



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

6 Homefield
Capel St Mary
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP9 2XE

☎ 07469 255743

E-mail: parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk

Website: www.stratfordstmary.onesuffolk.net/

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING **MONDAY 24th of April 2023 at 7.30pm** **Draft Minutes**

PRESENT:

Cllr W Davies - Chairman
Cllr R Barrell
Cllr B Such
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr L Shead
Cllr N Woodard
Cllr P Alexander
Cllr G Francis
County Cllr G Hall
District Cllr J Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

F Hall - Clerk

20 Members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence: Apologies received from Charlie Warburton and Mrs Bilner.

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2022.

The Chairman went through some of the comments from the minutes of the last APM and all agreed to accept these as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Cllr Bill Davies – Chairman’s Report, Stratford St Mary Parish Council: The Chairman gave an overview of the past year’s activities as detailed below-

Faye Hall replaced Jenny O’Hanlon as Parish Clerk and was welcomed by the Chairman.

There are continuing issues with regards to Pylons, there is another meeting being held on Saturday 29th of April at Langham Community Centre between 1400hrs and 1600hrs.

Issues with Copart at Gunhill have been raised – HGV vehicles are using Upper Street and Lower Street instead of the A12. The Parish Council have written to Copart to ask if they could instruct staff and visitors to use the A12 route and they confirmed back that they were happy to do this, however there are still ongoing issues and the Parish Council are monitoring and will write to Copart again.

The 22 streetlights that the Parish Council own have been replaced with LED lights at a cost of approx £7,600 which will eventually save on energy costs in the long term. There are also plans to repaint the lamp posts.

The Black Horse Pub is still closed and the Swan Pub is still being renovated – no further updates on this.

The River Garden is leased by the Parish Council and has open access to the public so villagers are encouraged to use this.

Double yellow lines actioned a year or 2 ago but there are still some amendments to take place which we are waiting for an update on and we are chasing Highways to find out what is going to happen on Upper Street.

Queens Jubilee celebrations went very well last year.

Broadband – Gigaclear and County Broadband have been throughout the village installing broadband. A pile of rubble has been left on Strickmere which has been reported and we are awaiting a response on.

This is the last year of the current Parish Council so the Chairman thanked all Councillors for the work that they have done and advised that the new Council has 6 Parish Councillors so there are 3 vacancies if anybody would like to apply then they can be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk if interested in more details.

Thanks were also given to Neil Hazlewood the Parish Councils Litter Picker who does a very good job throughout the year and thanks to Brian and Brenda Such for the work that they do on the Millennium Garden and the River Garden.

Cllr Francis raised that not only is volume of traffic an issue with Copart, there is also an issue with the hours of operation with Copart and this is currently being monitored.

4. Report on Parish Council Accounts: The Parish Clerk presented a report for financial year 2022-2023 and explained income and expenditure for this period. The 2022-2023 accounts will be audited by an Internal audit and all documentation will be available on the Parish Council website once received.
The full report is attached in Appendix A
There were no questions.

5. County and District Reports

(a) County Councillor Georgia Hall, Suffolk County Council: Cllr Hall summarised her report - The full report is attached in Appendix A.

Repairs to potholes were raised by Parishioners, potholes are repaired but then come back again and some potholes don't get marked so when Highways come out they only repair the potholes that are marked. Cllr Hall advised people should report any potholes online and that she would raise concerns that were made.

(b) District Councillor John Ward, Babergh District Council: The full report is attached in Appendix A. Cllr Ward advised that his report has reviewed the last 4 years and has highlighted the key achievements. Cllr Ward is standing as an independent candidate in the forthcoming election.

A Parishioner asked how air quality was monitored around Stratford St Mary – Cllr Ward advised that they do monitor air quality but only in 2 places, Cross Street in Sudbury and Benton Street Hadleigh. They don't monitor everywhere as the threshold is not met for constant monitoring.

A counter on the A12 was reported as not working – Cllr Ward advised that this is a Highways issue so needs to be reported to them, this can be done online.

Cllr Woodard also asked if Solar panels are being put on new houses – Cllr Ward confirmed that all new Council houses being built will have solar panels or heat pumps.

6. Report from Stratford St Mary Primary School: The full report is attached in Appendix A. Mrs Bilner was absent - report read by the Chairman.

Parishioners raised concerns over people parking up outside the school leaving their engines running which is causing pollution, some people are not being considerate when they park and are blocking peoples driveways and an issue of chewing gum being dropped onto the ground was also raised. Clerk to write to school with points raised.

Cllr Woodard wanted to thank the school for the Christmas and Easter cards, it was a very nice thought.

7. Report from Langham Hall Estate – Regarding Footpath access: The full report is attached in Appendix A. Charlie Warburton was absent - report read by the Cllr Robinson. Cllr Robinson gave a history of the footpath access issue at Langham Estate and advised that the Parish Council had been negotiating with Langham Hall for some time and that they are very pleased with the Permissive access agreement. It has also been confirmed that the carpark will include adequate pedestrian access.

8. Report from Stratford St Mary Community First Responders: The full report is attached in Appendix A. Peter Dawson gave an update on what the Community First Responders had done over the last year. The Chairman thanked the Community First Responders on behalf of everybody for doing a fantastic job.

9. Report from Firework Committee: No report was given but the Chairman had obtained a verbal update from the Firework Committee. Last year was the first fireworks display since covid which went very well and are planning to hold another firework display November this year, further information will be confirmed. Firework displays raise a lot of money which goes to good causes around the village.

10. Report from Stratford St Mary Ramblers: Don Umfreville gave a verbal report and advised that the Ramblers membership was down, they currently have 25 members and pre pandemic they had 40 members. Most

walks are roughly every 10 days, any day of the week and are 4-5 miles long roughly. The Ramblers are always looking for new members so if you would like to join then please contact Don. Unfortunately, due to an incident in the past no dogs are allowed on their walks.

11. Report from the Stratford St Mary Community Trust: The full report is attached in Appendix A. Cllr Such read the report and highlighted the Dedham Educational Foundation who also cover Stratford St Mary, where financial grants are available to assist attendance at Secondary Schools, Sixth Form Colleges, Universities & Colleges of Further Education. For details, please contact the Clerk to the Foundation, Mrs. Claire Arculus on 07752201441 or at dedhamefclerk@gmail.com.

12. Report from Bowls Club: Don Umfreville gave a verbal report and reported that the club is thriving, they have less members but attendance of the 2 sessions that they run is well attended. The Bowls Club play carpet bowls and hold their sessions in the Parish Room on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. If anyone would like to join, then please contact Don.

13. Report from Stratford St Mary Chapel: The full report is attached in Appendix A – Phil Wyncoll advised that the Chapel have purchased a defibrillator which is at the front of the Chapel. Cllr Woodard asked if Coffee mornings would be starting again – Phil advised that they may be starting a men's evening but this is to be confirmed.

14. Report from the Parochial Church Council: Verbal report given by Sandy Ransom – The Parish Church in Stratford is part of a benefit of 4 Churches – Highham, Holton St Mary and Raydon. The Rector is Manette Crossman who has been with the Church for 2 years and her rectory is at Raydon. The Church are working hard to generate back the congregation after the pandemic. Some senior members have experienced bad health and others are worried about coming back to an inner congregation and sharing communal space. They aim to keep the Church open every single day from 0900hrs to around 1600/1700hrs so that people can use as a quiet space and for reflection. The Churchyard is maintained which is there for people to come and visit their loved ones who have passed on, and they try to keep the space as nice as possible and are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for the donation that they make which helps to maintain the Churchyard. The Church also run services for Remembrance Day, Jubilee last year and the Coronation which are regarded as Civic Services for the whole community to come and be part of and celebrate these national events. Church Services are held once a month on the first Sunday of each month, also on the third Sunday of each month in the Parish Room is a Cafe style Church where everyone is welcome, young families, Children etc and there is a craft activity, a short Church service and then a time for coffee, biscuits and chat. There is also an informal Coffee time, pray and chat group held once a month on a Wednesday in the Parish Room. There is a service of communion every Sunday which rotates around the 4 Churches so the service in Stratford is on the first Sunday of the month. The Church are very open to talk to anyone about Christenings, Weddings and Funerals etc and details are in the Quartet.

Cllr Woodard asked about the clock not working on the Church – Sandy advised that she wanted to mention that they were grateful to the Firework Committee who had funded the repair of the clock. At this time of the year there is a problem with birds who want to nest, and they are nesting at the back of the clock, so the clock stops. Sandy added that they try to keep the Church floodlit in the evenings – people recognise that the Church marks the start of being in Suffolk.

15. Report from the Village Institute Committee: The full report is attached in Appendix A – The Chairman read out the report. Steve Kite added that the Village Institute will be shortly offering high speed broadband if required.

16. Report on Community Speedwatch: The Chairman gave a verbal report – last year 85 sessions of Speedwatch were done, each session is about an hour long and there are 4-5 places where this is done which have been vetted by the Police. In that time a total of 18,703 vehicles passed and 843 were speeding more than 35mph or more. This averages at 4.5% per session of people speeding so speeding is not a big issue in Stratford. Just to compare those figures to the previous year 2021 - Speedwatch did 44 sessions due to sharing the equipment with Capel St Mary and it was recorded that just over 3% of vehicles were speeding per session. Speedwatch are looking for more volunteers so if you would be interested in joining then please get in touch.

17. Neighbourhood Watch Report: The Chairman gave a verbal report – The scheme needs to be revived to improve it. We don't have a problem in the village with crime like other villages do but scheme does need to be looked at and more volunteers are needed. People are encouraged to make sure doors are locked and things aren't left on view in cars.

18. Report on Village Life: The full report is attached in Appendix A – Cllr Alexander read the report. Thanks were given to Brian and Chris for passing on the baton and giving their support and to the District Council for support given for purchasing Coronation mugs for the children in the village.

19. Report from abc Preschool: Preschool has now closed so no report given.

20. Report from Orchard Barns: Verbal report given by Emma Walker, Manager of Orchard Barns. The nursery has been in Stratford St Mary for the last 20 years and are very lucky to have a good team of people working for them. They would love to get involved with the community more. They would like to invest back into the nursery and make improvements. Over the coming months they have some stay and play sessions and an open day for people to come and have a look round the nursery. The nursery caters for 3 months to 5 year olds and they have spaces available. A parishioner raised a issue of children running around the Institute carpark when their parents are dropping/picking them up which is dangerous when cars are coming in and out. Also concerns raised about parents parking on the road. Emma advised that she would send a message out to parents with regards to this.

21. Parishioners Questions and Answers:

Bus stop – issue raised with regards to buses not being able to pull up to the kerb at a bus stop to let people off the bus due to cars being parked along the bus stop. Cllr Ward advised that bus stops could be marked out on the road which should prevent people from parking in them. Clerk to message Cllr Hall.

Anchor permissive footpath – Parishioner raised why the permissive signs could not be taken down. Suffolk County Council have been dealing with this issue and have advised that signs have been put up on the Anchors property, there will only be an issue if the Anchor closes the footpath and denies access. Parishioners have advised that the permissive sign is on the footpath and not on the Anchors property and the footpath has been there for over 100 years. Cars are also being parked / overhanging footpath. Cllr Barrell read a email out from Cllr Hall County Councillor which advised that a new public footpath sign is being escalated to be put up. Email dated 15.03.23 so Clerk to chase for an update on this and raise Parishioners concerns.

Parishioner raised concerns over the smoke over the Higham Road in Major Gurney's field, a complaint has been made to the Council but they have advised that the Environment Agency have given a licence to burn but this is still causing issues and it's becoming a nuisance. The Council have advised that if the burning does become a nuisance, then call the Environment Agency Hotline to log a complaint and the situation will be monitored and the licence to burn can be withdrawn. The burning is only supposed to be happening with certain conditions. The number for the Environment Agency Hotline is 0800 80 70 60.

An email was received by the Parish Council before the meeting raising concerns with regards to dogs fouling and dogs off leads. The Parishioner reported that there are issues with dog fouling in the alley at the end of Spanbies at the moment. Cllr Davies advised that there are dog bins around the village and that dogs mess can also be deposited into normal bins now. There are dog fouling signs up and regular notices in the Quartet.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm