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| **Stanford** **on** **Soar Parish** **Council****Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in St John the Baptist’s Church,** **Stanford on Soar on 22 May 2025 at 19:30** | Stanford sign.jpg |

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**Present**

Cllr Frances McKim (Chair) Cllr Wendy Butler

Cllr Sachin Jain Cllr Wendy Salmon

Cllr Steve Waters Clerk to the Parish Council Rebecca Hague Cllr Stuart Matthews (NCC) James Naish MP

Miriam Duffy (NRC) Lizzy Fry (NRC)

Jim Boyle – Estate Manager (DMRC) Cheril Bascombe – SSAFA (Norton House)

8 members of the public

1. **Welcome & Apologies for Absence**The Chair welcomed residents to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Sarah Poole, Cllr Craig Leggett, Cllr Andy Brown (NCC), Cllr Matt Barney (RBC) and one resident.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2024**

The minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Copies of all agendas, minutes and associated documents are on the Parish Council’s website, should any resident wish to view these.

1. **Chairman’s Report**Cllr McKim expressed thanks to her fellow councillors, Cllr Matt Barney, the Clerk, the resident who voluntarily cuts the grass verges and litter picks and the Churchwarden for letting the Council hold meetings in the church.
2. **Parish Council Finances**

During the financial year 2024/25 the Parish Council received a total income of £5677 and had a total expenditure of £5392, leaving a closing bank balance of £9756.88. Aside from everyday expenditure there was no notable spending in 2024/25. In April 2025 the Parish Council ordered a cast aluminium sign to replace the wooden village centre sign, which is showing signs of deteriorating, it is hoped this will be installed in the autumn. In order to cover expected increases in expenditure, the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept by 5% to £5250 for 2025/26.

5. **Planning and Environment**
Cllr McKim provided an Update on key items.

Floods in the village
After the heavy rain experienced this year, floods in the village were, once again, a major problem. They were particularly bad around the bend by the church. However, after considerable work by Via to the drains and the gullies the situation is very much improved. Work is also in hand to reduce the volume of water coursing down the road from Normanton Lane.

Highways & signs
Bus stops on both sides of the road were installed near the Old School House. A new village sign

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was installed entering from Loughborough and an order has been placed for a replacement sign, in metal, for the carved wooden sign in the church car park. With the support of County Councillor Matt Barney, efforts continued to introduce a 50mph speed limit from the A6006 right through to the start of the 30mph limit in Stanford village, which has been requested to be extended to beyond the new bus stops.

Planning applications
Once again there have been numerous planning applications, most notable being the ones concerning the Five Oaks farm site. Details of all applications and responses, are on the Rushcliffe Borough Council’s planning website.

Conservation Area
All residents were consulted regarding the creation of a Conservation Area for the village. The majority of the responses received were positive. However, after further consideration of resources of time and the expertise required in putting the appraisal together, it was agreed this was not a viable option.

Residents spoke of their concerns around the safety of Leake Lane, particularly around the speed of traffic, number and size of HGVs and noted that the sides of the road were eroded as a result. Cllr Matthews would take this matter back to the County Council.

1. **Update from Rushcliffe Borough Councillor and Nottinghamshire County Councillors**

Cllr Brown and Cllr Barney were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments at the Borough Council.

Cllr Matthews introduced himself. Cllr Matthews, representing Reform, has been elected as one of the County Councillors covering Leake and Ruddington, in which Stanford on Soar is part of. He noted that the Reform councillors at Nottinghamshire County Council have an excellent blend of experience and as cabinet member for finance and resources he will look at achieving value for money.

1. **Update from DMRC and NRC**

NRC Director Miriam Duffy spoke of the progress with the National Rehabilitation Centre. Miriam thanked local residents for their understanding during the inconvenience of the construction stage. The remit of the site is to provide the first national rehabilitation centre, the hub of the clinical model, demonstrating best practices which can then be rolled out across each region with a total of 22 different sites.

The NHS will take over the building in September, following this a 6 week period of commissioning will take place where the building will be kitted out, supplies brought in and staff trained. Employing 200 members of staff and providing 70 rehabilitation beds, it is expected that the first patients will arrive in mid-November. Currently patients can wait on average 6-8 weeks for a rehabilitation bed, the aim at the NRC is to treat patients within 4 days. The NRC will widen who can access services, lowering the reliance on social care and getting people back into work.

The top two floors are currently being painted and beds going in. An art competition has been held to design a sculpture for in the reception area, to soften the setting so it feels less like a hospital. The DMRC and NRC will work closely together sharing resources such as imaging, hydrotherapy and the estate grounds such as the trim trail, pitch and putt, hand cycle track and running track.

Cllr Butler asked if anything could be done by the NRC to allow the Stanford Hills houses to link into the NRC fibre broadband infrastructure which is one telegraph pole away from the houses.

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Jim Boyle – Estates Manager gave an update on work on the site. There are no more trees due to be removed, unless they become diseased. Recently some diseased oak trees had to be removed. Last year 670 new trees were planted by children from a local school, it is the intention to invite the children back to help with the maintenance of the trees to enhance their learning. In terms of wildlife there have been sightings of brown hares, deer, bats, nesting red kites, barn owls and now great crested newts. The estate uses an independent tree surveyor and this is his favourite site to work on. The hand cycle track is being used regularly.

Cheril Bascombe – Housing Manager at Norton House (SSAFA) provided an update. The charity provides accommodation for the families of those receiving rehab at the DMRC. SSAFA, with the additional support of £300 from Rushcliffe Borough Council, has installed a defibrillator on the outside of Norton House, this is accessible for village use in emergencies. SSAFA pay for the running costs and maintenance of the device. If residents are interested another training session can be arranged.

Three years ago SSAFA entered a garden in the Chelsea Flower Show, winning silver in the Sanctuary Garden category, this garden was then replanted back at Norton House, it is the intention to open the garden up to residents to look round on a Sunday afternoon in July, exact details to be confirmed.

1. **Update from James Naish MP**

James Naish MP is the first Labour MP for Rushcliffe in over 50 years and the first one of triplets in parliament. Previously James led Bassetlaw District Council. James and his wife have links to both north Nottinghamshire and Rushcliffe. James previously spent a year working at the equivalent to Downing Street in Albania, this experience helped him gain a place on the International Development Committee.

When talking about the local government reorganisation, James noted that across the country local government accounts for £100 billion of debt. The three biggest costs to councils being highways, adult social care and children’s services. It is widely known that Nottingham City Council has £800 million of debt, in terms of provision of services Nottinghamshire County Council is the closest to Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council also has £400 million of debt. James believes social care needs to become a national responsibility rather than a local government responsibility to help address the debt.

A resident asked about whether the introduction of a wealth tax on the top 1% would be appropriate and also about inheritance tax which in particular affects farmers. James expressed concerns about taxes on smaller family farmers.

James offered to take questions or if preferred speak with residents individually after the meeting.

1. **Open Session and Questions**

Cllr McKim invited the Churchwarden to give an update about the church. Services are held every Sunday, weekly bell ringing takes place. Current projects include replacing the down pipes with reclaimed cast iron down pipes, repointing work, part way through painting the belfry and as and when funds permit new fencing is being put up.

Residents spoke of concerns with overgrown footpaths in the village, these will be reported to the County Council.

A resident expressed thanks to the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm