

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 20 APRIL 2023 at
7.00pm
Held at Stanton Community Village Hall.**

Present: There were 18 people present, these included District and Parish Councilors, Invited representatives from village organisations and members of the public.

Parish Council Chairman Mr. Francis Hart chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Reverend Cathy Bladen and Stanton Folk (report sent)
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 5 May 2022 were accepted as correct.

The following reports were read:

3. **Report of Parish Council Chairman: - Francis Hart**
4. **Report of County Councillor – Joanna Spicer (arrived later)**
5. **Report of District Councillor - Jim Thorndyke (arrived later) report read by Clerk.**
6. **Reports from Village Organisations**
 - a. WI – Maureen Johnson
 - b. Friendship Club – Alan Johnson
 - c. Village SID Watch – Peter Palmer
 - d. Stanton Steamer – Peter Palmer
 - e. Blackbourne Local History Society- Peter Palmer
 - f. Stan Coco and Stanton Village Trust – Ian Engall
 - g. Stanton Folk – Colin Bedford (Chair read report)
 - h. Village Community Centre – Cllr Barry McDonald Treasurer of Village Hall

County Cllr Joanna Spicer report

Some achievements in the year include:

A143 speed reduction

Grundle work to commence

Zebra crossing in the Village

Village Green in progress on the former Stanton School site

Path at George Hill cleared

Tribute paid to Chair and Former Clerk Joy

Thanked Parish Council and District Councillor

Chair thanked Joanna for help and friendship over the years.

7. **Presentation of the Community Recognition Awards 2022 by the Chair**

Citations/Nominations for Community Recognition Awards 2022

1. **Maureen and Alan Johnson - In recognition of service and dedication to Stanton Village**

2. **Peter Palmer - - In recognition of service and dedication to Stanton Village**

3. **The Staff at Stanton Store - In recognition of the loyal, friendly and helpful service to their customers**

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their reports and their hard work in the Village during the year.

Public left the meeting

Agenda item discussed – Coronation Mugs

3 companies approached for quotes

Cllr Spicer offered to donate £500

Cost of quote £2572 plus VAT

All agreed to purchase mugs from Special Projects Budget

Action : Clerk to contact Cllr Spicer, Stan Co Co and Stanton Steamer to request donation.

Chair advised Council that Clerk has resigned due to other work and family commitments. Clerk has agreed to work 4 weeks notice instead of the 1 week required with last working day being 18 May 2023.

Minutes signed as correctJim Thorndyke (Chair) Dated

Appendix A

Chairman’s report

Chairmans Report Councillors Over the last year we have sadly lost a long standing Councillor Barbara Smithson who resigned due to health reasons. Barbara has been a huge part of Stanton Parish Council for many years and was instrumental in organising such events at the Annual litter pick, the Fireworks event and the garden competition amongst others projects too numerous to mention over the years. I would like to thank her most sincerely for her work in the village over the years and she will be sorely missed. Cllr David Cleland Smith left the Council in June 2022 due to moving out of the area and Cllr Karen Davies also left the Council in January and I would also like to thank her for her work on the Jubilee event in 2022. The Council welcomed new Cllrs Charlie Harvey Evers and Barry McDonald, both of which area already actively contributing to village life. Cemetery The

Cemetery is maintained by West Suffolk District Council who have now completed their first year of a 2 year contract with no complaints being received and we hope it remains that way. Peter Palmer has been busy liaising with the Bomber Memorial Group and you may have seen a small memorial currently covered up just inside the gates. After further ground works which the Parish Council has agreed to fund the Memorial will be unveiled on 20 May and I would encourage you to attend that ceremony, details of which will be forthcoming in due course. This has been a significant amount of work by Peter and I would like to thank him most sincerely for what he has achieved. The Grundle Despite our best efforts we have been unable to resolve the issue of repairs to the woody dams in the Grundle so the responsibility for this remains with Suffolk County Council. The Council remains grateful to Jamie and Lee Maddox for being vigilant in clearing the back up during heavy rain. Staff Our long standing street cleaner Kenny Brown hung up his broom for the final time in December 2022 and was presented with a small lawn mower as a retirement present. We have been lucky enough to find an excellent replacement in Tina Mardell. The Council has received lots of positive comments about her work! Also our Clerk of 7 years (and my long suffering wife) Joy Hart stood down at the end of December. She was presented with an engraved vase in recognition of her contribution to the village both as a resident and as a Clerk. We have been fortunate to find a new Clerk in Amanda Wray who is a local resident. Amanda has not done this type of work before so it is a steep learning curve for her as the role of Clerk is varied and demanding but she is already settling well in to the role and I know she will become an important asset to the council in the future. Village Maintenance A new notice board has been installed opposite the Bakery to replace a very tired looking board. Recreation Ground A 25 year lease has been granted to Stanton FC for the football pitch located on the Recreation Ground and approval has been given for the club to erect a small food cabin in the area of the pitch. Allotments Cllr Brian Brown has regular liaison and meetings with the allotment holders. At the current time there are no vacancies. Recent damage to allotment holders property have been reported to police and further crime deterrent measures are being considered. Mill View After a lot of work by residents and Cllr Brian Brown, the Mill View development was finally adopted by Suffolk County Council in July 2022. Queens Platinum Jubilee A very successful event was held on June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and I would like to thank Karen Davies and Cllr Lorraine Frost for their hard work in putting on this event. Bonfire and Firework Event Due to ill health Cllr Smithson had to withdraw from organising the event in 2022. Our Clerk at the time Joy Hart stepped in to lead with lots of support from residents and the event was a success. Lessons have been learned in respect of holdups at the pedestrian entrance and Cllr Charlie Harvey Evers has agreed to hold the baton for this year's event. Please do consider offering your support nearer the time as this is a good event for the village Christmas Tree Event I would like to thank Cllr Brown for a successful tree lighting event in December 2022 despite the weather doing its best to put a dampener on the evening. Once again the tree looked magnificent , there was a large turnout to see Father Christmas and the lights being switched on and was a credit to his hard work in making it happen. Highways Issues After a large amount of work by Cllr John Frizzell and Cllr Phil Smith, the village finally got its 30mph limit. A few teething problems with the signage were quickly remedied and the project is ongoing with Cllr Harvey Evers now investigating the best position for the installation of up to 3 Speed Indicator devices which will be powered by solar panels. Cllr Alan Kemp was successful in obtaining Quiet Lanes status for 5 areas of the village. The signage has been received and he will be putting that up in the near future. After a visit by the MP Matt Hancock to George Hill organised by County Cllr Joanna Spicer, . The County Council finally agreed to carry out remedial works on the pavement which has made a big difference to pedestrians. However this will continue to grow out and it would be good to get a regular working party in place to ensure that the area is regularly swept and cut back. New Homes and Planning It is good to see that the Tripp Batt site is finally being developed and we look forward to its completion. The old school site is again on the market for development and the Parish Council will be taking over responsibility for the old playing field once the terms of lease are agreed. It would be good to see this site developed as it has become somewhat of an eyesore. The Bloor development planned for the Bury Road has not yet been determined. In November the Parish Council voted in favour of the development but in a special motion tabled in January, that decision was overturned. A public meeting was held in February and residents invited to feed back their comments to West Suffolk Planning officers. The application remains very much alive and the Parish Council will be watching its

progress. Another plan to develop Shepherds Grove and including an A143 relief road is yet to be determined. The Parish Council voted against the plans for the site to be developed for car dismantling by Copart due to the significant increase in HGV traffic that this would cause. Accounts At the Budget Meeting in October 2022 Council agreed on a budget of £71,010 (Last year £77,710) which is a reduction of 3.7% on the previous year. The following was also agreed - £8000 contribution from reserves towards Precept to acknowledge effect of rising cost of living and keep the Precept increase to a minimum. £35,000 to be ring fenced in reserves for an upgrade project of the Recreation ground facilities including the skate park, tennis court and MUGA . A working party will be set up to move this project forward. The end of year accounts are still being finalised and will be published on the website and available for public view. Future Action Plan The Council produces an Annual Action Plan which is published on the website and regularly reviewed. The public is welcome to make suggestions for future projects by contacting any of the current or future Parish Councillors. Conclusion We are now in an election year and as you may know by now, due to a job offer in the Falkland Islands, I have decided to stand down as a Councillor and as your Chairman. You will be pleased to know that we have three new Councillors - – Jim Thorndyke, Dee ??? and Vic Dorling taking the place of myself and Alan Kemp who has stood down. They will take up office in May. One vacancy remains for whom there can be a co-option. I am grateful for all the support I have received from the Council and the public over the last 4 years as Chair and I hope that under the new Council the village will continue to thrive. I would like to thank all our staff and all members of the Parish Council for your work over the last 12 months and wish you all the very best for the future.

