



Stanton Parish Council

Annual Report 2022

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Contacting the Council

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Staff

Mrs Joy Hart – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

(Part time)

Mr Kenneth Brown - Street Cleaner

(Part time)

Mr Charlie Smith - Litter picker

(Part time)

Councillors

Name	Address	Email address	Phone
Francis Hart - Chair	Sucrerie, Old Bury Road	fjah79@hotmail.com	01359 251668
Phil Smith – Vice Chair	Address in the Parish of Stanton	Philsmith64cfc@hotmail.co.uk	07940 225331
Barbara Smithson	Address in the Parish of Stanton		01359 250306
Martin Scowcroft	Address in the Parish of Stanton	ms.stanton@btinternet.com	01359 250600
John Frizzell	Address in the Parish of Stanton	john.frizzell@hotmail.com	01359 250177
Brian Brown	Address in the Parish of Stanton	browno46@hotmail.co.uk	
Alan Kemp	Amber Lodge, Duke Street	alan@alankempelectrical.co.uk	01359 250216
Karen Davies	Address in the Parish of Stanton	Kdz343@icloud.com	
Lorraine Frost	Address in the Parish of Stanton	Lfrost63@outlook.com	
Barry McDonald	Address in the Parish of Stanton	kiltyft@gmail.com	
Charlie Harvey-Evers	Address in the Parish of Stanton	che@che.co.uk	07866 223322

District Councillor

Jim Thorndyke, 23 Fordhams Close, Stanton Suffolk IP31 2EE jim.thorndyke@westsuffolk.gov.uk.
Tel 01359 250271

County Councillor

Joanna Spicer, Home Farm, Pakenham, Suffolk IP31 2LW Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk Tel 01359 230800

Introduction

Stanton Parish Council is an elected body (a corporate body) and a legal entity in its own right, of qualified residents of the Parish granted powers by parliament (Local Government Act 1972 Part 1 Section 2) to represent the interests and opinions of the communities they serve and to speak on their behalf with authority and integrity.

It has the power to raise money through an annual precept which is then collected by the principal Council through the Council Tax.

It must act within the law and can only spend, raise or use money if it has a statutory power to do so.

There are few duties but a wide range of powers. The Council must hold at least 3 meetings a year and an Annual Parish Meeting in May and there is another duty to provide allotment gardens if the demand is unsatisfied. In addition, the Council has a wide range of powers which it may use to provide such things as a public clock or a bus shelter.

In February 2020, the Clerk asked Council to pass a resolution that it was eligible to use the General Power of Competence as it met the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Clerk.

The criteria are that at least two thirds of the members of the Council must hold office as a result of being declared elected – at that time the Council had 8 elected Councillors - and that the Clerk must hold the Certificate in local Council Administration (CiLCA) and should have received training in the exercise of this power. The Clerk qualified in November 2017.

After discussion the Council resolved that it was eligible to use the General Power of Competence which gives the Council “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do” as long as they do not break other laws.

Stanton has 11 Councillors. All Councillors carry out their duties voluntarily but can be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

Councillors do much more than just attend meetings where projects are discussed and progressed and policies, procedures and practices are constantly reviewed – their work involves taking part in parish activities; dealing with varying resident issues and representing Stanton Parish Council on outside bodies.

Electors over the age of 18 years may become local Councillors as long as they are a British Citizen or a Citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union.

They must reside in the Parish or within 3 miles of it or have had their principal place of work or have occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises within the Parish. They are either elected at the four yearly elections or can be co-opted after a casual vacancy occurs.

Councillors represent the views and concerns of residents. They must attend meetings when summoned by the Clerk. They must take part in meetings and consider all the relevant facts on matters which require a decision and should report back.

Individual Councillors do not have powers to make decisions. They are required to comply with a code of conduct, in line with the Nolan Principles [8] which includes the completion of a 'register of interests'.

At a meeting of the Council a member must declare a 'disclosable interest' and must not participate in any vote on the matter declared.

A Councillor cannot be appointed to a paid office whilst a Councillor or for 12 months after he ceases to be one.

Stanton Parish Council continually works towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level.

Through an extensive range of discretionary powers, we provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services including allotments, the Cemetery, bus shelters, play equipment, open spaces, benches and litter bins.

The Clerk is employed by the Parish Council as an independent and objective servant to carry out its administration and take action on its decisions. The Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer.

The Clerk prepares policies and procedures and gathers information to help the Council make decisions. They have no inherent powers to make decisions unless it is allowed for in Standing Orders.

The Clerk is known as the 'Proper Officer' meaning the person appointed by the Council to do its work. The role is crucial to the continuity and efficiency of the Council. They are not elected and hold a statutory role to give guidance to Councillors and the Chair on decisions made by the Council even if the guidance is unpopular and includes advice and guidance on Governance, ethical and procedural matters.

