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| **Stanford** **on** **Soar Parish** **Council**  **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  **held in Normanton on Soar Village Hall on  21 November 2023 at 19:00** | Stanford sign.jpg |

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**Present**

Cllr Frances McKim (Chair) Cllr Wendy Butler

Cllr Craig Leggett Cllr Wendy Salmon

Cllr Steve Waters

Rushcliffe Borough and Nottinghamshire County Councillor Matt Barney

Clerk to the Parish Council Rebecca Hague

No members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Sarah Poole.

1. **Declarations of Interests**None.
2. **Open Session**No public present.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2023 were accepted by the Council as a true and accurate account of the meeting and signed by the Chair. The Council noted that the rerouting of the cement vehicles for the NRC development was making a significant difference to traffic in the village. Cllr McKim thanked Cllr Salmon for laying the Remembrance Day wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk for putting up the lamp post poppies.

1. **Borough and County Council Matters**

Cllr Barney provided an update on Borough and County Council matters including that the Local Community Fund closing on 24 November, the recent County Council budget consultation and the mayoral elections taking place on 2 May 2024. Cllr Barney had nominated a lady from Sutton Bonington for the Pride of Rushcliffe Awards for her voluntary work organising the village playscheme for almost 50 years and the village show. The redevelopment of the Ratcliffe of Soar Power Station site has been slowed down as a result of gypsum being found under part of the site, subject to planning consent British Gypsum hope to mine this before that section of the site is developed, mining work is expected to take around two years. There has been no further progress with Zouch bridge. Nottinghamshire County Council/Via has agreed that the speed limit on the top section of Leake Lane should be reduced to 50mph, this will now go through various consultation procedures before a final decision is made.

1. **Traffic and Highway Maintenance**

The corner of Main Street by the Church has been flooded for the last three weeks and hasn’t subsided. Via has inspected and believe the pipe is blocked on the corner. The Parish Council believes there are also problems with blockages further up Main Street and on Normanton Lane. The Parish Council also noted that the water levels in the river and Kings Brook are high so there may be nowhere for the water to drain to.

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Via are coming out on Wednesday to pump the water away and unblock the pipe, given the pipe has

already been unblocked twice this year the Parish Council do not accept this as a satisfactory long term solution. Cllr Barney agreed to approach Ruth Edwards MP on the matter.

To speed up the response when flooding occurs parishes are being encouraged to have dedicated Flood Wardens, Cllr Waters may be interested in the role. The Clerk will approach NCC/RBC for more information. Cllr Barney had reported the overgrown hedge along the pavement on Main Street.

1. **Village Entry Sign**

(a) Proposal for a new village entry sign

Cllr Poole and Cllr Salmon are going to liaise about ideas over the next few weeks, to be revisited at the next meeting. It was noted that there was graffiti on the Stanford on Soar sign at the Meadows end of the village, the Clerk will report this.

1. **Website**

(a) Status of the website

Cllr McKim thanked the Clerk for setting up the new website which is now live. The Clerk will now remove information from the old website. The Councillor section will be modified so that the photo boxes are removed and email addresses are added.

1. **Planning**

• 23/01686/FUL - The Old Rectory, Main Street, Stanford On Soar - Detached double garage – RBC Application refused.

• 23/01471/FUL - Moat Hill, Village Farm Close, Stanford On Soar - Installation of five bar gates to driveway with side gate arrangement – RBC Application permitted.

• 23/01460/TPO - The Old School House, Leake Lane, Stanford On Soar - T1 - Oak - Prune branches to reduce contact with telephone service wires and neighbouring roof/gutter – RBC consent granted.

• 23/01235/FUL - Moat Hill, Village Farm Close, Stanford On Soar - Replace conservatory with single storey rear/side extension – RBC Application permitted.

• 23/00147/FUL - Plot Of Land North Of Meadow Lane, Stanford On Soar - Retention of summerhouse – PC no objection, pending RBC decision.

The Council also noted that an application for a certificate of lawful development for redeveloping Five Oaks Farm had been submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council, the Parish Council is not a consultee on this type of application.

There is an outstanding planning enforcement issue regarding a mobile home in the village which the Clerk will follow up with Rushcliffe’s Planning Enforcement Officer. Cllr Barney left the meeting.

1. **Finance**

(a) Payroll Services

The accountant processing the payroll has given notice that he’ll no longer be able to provide the service after the end of the financial year. The Clerk had obtained quotes from three alternative providers and also a price for the accounting software. It was agreed to use a local accountancy firm in Ruddington at a cost of £120+VAT per annum.

(b) NALC Pay Rates for 2023/24 and Review of the Clerk’s Salary

NALC had written to confirm the pay rates for 2023/24 to be back paid from April 2023. In addition to this the Council reviewed the Clerk’s pay band which had not been increased since the Clerk starting working for the Council in 2018. Since starting as Clerk in 2018 the Clerk had also taken on the role of

RFO and had gained CiLCA qualifications. The Council agreed to move the Clerk to band 14 from April 2024 with one salary band increase each year after until the Clerk reaches band 17.

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(c) Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted by the Council.

(d) PaymentsThe payments below had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted by the Council.

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| Payee | Reason | Total |
| ICO | Data Protection Fee | £35.00 |
| HSBC | Monthly Banking Charges - 4 September | £5.00 |
| R Hague (Royal British Legion) | Lamp Post Poppies | £187.00 |
| R Hague | Q2 Salary | £586.08 |
| Matt Moore Garden Services Ltd | Q2 Pump Garden Maintenance | £133.99 |
| HSBC | Monthly Banking Charges - 4 October | £5.00 |
| Plexus Media Ltd - Spanglefish | Website and Domain Name Fee | £138.00 |
| Normanton on Soar VH | Meeting Room Hire | £15.00 |
| HSBC | Monthly Banking Charges - 4 November | £5.00 |
| Rempstone Parish Council | Shared SLCC Membership | £37.40 |

(e) Budget for 2024/25 and Precept Setting

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting. The Council had been able to reduce the precept as for a number of years it held a high reserves level, these have now been brought down to the desired level so the precept would now have to increase to where it had initially been. The Council reviewed the figures and agreed to apply for a precept of £5000. This represents an increase of 8.8% on a band D property.

The Council have budgeted for a contribution towards churchyard maintenance, it was felt however that in the past two years there had been a lack of maintenance on the site. Cllr Salmon was asked to liaise with the Church to establish if they intend to carry out maintenance work or leave the site to rewilder, if the latter then the Parish Council will cease contributing to the maintenance.

**11. Environment**

(a) Buildings to put forward for listing status – no further progress.

(b) Trees and TPOs – no further progress.

**12. Social Events**

Parishes are being encouraged to mark D Day 80 in June, Cllr Salmon will liaise with the Church to see if they are interested in a joint village event.

**13. Correspondence**

No further items to discuss.

**14. Meeting Dates for 2024**

The following provisional dates have been set for 2024:

Thursday 15 February - Normanton on Soar Village Hall

Thursday 16 May - St John the Baptist Church, Stanford on Soar – to include the Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 15 August – St John the Baptist Church, Stanford on Soar

Thursday 14November - Normanton on Soar Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:35.