District Councillor Jim Thorndyke read by Clerk.

A much more settled year, many people who can are still working from home and smaller meetings are still on TEAMS. A visit to West Suffolk House will still often find a lack of people able to answer questions or talk around plans, an example is the new West Suffolk Development Plan which has been consuming much time since last May and still has many unanswered questions. More on this later. The new public service village at Mildenhall, is now fully operational with the Mildenhall College Academy relocated from Bury Road to Sheldrick Way other services include new leisure centre with two pools, a gym, 3G outdoor pitch, fitness studios and a sports hall, alongside a new town library, health centre, children's centre, a job centre and space for the NHS, police, Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council and a cafe. Western way hub Bury This project seeks to create a new public sector hub with new sports and leisure facilities including new car park, a new multi-purpose building to serve as a public hub for the growing needs of the West Suffolk for a variety of public and private services and a new leisure centre which would occupy the extension and the western end of the existing NHS building, and would be accessible from both Western Way and Olding Road. Once the new leisure centre has been provided, the existing leisure centre will be removed and the site used for additional car parking. A new pavilion is also proposed to serve the needs of users of the running track, which is otherwise unaffected by this proposal. The skatepark will be retained in its existing location, but reconfigured and enlarged as an integral part of the development. The new Abbeygate sixth form college has already been built and is operating from part of the site. Bury Post Office The bulk of this building was demolished and rebuilt with two retail units at ground floor and 12 flats built above and a widened by more than 50 per cent Market Thoroughfare but great care was taken to protect and keep the historic frontage at 17-18 Cornhill looking almost like the former Post Office. Now completed there is a new commercial frontage onto St Andrews Street South facing the Arc. Sadly again the progress made on these projects is not reflected in some village developments, the Tripp Batt Co-op site had permission granted for around two years before they eventually managed to get the pedestrian crossing and access agreed with highways and at last progress is now being made on the Co-op store and housing behind. The Primary School site in Bury lane has had full planning permission to convert the Victorian building into three units since December 2020 and the remaining development area approved in outline for seven dwellings also in December 2020 so as it stands permission will expire at the end of this year. It is understood that complications with construction of the new approved access are putting off potential developers. We have a planning application which could see the road across the airfield

to the A143 being built thus relieving Stanton village of much of the industrial estate HGV traffic but there is currently much speculation about the firm involved and the impact on local roads that this potential development could bring. Bloor homes development seems to have virtually stopped and it could be they are waiting for the new West Suffolk local plan to move forward and agree their site for development. Part of this application is a developer contributions package which includes opening up the currently mothballed classrooms and increasing school numbers from 210 to 315 children. What this increase will do to the present situation with traffic on Upthorpe Road remains to be seen but Blackbourne when a middle school had many children arrive on school busses. I mentioned the new West Suffolk Plan earlier, this plan which will shape development in West Suffolk until 2040 and which should have been agreed to move forward on March 21st this year sadly it did not get to that council meeting, the aim had been to present the plan to council with a couple of items missing, notably the needs of the gypsy and traveller people survey being completed at a later time but the planning inspectorate advised against this as it could mean the whole plan could be pushed back not just for the odd couple of topics so the plan is now effectively on hold until towards the end of the year and means Bloor's application is unlikely to progress until then. When the local plan comes back it will need carefully perusal of the sections that affect Stanton and the A143 corridor towards Bury with 1,400 homes already approved on appeal to be built off the A143 between Great Barton and the railway