

Stanford on Soar Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in St John the Baptist's Church,
Stanford on Soar on 18 May 2023 at 19:30**



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Present

Cllr Frances McKim (Chair)

Cllr Sarah Poole

Cllr Steve Waters

Rushcliffe Borough and Nottinghamshire County Councillor Matt Barney

Ruth Edwards – MP for Rushcliffe

12 members of the public

Cllr Wendy Butler

Cllr Wendy Salmon

Clerk to the Parish Council Rebecca Hague

Mr P Haslam (DMRC)

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed residents to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Craig Leggett.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr McKim noted an update had been circulated to all residents and summarised the key points.

Cllr McKim thanked her fellow councillors, Cllr Barney, the previous Borough Councillors, the Clerk and the Churchwarden for letting the Council hold meetings there and for hosting the Jubilee event and finally the resident who litter picked and cuts the grass in the village.

Cllr McKim notified residents that the Parish Council would be surveying the listed building in the village and assessing the trees which currently have Tree Preservation Orders to ensure these are up to date.

4. Planning - Update on key items

No plans for any large developments in Stanford on Soar as Rushcliffe Borough Council have allocated sites up until 2036. Currently the proposed Riggetts Green development in Cotes is not going ahead.

5. Parish Council Finances

During the financial year 2022/23 the Parish Council received a total income of £4681.31 and had a total expenditure of £5481.84 leaving a closing bank balance of £11,218.33.

The Parish Council are expecting an inflationary increase on all areas of expenditure for 2023/24 and additionally plan some other projects such as replacing the village noticeboard, due to the healthy bank balance it has only been necessary to increase the precept by £500 to £4500 to fund this.

6. Update from Rushcliffe Borough and Nottinghamshire County Councillor

Cllr Barney thanked voters in the recent elections. Cllr Barney represents 13 villages at a County Council level and 3 villages at a Borough Council level now Stanford on Soar has moved into Sutton Bonington ward. Cllr Barney thanked the previous Borough Councillors. Cllr Barney provided an update on Borough and County Council matters.

Zouch Bridge – The bridge was originally built in the 1930s, as a result the metal work is now rusting. Leicestershire County Council were going to put a new bridge in, but due to escalating costs this work was halted. A funding bid for levelling up money to replace the bridge was rejected. Detailed feedback was given and a future bid can be resubmitted. In the meantime a permanent weight limit has been put in place and cameras will be monitoring the traffic to check this is being adhered to.

On Demand Bus Service – A new on demand bus service which covers Stanford on Soar has started this week. The service covers West Rushcliffe and can take residents as far as East Midlands Airport.

Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan – Rushcliffe has met its housing needs target, therefore no further large developments are expected before 2036.

Devolution – Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are working on a new devolved authority, this will bring more money to the area. There is due to be a mayoral election in May 2024 for this.

7. Update from Ruth Edwards MP

Ruth Edwards MP provided an update on Rushcliffe matters.

East Leake Health Centre – This is one of the oldest health centres in Nottinghamshire and the need for a larger provision is highlighted by the population growth in East Leake and the changes to the Leake ward boundary. There had been delays as the current site is owned by the Integrated Care Board rather than the GPs themselves and the GPs had wanted to own the new building, however, this week they have confirmed that they won't be proceeding with this. The current proposal is now to build a new purpose built building on the opposite side of the road on land owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council. A full business case will be put together over the next 12-18 months.

National Rehabilitation Centre – The final business case has been signed off this week. The current timeframe for completion is still by the end of 2024.

Freeport – The power station is due to be decommissioned in 2024. The freeport will create 60,000 jobs both directly and indirectly across the three sites. The Local Development Order is being put in place to address planning concerns. There will be investment into junction 24 of the M1 and retained rates will be reinvested back into the site. A public transport study will be carried out and the impact on local roads will be assessed. There are stipulations on the look of the site e.g. living walls and roofs.

Rural Crime – There is a big focus on rural crime in Nottinghamshire. Since 2019 there have been 418 new police officers in Nottinghamshire. A resident raised concerns about the graffiti on the railway bridge between Stanford on Soar and Loughborough, this is privately owned by the Great Central Railway. Residents also raised concerns about Antisocial behaviour (ASB) across the Meadows. Ms Edwards noted that an ASB action plan started last month, if an offender is caught they have to do community payback straight away.

8. Open Discussion

Mr Haslam of DMRC provided an update. The NRC project has now been signed off and is awaiting final approval which could take up to four weeks. The aim is still to open for the first patients at the end of 2024. There are plans to share some of the facilities between the NRC and the DMRC.

SSAFA Update – The house is operating at maximum capacity post covid with all rooms in use some weekends. The charity are looking to purchase a defibrillator which could potentially be used by village residents too. A SSAFA garden was designed and entered at the Chelsea Garden Show, it won a silver award. The garden was transferred back to Norton House. Cllr McKim asked if there could be some sort of open garden event so village residents could come and have a look around.

Other matters raised included:

The removal of trees on the DMRC estate. The estate manager notified residents that this was as a result of ash dieback. Some 4,000 of the 20,000 trees on the estate are ash and some of which had been assessed as being in decline. 95 trees were removed from along Leake Lane/A6006. Another disease, sooty bark disease, is affecting sycamore trees and many of these are likely to die within the next 6 months. There are plans to plant new hazel, willow and chestnut trees which can be used for coppicing.

Several residents expressed concern about the volume of heavy traffic going through the village and asked if these were lorries going to the NRC development. Another resident highlighted the speed of traffic passing the houses at Stanford Hills where there is no speed restriction at all – could this be considered for a 40mph speed limit. It was also noted that the road verge is eroding away near The Old School House, the temporary entrance to the NRC and also the potholes generally on Leake Lane. Cllr Barney agreed to take these matters up.

The meeting closed at 20.40.