The Clerk is not answerable to any individual Councillor and must remain objective. Currently the Parish Council does not have an office and Council services are administered from the Clerk's home address.

Appointments to see the Clerk can be made by contacting her directly.

Councillor Areas of Responsibility

(Reviewed 6 May 2021)

Planning	Planning Applications. Planning Information. Rural Development and Parish Plans	ALL
Highways	Roads and Footways. Hedges and Trees. Street lighting. Street cleaning/litter. Grundle and Road signs.	Phil Smith Francis Hart Alan Kemp Brian Brown
Projects and development	Project Management, Village Hall Liaison. Sports Club liaison. Christmas Tree event and Transport issues.	Phil Smith Martin Scowcroft Brian Brown Charlie Harvey-Evers
Conservation and Community	Youth Provision/Development. Community development. Street planting. Village tubs. Byways/ conservation. Grass Cutting Contract. Garden Competition.	Brian Brown Karen Davies Barbara Smithson Lorraine Frost
Environmental	Litter/Dog Bins. Cemetery. Trees. Allotments and Speedwatch	John Frizzell Francis Hart Brian Brown
Recreation Ground Facilities	Play Facilities, Open spaces, Sports Area, Conditions of hire	Phil Smith Francis Hart Lorraine Frost Karen Davies
Assets Management	Planned/Reactive Maintenance, 5 year plans, Lease agreements, safer neighbourhood	Phil Smith Alan Kemp Martin Scowcroft
Finance/Budgets	Pay Roll. Risk assessments. Insurance. Financial Regulations/Governance. Firework event	Martin Scowcroft Barbara Smithson Barry McDonald
Personnel	Vacancies/Interviews. Discipline/Grievance. Annual appraisals. HR matters. Job descriptions and contracts.	Barbara Smithson John Frizzell Charlie Harvey-Evers

RAF Honington Liaison - Phil Smith

Stan Coco Trust - Francis Hart

Speedwatch - John Frizzell

Village Hall Liaison – Phil Smith

Report of Council Activity 2021-22

Covid

Covid continues to affect our daily lives but the Council is now back to face to face meetings and it is business as usual.

The Village groups and friendships formed during the pandemic continue to flourish in these difficult times and it is good to see many villagers prepared to put themselves out to help others.

It is hoped that the Community spirit evident during this pandemic will remain with us for years to come.

Councillors

Cllr Lorraine Frost was co-opted to the Council in June 2021 to replace Cllr June Miller.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances Cllr Alan Shelton resigned in December 2021.

New Councillors – Barry McDonald and Charlie Harvey-Evers have recently been co-opted to fill these vacancies.

Cemetery

The contract for grass cutting and maintenance of the areas of the Parish Council Cemetery in Bardwell Road was awarded to West Suffolk Council in February 2022 for a period of 2 years. They also maintain the old churchyard at All Saints and St Johns Cemeteries.



A Memorial bench has been installed at the Cemetery by the Royal British Legion, together with an Oak tree sapling and plaque. The cost of the bench was donated by Mr Lee Maddox and Mr Kevin Bird.

Charges were increased in 2020 but still remain much lower than the West Suffolk cemetery charges. The charges are used towards the maintenance of the Cemetery and includes hedge cutting, weed killing on the gravel driveway, bulb planting, grass cutting and the provision of water for the use of visitors laying flowers.

Flooding in the Village

The structures in The Grundle are still the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.

We continue to be vigilant in reporting blocked drains and would encourage the public to do likewise. We are grateful to the Maddox family for their efforts in clearing debris during heavy rain to avoid flooding problems in The Street.

Street Cleaning

We are very lucky to be able to afford the services of a street Cleaner, Kenny Brown who turns out in all weathers to keep our village looking nice. We also have a weekend Litter Picker - Charlie who does a great job on Saturday and Sunday mornings.



In April, another well organised litter pick was carried out in the Village. It was great to see so many new faces turning out on the day. Thank you to Cllr Barbara Smithson for organising the same.

Village Maintenance

This year has seen additional expenditure on the Clock tower which has received necessary maintenance work and painting.

A new dog waste bin has been installed at Old Bury Road.

Daffodil bulbs were purchased and the Council is grateful to Cllr Barbara Smithson and family for planting them on the verge at Hepworth Road j/w the A143.

Allotments

A full review was undertaken of the allotments and Cllr Brian Brown met with allotment holders to consult about a new set of rules and regulations and the increase of the allotment rent to £15 per annum from 1 January 2022, in line with other similar charges elsewhere.

The allotment holders have also joined the National Allotments Society which will provide support and advice, discounted allotment insurance and retail offers.

