

MINUTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 8 February 2018 at Stanton Community Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Website – <http://Stanton.suffolk.cloud>

Present: K McDonald (Chairman), B Brown, J Mann, B Smithson, S Willcox, J Miller, L Morris, J Frizzell, M Scowcroft.

Also Present: County Cllr J Spicer, Borough Cllr J Thorndyke.

- 1. Apologies for absence accepted:** F J Hart, N Chapman
- 2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 January 2018** were approved by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Frizzell.
- 3. Public Forum:** A resident attended and addressed County Councillor Spicer in relation to the pot holes in Bury Lane both at the bottom of the road where it meets The Street and where it meets Fordhams Close. These had been repaired in the last 12 months but were of such poor quality that they were now breaking up again. The larger holes were dangerous specially to motor cycles. The resident has contacted Suffolk County Council on several occasions and sent photos but there has been no response.
BCllr Thorndyke said that he had also reported the problem and been told that they would be repaired by the end of February.
Cllr Brown said that there were some dangerous pot holes on Wyken Road and Cllr Smithson agreed saying that a family member had recently lost a tyre there.
CCllr Spicer apologised on behalf of SCC. They have been inundated with requests from the whole County and are having to prioritise the roads according to the level of use. Unfortunately, as Bury Lane was not a high traffic area in the same way as the graded A, B and C roads, it would be lower on the priorities. CCllr Spicer said that communication from SCC is improving. She will follow up where we are with the reported pot holes and report back.

The same resident also asked about the hedgerow on Old Bury Road which needs cutting before the end of February. He has had contact with a local farmer who has offered his services.
CCllr Spicer said that she was already in consultation with a local company with a hedge cutter and will ensure that the work is done before the nesting season starts.

A resident attended to ask about the plans for Tripp Batt and the impact it would have on him as the owner of a nearby property. The closure of the shop has resulted in cars are being parked on the frontage of Tripp Batt causing an obstruction to his driveway. He was also concerned about the dismantling of sheds with asbestos on the property and the effect it would have.

The Chairman advised him that the plans were very much at an early stage and once full planning permission is submitted then the resident should be able to see exactly what is planned and could then come back to Council with his concerns.

Meanwhile the Clerk will write to Tripp Batt to ask them to erect Heras fencing to deter parked cars and protect the resident's driveway.

4. Report from:

S C Cllr J Spicer gave an update on **The Grundle Project** – this is due to be started in March/April.

The **Caretakers bungalow** at the School is still for sale and there had been no progress on the planning application for the **Bury Lane school** as there are still some issues with the access.

The **School transport consultation** finishes on 28 February and she doesn't anticipate any proposals for 2 to 3 months after that date. Any changes will take effect from September 2019;

however, parents will need to know what is proposed before they consider applying for school places which need to be done this year for the next academic year.

The County Council budget meeting has agreed on an increase of 4.99% to Council tax. This will be made up of 2.99% on basic council tax and 2% for the council's social care budget. The rise is in line with the increase most other counties are making. For Band D homes, the yardstick that councils set their figures by, the rise will be between £76 and £81.

Cllr Mann reported that the white lines have finally been painted at **Wyken Road**, however the priority has been changed without any changes to the road signage. CCllr Spicer asked that the Clerk contact Highways urgently to get this rectified.

B Cllr J Thorndyke – Borough Councillors have agreed a budget which protects services, aims to grow the economy and continues the authority's investment in local communities. Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council have proposed freezing any Council Tax rise, however residents in the Forest Heath Area will see an increase.

As well as helping local tax payers, it also supports transition in the creation of the new West Suffolk Council in 2019. This will be voted on the next meeting on 20 February 2018 and it expected to be voted through.

There has been an increase in the budget amount allocated to maintain closed churchyards as they have now taken responsibility for both All Saints and St Johns in the village.

Cllr Miller asked BCllr Thorndyke about the rules around 'Change of Use' for planning purposes and why the Parish Council weren't consulted when such plans were submitted. There has been several recently in the Village.

BCllr Thorndyke said that Planning permission is not needed when the existing and the proposed uses fall within the same 'use class', or if The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 says that a change of use is permitted to another specified 'use class'.

Agricultural buildings under 450m² are permitted to change to C3 use (dwelling houses), together with some building operations necessary to facilitate the conversion. This is subject to meeting certain criteria, including no more than 3 dwellings within an agricultural unit, hence there is no need to seek 'planning permission'.

- 5. Clerk's Report:** There were no queries with the Clerks report outlining work carried out in the previous month. The Clerk reported that there will be two burials in the Cemetery this month, that of Mr John Roper and Mrs Christine Wallace.

