



# STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT

MINUTES of an Annual Parish Meeting held at Village Institute,  
Higham Road, Stratford St Mary at 7.30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### PRESENT:

Cllr W Davies - Chairman  
Cllr R Barrell  
Cllr B Such  
Cllr G Pearce  
Cllr S Baker  
Cllr L Shead  
Cllr H Cairns  
Cllr R Tilbrook

### IN ATTENDANCE:

J Rose - Clerk  
  
County Cllr Gordon Jones  
District Cllr Fenella Swan  
District Cllr Sue Carpendale

30 Members of the Public

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

The Chairman began by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2018

Minute 21. A member of the public asked for an update on A12 approach roads. Cllr Jones referred to accident on the A12 slip road at East Bergholt - the bus shelter had been demolished in the accident. Highways England and Suffolk CC are proposing a trial period of 50mph commencing just before East Bergholt and ceasing at the Suffolk/Essex border. All slip roads are considered adequate and there are no funds allowed for in 2020 budget.

The Chairman summarised the minutes and there being no further comments from either members of the public or councillors, the minutes were passed.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave an overview of the past year's activities as detailed below:-

#### (a) Village Shop, Post Office and Sorting Office

Post Office and shop were doing well since relocating to Vale Garage. The sorting office has now relocated to Manningtree and will not be moving back to SSM.

#### (b) Pot Holes

Majority of pot holes have been repaired. Chairman advised members of the public to report any potholes via the Babergh DC website.

#### (c) Planning Applications

The most contentious planning application related to the land behind the Anchor Public House which has now been approved for development.

#### (d) Former Garage Site

This was going to tribunal but due to potential legal costs the decision was taken not to pursue the case.

(e) Neighbourhood Plan.

This will be discussed under item 15 of the Agenda.

(f) New Clerk

The Chairman introduced the new Parish Clerk, Jane Rose and thanked the previous Clerk, Jenny O'Hanlon, for all her work.

(g ) Parish Council Election. Five Parish Councillors have reapplied for election and the Chairman invited members of the public to apply. Stratford St Mary will be moving to the Brett Vale Ward.

(h) Chairman recorded his thanks to: fellow parish councillors for their contributions during the past year; Neil Hazelwood, Litter Picker; Brian and Brenda Such for the Millennium Garden; Rob Baker, Millennium Ave Grass Cutter; Jane Rose, our new Parish Clerk and County Councillor, Gordon Jones and District Councillors Sue Carpendale and Fenella Swan.

**4. REPORT FROM abc PRE-SCHOOL.** Full report attached.

**5. REPORT FROM STATFORD ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A written report had not been received from the school. However, Cllr Cairns (who is a Governor of the school) informed the meeting that the school had approximately 95 pupils and had received a Good OFSTED report.

**6. REPORT FROM STRATFORD ST MARY COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS**

Peter Dawson, who is currently our only First Responder, gave a verbal report. In total 433 hours of cover were provided to the village in 2018 and as of today's date, 102 hours have been provided in 2019. Peter has received calls from a wide area including Colchester and has advertised for more responders. However, training is held in Newmarket three weekends running which Peter feels has deterred people from applying. The training centres are now relocating to Chelmsford and possibly Weeley. The Village Emergency Telephone System is currently running for free and has yet to be invoiced. In SSM they provide training once a month in the Parish Rooms. A member of the public asked how many hours were required from a volunteer. Peter advised 10 hours a month generally and went on to explain what was involved in becoming a first responder.

**7. REPORT FROM FIREWORK COMMITTEE.** Full report attached.

**8. REPORT FROM STRATFORD ST MARY RAMBLERS**

A verbal report was delivered by Don Umfreville. The club is now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year and membership has increased. There is a turnout of 12-14 members for each outing. Don is also involved with Carpet Bowls Club and they are looking for new members. The Club no longer competes in the county league but plays for pleasure.

**9. REPORT FROM STRATFORD ST MARY WELFARE TRUST.** Full report attached.

**10. REPORT FROM STRATFORD ST MARY CHAPEL**

A representative from SSM Chapel gave a verbal report. The Chapel Sparks Club has up to 30 children attending and Ignition Club (11-16 years) has attendance ranging from 30-60. Ignition Club provides physical and computer games plus refreshments. Chapel also runs a Men's Group which involves Pool, Table Tennis, Darts and chat. The Chapel are starting a new venture called Coffee Pot which will be held on Tuesdays. Everyone in village is welcome and they will be serving coffee, tea and cake. The Church has a large congregation.