The allotments are currently fully occupied with one person on the waiting list as at the end of April.

Gardening Competition

The Parish Council runs an Annual competition to judge the best in six categories –

Small garden, large garden, container /basket, best group of houses together, best non-residential garden and best allotment.

In 2021 the winners were as follows –

Best Small Garden - 8 Michaelhouse Way (Mr Martin and Ms Start)

Best Large Garden - Orchard House, Dale Road (Mr and Mrs Gibson)

Best container/baskets - 48 Michaelhouse Way (Mr Palmer)

Best Group of houses together - **(John Mann Award)** - 102-106 Hepworth Road (Mr and Mrs Fish (104) Mr and Mrs Hartley (106) Mr Williamson and Ms Munford (105) Mr and Mrs Mellis (103), 102 occupants not known

Best Non-Resident Garden – Upthorpe Lodges

Best Allotment - **(Peter Sorrell Cup)**- Allotment number 13 (Mr and Mrs J Reed)

The winners were presented with a trophy to hold for 12 months and a certificate at the Village Fun Day held in August 2021 (and organised by Lee Maddox).

In 2022 the prizes will be awarded at the Village Show in July as has happened in previous years.

Village Tubs

The tubs have again been planted up with plants supplied by Hillcrest nurseries and we will shortly be replacing the pansies with another colourful display.



Recreation Ground

We are lucky to have very good play area facilities on the Recreation Ground which continues to be very popular with local children and subject of many compliments.

A Play Area Inspector carries out monthly checks to ensure that all the equipment is safe to use. Cllr Phil Smith is also qualified in play area inspections.

The tennis court and MUGA have been cleaned regularly and the Village is lucky to be able to offer free tennis courts to anyone wishing to play. The play area also has two free table tennis tables.

The teen shelter and picnic table have been repainted, and repairs carried out on the play area equipment including a replacement inclusive swing which was purchased at a cost of £545.

Works to clear a large dead tree at a cost of £1,875 took place in October after which the Council agreed a new boundary line for a resident.

Stanton Football Club has been granted a 25-year lease for the area known as the 'top pitch' which will allow them to apply for improvement loans.

The public toilets have been repainted and refurbished but there are still concerns about the misuse of the facility which had to be closed for some weeks after a door was damaged. Ultimately the facility may have to be withdrawn if the misuse continues.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Local resident Angela Burrows represented the Village during the Suffolk torch relay and here she is – greeted by local children on her arrival in the Village centre.



Cllr Lorraine Frost and Cllr Kaz Davies worked hard to put on a family event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. They were ably assisted by Cllrs Barbara Smithson, Francis Hart and Brian Brown and also local residents and the Council are grateful for that help.

The event took place on Saturday 4 June with a BBQ, music and children entertainment from 12 noon on the recreation ground.

Commemorative mugs have been purchased for all the children at Stanton Primary School and the cost of this has been kindly donated by District Councillor Jim Thorndyke, the Steamer and the Stan Co co trust



Bonfire & Firework Night

Thanks to Cllr Barbara Smithson and her team of volunteers, the Firework event in November 2021 was a great success.

A decision was made to cancel the bonfire which made the event easier to steward.

It is hoped that the 2022 event will go ahead although there is a need to identify new volunteers to help with the arrangements.

Highways Issues

The Clerk is kept busy reporting signage and pot hole problems and we do encourage the public to do the same directly to the County Council.

Councillors met with the County Cllr Joanna Spicer and school staff to discuss speeding and parking issues at the site of the Primary School in Upthorpe Road. This is an ongoing problem and parents were urged to consider walking to school instead of driving to ease the problems.

Council has been working with County Councillor Spicer this year to make the A143 safer and a proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph finally came to fruition in March 2022. Our thanks go to Cllr John Frizzell and Cllr Phil Smith for their work on this project.



Cllr Alan Kemp has been working with Suffolk County Council on a project to designate 5 roads in Stanton as 'Quiet Lanes'. These are Duke Street North, Wyken Road (from the A143 to the Junction with Wyken Rd), Glassfield Road and Bury Lane. If successful, signs will be installed at the locations alerting drivers to the presence of pedestrians, cyclist and horse riders. This is ongoing.

The state of the pavement at George Hill is of some concern and Cllr John Frizzell has regularly raised the issue of the safety of pedestrians with County Cllr Spicer. The Highways team has agreed to revisit the area to see what can be done.

The Council is grateful to County Councillor Joanna Spicer for her relentless work to resolve Highways issues.

Christmas Tree Event

Despite the efforts of Covid restrictions to keep us all away from each other this year, Cllr Brian Brown once again managed to arrange a fabulous illuminated Christmas Tree in the Village centre.

The usual carols, mulled wine and mince pies were on offer and the event well received by the village residents. Our thanks go to all who supported the event with mince pies and refreshments.



New homes and Planning

Councillors, along with County Councillor Joanna Spicer and District Cllr Jim Thorndyke are keeping a watchful eye on the proposed developments at Shepherds Grove and at Bury Road (Bloor Homes).

Responses to planning applications are posted on the minutes and publicly available.

The Parish Council has met with the proposed developer of the Jaynic site at Shepherds Grove and has pressed for a full public consultation once the plans are finalised. Of specific interest will be a proposal from the developer to construct a link road to the Industrial estate from the A143 to take Heavy Good Vehicles away from the village. Should their application be successful then the Council will aim to pursue HGV restrictions in the centre of the Village and Upthorpe Road areas.

The old Primary School site at Bury Lane has now been sold and the offer from the County Council to adopt the old school playing field as a 'Village Green' is still an ongoing project.

Liaison with residents

The Facebook page is extremely useful for keeping contact with local residents and the Clerk regularly updates any issues that we become aware of that will help keep residents safe. In addition, the website is being maintained by the Clerk which contains all out current policies and procedures and minutes of each meeting.

The Clerk also utilises a Social media site called 'Next Door' which is another way of contacting our residents and is accessed through email for those who don't have a Facebook account.

Accounts

At the budget meeting in October 2021 Council agreed on a budget of £77,710 (Last year £76,320) which is an increase in Council Tax of £5.22 (7.11%) resulting in a Parish Band D Council Tax of £78.64. In order to keep the rises to a minimum Council offset the budget with £4000 of reserves.

The end of year accounts has been finalised and show an overspend of £11161. This was due to legal costs incurred. The accounts are published on the website and available for public view.

In the Future

The Council has updated its Action plan for the coming year. This is published on the website and will include plans to renovate or replace the bus shelter at Old Bury Road and the adoption of a new Village Green on the old school playing field at Bury Lane.

Should the Bloor Homes proposal be successful the Council would like to consider a larger project for a pavilion and changing rooms on the recreation ground.

Smaller projects include an additional speed indicator device on the A143, and a defibrillator for the Village Hall.

Annual Community Recognition Awards

The Council presents Community Recognition Awards at the Annual Parish Meeting every year.

The event in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to Coronavirus.

In May 2022 the Council awarded Community Recognition to one individual and 2 business's –

To **Mr Lee Maddox** in recognition of his efforts on fund raising, his support of the Community including individuals and businesses and his continued dedication and loyalty to the village of Stanton.

To the **team of Ashmore nursing home** in recognition of their efforts in supporting residents, their families and friends, **especially** throughout the Covid Pandemic and their dedication and loyalty to their employment at Ashmore.

To the **team at Stanton Post Office** In recognition of the efforts of all of the Stanton Post Office staff in supporting the residents of the community of Stanton especially throughout the Covid Pandemic, going above and beyond in their daily work.



These awards are given to individuals, businesses or organisations to recognise their work or achievements in the community of Stanton, or in some other way their contribution to the life of the Parish.

The award is in the form of a framed certificate which is presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Nomination forms are encouraged from members of the Parish in January each year with a closing date in April.

In providing the opportunity for residents to nominate our unsung heroes, we hope these awards will help to raise the profile of some of the excellent work being done by the people of Stanton.

Residents are encouraged to use them to thank those that have made a positive contribution in their life and the lives of others!

Further information on the Awards scheme can be obtained from the Clerk.

Schedule of Meetings

Council meets on the second Thursday of each month –

Dates in 2022-23

Thursday April 14th 2022

Thursday May 12th 2022 – Annual Meeting

Thursday May 5th 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday June 9th 2022

Thursday July 14th 2022

Thursday August 11th 2022

Thursday September 8th 2022

Thursday October 13th 2022

Thursday November 3rd 2022

Thursday December 8th 2022

Thursday January 12th 2023

Thursday February 9th 2023

Thursday March 9th 2023

Planning Committee meets as and when necessary. All planning applications are considered at full Council meetings.

Extraordinary General meetings may be called to discuss urgent issues.

The Annual budget meeting will be held in October/November 2022

About Stanton, West Suffolk

Detailed statistical reports and information on the West Suffolk Ward of Stanton can be found at

https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Data_and_information/upload/37-Stanton-ward-report-V3.pdf

Name: Stanton, West Suffolk

Place type: Village

Location: Grid Ref: TL 9666 7334 • X/Y co-ords: 596669, 273348 • Lat/Long: 52.323,0.88438059

District: [West Suffolk](#)

County/Unitary Authority: [Suffolk](#)

Region: [Eastern](#)

Country: [England](#)

Height: 35.5m

OS Explorer map: [230: Diss & Harleston](#)



MAP OF THE PARISH OF STANTON 1