At this point Cllr Mann asked for a **minute's silence in memory of John Roper** who was a former Parish Councillor. This was observed.

6. Statutory Business/Governance

- a. None

- 7. Declarations of Interest:** Chairman declared an interest in the Accounts as an expense claim.

8. Matters for discussion:

- a. **The Annual Litter Pick** Cllr Smithson proposed Saturday 24 March between 10am and 12 noon. She will arrange the equipment and an entry for the March steamer. Clerk to promote on web site, Facebook and Next Door and posters on notice board.

- b. **The Annual Parish Meeting and Community Recognition Awards** was agreed provisionally to take place on Thursday 24 May 2018. Clerk to promote through the Steamer and other Social media sites and in the Stanton Steamer.

- c. Police Volunteer Pilot scheme.** The Chairman updated Councillors on the scheme after Cllr Brown, Cllr Hart and he had attended a meeting at Force Headquarters at Martlesham Heath. The Police Support Volunteer Scheme aims to integrate volunteers from a variety of backgrounds with various skills and abilities in order to enhance, compliment and support the work of all officers and police staff.
Up to 4 Volunteers would be provided with hi visibility tabards and encouraged to report any issues directly to the Police. The Council supported the scheme and encouraged residents to volunteer. Further details can be obtained from the Police directly who will be administering the scheme. The Clerk also has contact details. No applicants had come forward to date. Clerk to continue to promote via posters, web site and social media.
- d.** The Chairman has received several reports from residents concerned at the overhang of **the laurel hedge** at Church House in The Street. It was agreed that the Clerk will write and ask the owners to cut it back.
- e. Cemetery burial charges** Cllr Frizzell produced a comparison of burial charges from a number of other Cemeteries in the County which shows that charges for Stanton Parish Council Cemetery are quite low, especially when compared to the Borough Council Cemeteries. It is understood that the Diocese charges are also significantly higher.
It is of concern that if the cost is too low then the Cemetery would be filled rather quickly as requests come in from other towns and parishes. In addition, there is no guidance in the rules to indicate whether future burials should have a Stanton connection.
Referred back to the Cemetery working party to consider whether there should be any amendment to the rules in respect of residents and any increased charges for non-residents and to be brought back to the full Council once proposals have been decided.
- f. Defibrillator project** As a result of a comment made by a Village resident (See Correspondence 11d) it was agreed that Cllr Willcox will seek the views of other Village organisations and especially the WI and Stan Coco who have donated towards the second defibrillator as to where they consider it should be sited.
It was debated that the access to the Village Hall needs to be available at all times if the defibrillator is to be positioned on the wall and therefore the gates would need to remain open to allow access to residents using motorised scooters or wheelchairs if required.
Cllr Scowcroft agreed that the Village Hall would be a good place as statistically due to functions and events it was the most likely place to be used.
Cllr Willcox said that there was the subject of the electrical feed required to the unit. The clock tower electricity was currently the responsibility of the Parish Council and so would not be an issue. It would also provide a unit on the other side of the village. She will collate the response of the other organisations and report back for a final decision.
- g. Young person's activities** Cllr Willcox reported a good turnout for the toddler group with 18 families attending. The next meeting was due to take place over the half term week when older children would be welcomed. Cllr Willcox would like to explore the possibility of a holiday club for the future.
- h. Works to recreation ground footpaths** The footpaths on the recreation ground are in need of renovation. A resident has already fallen on a raised kerb resulting in injury and a subsequent Insurance Claim. The paths are also breaking up in places and the access and drainage needs to be widened where the path meets the village Hall as currently the path is insufficiently wide enough for wheelchairs or motorised scooters to manoeuvre.
Two quotes have been submitted by GKW Groundworks and KEO Contractors Limited. The Clerk referred to Financial Regulations 2017 (11h) in respect of Contracts between £3,000 and £25,000 as the necessary 3 quotes had not been received. It was therefore a Council decision as to whether another quote should be sought.
After discussion it was agreed that the work was urgent and could be decided on the two quotes received. The contract was awarded to GKW for a total of £4,400 + VAT, (and including any additional work identified during the process up to a total of £5,500 + VAT). This was proposed by Cllr Scowcroft, seconded by Cllr Frizzell and was carried. Work to be carried out as soon as possible. Clerk to advise Contractors.