**11. REPORT FROM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.** Full report attached.

**12. REPORT FROM VILLAGE INSTITUTE COMMITTEE.** Full report attached.

**13. REPORT ON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH.** A verbal report was given by Bill Davies.

The number of volunteers has dropped and Bill encouraged people to become involved. 222 vehicles were caught for speeding in 2018 and 358 vehicles in 2017. SSM share speed equipment with Capel St Mary and 60 vehicles have been caught so far this year.

**14. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.** A verbal report was given by Bill Davies.

Fortunately the village does not have a high crime rate and the neighbourhood watch scheme has not been very active over the last year. There have been two burglaries this year. If any members of the public were interested in running Neighbourhood Watch they should view the website run by the Police. People can join Neighbourhood Watch via this website and it gives up to date information on burglaries etc.

**15. REPORT ON PARISH PLAN/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A verbal report was given by Brian Such. Meetings were held last year to discuss these plans, however there was little interest shown by residents. Residents felt village was protected by AONB and Flood Plain and did not require a Parish/Neighbourhood Plan. It was also felt Parish Council should await the outcome of the Joint District Plan which was due to be published in January. However, publication of the plan has now been delayed till May. Brian was concerned we may have missed an opportunity to get a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Fifteen volunteers plus relevant Consultants are required to draft a plan for the village. All the information is on SSM website under Neighbourhood Plan.

**16. REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL AND LETTICE DYKES ACCOUNTS.** Full report attached.

**17. COUNTY AND DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**(a) County Cllr, Gordon Jones, Suffolk County Council.**

Cllr Jones gave a verbal report and his April report can be obtained from the Clerk.

**(b) District Cllr, Fenella Swan, Babergh District Council.** Full report attached.

Cllr Fenella Swan gave a verbal report and her April report can be obtained from the Clerk.

**(c) District Cllr, Sue Carpendale, Babergh District Council.**

Cllr Sue Carpendale gave a verbal report and her April report can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Chairman introduced John Ward, Leader Babergh District Council, who will be one of four candidates standing for election in the Lower Brett Vale Ward.

**18. PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – LOWER STREET, STRATFORD ST MARY**

Chairman outlined to the meeting the proposal for double yellow lines on Lower Street.

**Summary of questions and answers received from the public:**

- Cllr Such explained yellow lines on Lower Street were being considered as part of the Dedham temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Combining with the Dedham TRO would save money.
- if yellow lines are introduced who will enforce them?
- main problem is opposite the Swan Public House. This is a Police issue and safety is one of their core responsibilities. If Parish Council and residents continually contact the police they will respond and prevent cars from parking on the bend. This will mean yellow lines are not required.
- Cllr Such: parking infringement is low priority for police.
- invite community policing team to visit SSM on a weekend during the summer to experience first-hand the problems.
- yellow lines will impact greatly on the residents of Lower Street who do not have off-road parking.

- volume of vehicles parked on Lower Street already impacts directly on the residents. Residents with driveways experience access and visibility problems due to parked cars.
- yellow lines not required.
- Community Speedwatch Team do not have the authority to issue warnings to people parking along the road.
- Cllr Carpendale and some members of public suggested putting 'no parking' signs on bend. Response to signs could be assessed over time.
- people using the Stour river for canoeing should be registered with the British Canoe Club. Parish Council could write to British Canoe Club asking them to request members not to park on the bend of Lower Street.
- ticketing people one weekend will not deter people on subsequent weekends from parking on the bend.
- have Parish Council assessed impact that yellow lines would have elsewhere in village? It will just move parking to elsewhere in the village.
- yellow lines will deter people from visiting village and spending their money.
- A12 traffic diverts through village when road is blocked. Police and Highways England must be consulted and involved with discussions.
- important not rush decision just to save money.
- remove portage point opposite the Swan Public House.
- Babergh East and Police Parish Forum have their next meeting on 24 April. Chairman encouraged residents impacted by proposed yellow lines attend.

Chairman summarised outcome of discussions and reassured public that yellow lines were not going ahead at this stage. The matter would be discussed further at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 13 May to which members of the public are invited to attend.

#### **19. PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(a) Michael Gotelee gave a verbal report on the work of The Dedham Educational Foundation. Michael has been a trustee of the Foundation for a number of years and is now planning to resign. He would like to encourage people, particularly young people, to become involved with the Foundation. The Foundation provides grants to young people for educational purposes.

(b) A member of the public stated that, in their opinion, any boat accessing river in the village should have a licence.

(c) The Chairman advertised vacancies on Parish Council and encouraged people to become involved.

#### **20. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm. Refreshments followed.