

MINUTES OF STANTON-ON-THE-WOLDS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN STANTON-ON-THE-WOLDS PARISH CHURCH ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Chair:	Cllr Day.
Parish Councillors:	Cllrs Danielson and Watson.
Other Councillors:	Borough/County Councillors Cottee, Inglis and Wells
Council Staff:	Michelle Law (Clerk), who minuted the meeting Emma Goodman (RFO)
Members of the Public:	1

1. Chair's Welcome

Cllr Robert Day welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Browett.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 4th May 2022 were **APPROVED** and signed by Cllr Day as a true record.

4. Chair's Report on Parish Council Activities 2022/23

County / Borough Councillor Cottee arrived during this item.

Good evening and welcome to the meeting, as the world tries to regain some normalisations post the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been other issues that have hit the news and have impacted on the lives of members of the Parish. This last year has seen, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and then subsequently her death, the new King Charles taking the throne, the war in Ukraine and more recently the cost-of-living crisis. Here at the Parish Council, we have also had some changes in the last year, with the retirement of the old Clerk Mike Elliott and a new Clerk Michelle Law and Responsible Finance officer Emma Goodman taking over the running of the Parish Council. Our focus for the Parish Council over the last 12 months has been to make some subtle changes to the village that will hopefully be enjoyed by everyone. These improvements have included the three new signs as you enter the village and decorations and mince pies at the Church at Christmas time. I would also like to thank those people in the village who have given their time to help and support the village in the last 12 months, Stanton-on-the-Wolds has a lovely community spirit about it and that is down to the people who live here and make it a place to be proud of. I was also delighted to be able to represent the Parish Council at the annual Remembrance Service, this always allows for us to show our respect for those that have given their lives in war and the Parish Council were pleased to again this year be able to lay a wreath at the war memorial.

Council Members

The current members of council are Robert Day (Chair), Terri Browett, Martin Danielson and Elaine Watson. The Parish Council were sad to lose two members this year Gill Rahman and Julie Spillane, we would like to thank them for their service over the years and wish them well for the future. If you would like to join the Parish Council, then this will be possible via co-option, please contact the Clerk if you would like more information.

Council Staff

The Council currently employs two part-time members of staff including the Clerk to the Council Michelle Law and Emma Goodman, who is the Responsible Finance Officer. The Parish Council would like to thank the previous Clerk Mike Elliot who took retirement in September 2022, for all his hard work and dedication to the Council. The Parish Council wish him well for his retirement.

Council Facilities

As Stanton-on-the-Wolds is a relatively small parish, the Parish Council does not currently own or be responsible for any land or facilities in the parish.

Support for Local Organisations

A grant was made to All Saints Church for the maintenance of the grounds around the Parish church. If there any other groups or societies within the Parish who would like to apply for a grant in the 2023 / 2024 year, then please send this in writing to the Clerk (contact details can be found on the website) and your request will be considered by the Parish Councillors.

Parish Council Events/Seasonal Activities

During the past twelve months, the Council has organised and/or sponsored the following events and activities:

- Cllr Day represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Sunday Event held at All Saints Church followed by memorial wreaths being laid at the war memorial.
- Mince pies supplied for after the Christmas services at the All-Saint's Church
- Lights and decorations used to decorate the arch and hedge at the All-Saint's Church at Christmas.

Publicity/Information

- The Council website (www.stantononthewoldsparishcouncil.org.uk) is updated regularly.
- The Council updates the notice boards in the village with the agendas and invitations to village events.
- A new Facebook page has been created to help get information and news out to residents. Please give the page a like if you use Facebook.
- It is currently being investigated to see if it would be useful for the Parish Council to update the next-door app.
- If anyone has any other ways, they would like Parish Council to reach the community then please feel free to contact the Clerk (contact details can be found on the Parish Council website).

Finance

- At the time of writing, the Council's accounts for 2022/23 have not yet been audited. The figures to hand suggest that the Parish Council is slightly over budget for the financial year 2022/23, this was due to staff costs not reflected in the budget. Expenditure was made on a general maintenance of the village, a grant to the

Church and staff wages. Expenditure was also made on the events in the village including a wreath for Remembrance Day and mince pies for the two Christmas services at the Church.

- The Council reviewed its reserves policy as usual in January. On the face of it, the level of the Council's uncommitted reserves (reserves not set aside to fund specific commitments or long-term development plans) might seem high, but it should be borne in mind that the Council needs to set aside funds for emergency/contingency purposes, the pandemic being a current, although non-tangible, example. Uncommitted reserves were used in 2020/21 and potentially 2020/22 to cushion the financial effects of the pandemic to keep increases to the precept modest.
- As for 2023/24, although the precept has increased, this was the first increase seen in a few years and it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to do more for the community with these funds. The first thing you may notice is the new coronation planters as you enter the village from the three locations.
- The Parish Council also applied for two grants this year from the National Lottery and Rushcliffe Borough Council, which we were successful in getting and these are being used to fund a new bench in the village and the plants for the planters.

Planning

The council looks at planning applications as they come through from Rushcliffe Borough Council, they are then ratified at the next Council meeting. Although the Parish Council do not see the same level of planning applications as some of our close neighbours, each one is still reviewed and if the application is a contentious issue, then an extra-ordinary meeting will be called. It is also always worth noting that if a member of the public is not happy with a planning application that has been submitted, then you can also lodge your objections with Rushcliffe Borough Council as a member of the public.

Other Items

The Parish Council have spoken to and worked with the car wash on Melton Road, to make better visibility at the junction of Melton Road and Browns Lane. Furthermore, the Parish Council have also investigated and taken on the maintenance of the corner near the village sign.

Plans and Priorities for 2023/24

In my view, the Parish Council's most important priorities in 2023/24 will be, to continue to look to the future and support and grow the positive sense of community that COVID19 fostered into the village. The Parish Council will be looking to see if there any suitable locations in the village to have defibrillators and bleed kits installed. A new bench for the passing of the queen and the coronation of the king will be installed. Two new litter bins will be placed in the village to try and reduce the amount of dropped litter in the village. All in all, I believe that Stanton-on-the-Wolds is a good place to live, that has a great sense of community, and I would like to thank you the residents for this.

Cllr Robert Day

5. Questions from residents

The following questions were asked during the meeting from members of the public:

1. **Would it be possible to have a page in the Church newsletter that Alexandra Brooke produces** – A discussion took place, and it was **AGREED** that the Clerk will make contact with Alexandra Brooks to enquire if that Parish Council could include a news item page in the church newsletter that she currently produces.
2. **Can the Parish Council stop businesses from advertising on the village notice boards** - The Parish Council reiterated that the notice boards should only be used for Parish Council business. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will investigate the cost of changing the locks on the notice boards so that other people are unable to open the doors.
3. **Would it be possible for the Parish Council to organise litter picks around the village** – It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will investigate the possibility of organising litter picks around the village and borrowing some equipment from Streetwise. Furthermore, Borough Councillor Inglis added to this question that, he can investigate to see if any more road signs could be placed around the village encourage people to not throw litter. It was also mentioned that in the month of May 2023 the highway code has changed, and people can get a fine of £100 if caught dropping litter. That if residents see people throwing litter out of their car windows, then take the registration plate number and report the incident to Rushcliffe Borough Council. Finally, Councillor Inglis talked about fly tipping, if anyone sees any suspicious activity or they believe that illegal fly tipping is taking place then report this straight away to 101, with any information, including an vehicle details.

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