- i. **Memorial for the late Peter Long** The application was approved. Clerk to deal.
- j. **Replacement flagpole.** Cllr Smithson circulated a report compiled by the village flag supervisor, Jim Gill, outlining the proposals for a replacement aluminium pole which will require less maintenance in the long run. The Chairman thanked Jim Gill for his excellent work in researching the subject.
It was agreed that Cllr Smithson will form a working party with Mr Gill to arrange for the site to be surveyed by a professional installer due to the proximity of overhead cables and obtain quotes for consideration in due course.

9. Correspondence from County and Borough Councils

- a. **Play Area Inspection Reports** – January – Noted. The weeds to be dealt with in the Spring when the tennis courts and MUGA are cleaned
- b. The Play Area Inspector has responded that the **Skate Park rail** which has been installed by an unknown person has sharpened edges and could be a hazard. It was therefore agreed that the rail will be removed to the container in case anyone wished to claim it. Chairman and Cllr Morris will deal.
- c. West Suffolk Council has written with a ‘Confirmation of Maintenance Responsibility’ for the closed Churchyards of All Saints and St Johns with effect from 26 January 2018.

10. Financial

- a. The list of payments and receipts as below were approved by Cllr Mann and seconded by Cllr Brown
- b. The 10-month budget was discussed and is currently on track with a possible small underspend which will be offset by the footpath works required on the Recreation Ground.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR	EXP. POWER
Anglian Water	4.00		4.00	Water charges pumping station	LGA 1972 S111
WAVE (Anglian Water)	19.03		19.03	Cemetery water Quarter 3	LGA 1972 S111
Extra Energy	24.62	1.17	23.45	Electricity Pump house	LGA 1972 S111
Extra Energy	61.23	2.92	58.31	Electricity - Floodlights	Open spaces Act 1906, ss 10
Mark Wright Electrical	232.56	38.76	193.80	Repairs to Multi Court Electric box	Open spaces Act 1906, ss 10
Vertas Group	2249.39	374.90	1874.49	Grass Cutting Contract Q3	Open spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10
WHSmith	22.38	3.73	18.65	Book of Condolence	LGA 1972 S111
Mr K McDonald	36.45		36.45	Chairmans Expenses	LGA 1972 S111
Staff Salaries	875.45		875.45	Street Cleaner and Clerk	LGA 1972 S112
Talk Talk	36.00	6.00	30.00	Monthly internet and phone charges	LGA 1972 S111
Stanton Village Hall	212.50		212.50	Room Charges Apr17-Mar18	LGA 1972 S111
RECEIPTS					
Lloyds Bank	2.55			Interest	
Village Hall	151.97			Water refund	
Hanchetts	80.00			Memorial Fees	
HMRC	33.66			VAT repayment	

a. New Applications received

DC/18/0115/LB | Application for Listed Building Consent - Renovations of existing coach house including retention of - (i) Two storey rear extension with dormer window (removal of conservatory) (ii) Front porch (iii) Insertion of 2no. conservation roof windows to front elevation | 2 Rose And Crown Court Stanton IP31 2BZ

RESPONSE – There are no objections

DC/18/0114/FUL | Planning Application - Part retention of - (i) Two storey rear extension with dormer window (ii) Entrance Porch (iii) Insertion of 2no. conservation roof windows to front elevation | 2 Rose And Crown Court Stanton IP31 2BZ

RESPONSE – There are no objections

b. Previous applications decided

Reference	Address	PCC decision	St Eds decision	Decision date
DC17-2517-VAR	Rose and Crown site	Support	Approved	23/01/18
DC17-2518-LB	Rose and Crown site	Support	Approved	22/01/18

c. Other Planning issues

Planning Appeal - AP/18/0003/REF

DC/17/1323/FUL | Planning Application - 2no. dwellings | 32 Charity William Way Stanton

RESPONSE – No further comments to make

Planning Appeal – AP/18/0005/REF

DC/17/0716/OUT | Outline Planning Application 1no. dwelling and garage | Land Opposite Pond Farm Uphorpe Road Stanton

RESPONSE – No further comments to make

11. Correspondence and items for noting:

- a. **Neighbourhood Watch – Request for Donation.** After discussion it was felt that the request of a £50 donation could not be justified at this time.
- b. **Event Notice from St Nicholas Hospice** ‘Carolling all the Way 2018’ will be considered by Cllr Brown who is co-ordinating plans for Christmas celebrations in the Village this year.
- c. **Donation acknowledgement letters** – Magpas, Royal British Legion and CAB - noted
- d. **VHMC (Mr A Shelton) re Defibrillator siting** – dealt with at item 8f and noted that Mr Shelton was not corresponding on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee but as a private individual.
Clerk to notify Mr Shelton.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

Minutes agreed as correctK McDonald (Chairman)