SCC was to be requested to expedite repairs to the damaged bridge along the footpath from Thurston Lane towards Hawkedon.

The mess left by tree felling on Footpath 2 near the bridge in the village was to be investigated by Cllr Slater with the landowner, Denston Estates, and SCC Highways.

ii) **Loose Dogs in Assington Green.**, and noise from barking. This matter was said to be in the hands of the Police after an alleged attack by two large dogs, and the consequent reluctance by some residents to walk their dogs in the vicinity now.

iii) **Shooting after dark near houses.** Cllr Slater to investigate with Denston Estates.

*The meeting was closed at 7.57pm.*

*PMB 24.5.2025*