

# **MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 7.30p.m. Held at Stanton Community Village Hall.**

**Present:** There were 32 people present, these included County Council, Borough and Parish Councillors, Invited representatives from village organisations and members of the public.

**Parish Council Chairman Mr. Alan Shelton chaired the meeting.**

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr F Hart, Cllr R Genn, Cllr K McDonald.

**Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Engall that the minutes of the previous meeting on 21 May 2015 be accepted as correct. Seconded by Cllr Mann.

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## **Report of Chairman – Alan Shelton**

The Stanton Parish Council have had a busy and active year, I will mention briefly a few of the areas in which we have been involved.

**Recreation ground** -The CCTV system has been fully overhauled with new cameras and recording equipment. This has since been instrumental in providing the police with very good quality pictures and information regarding theft from our clothing bank, this has since been linked to similar thefts in other villages.

The parish council car park has now been completed with lined parking spaces, after the removal of the scout hut and a new drop down bollard to allow access onto the field.

After going out to tender we are pleased to have again employed the services of Vertas Group (formally EFMS Grounds Service) to carry out the grass cutting.

We have put into place a contract for regular maintenance work on the multisport and tennis courts to keep them in safe working order.

We have replaced the two old dog waste bins on the recreation grounds, with two large lock down waste bins. This makes four in the village in total. One at the clock tower and another on George Hill. These will hopefully improve litter control on the recreation ground and around the village

We are still working towards upgrading the public toilets and have received quotes for the work.

We have a new notice board on the outside wall of the village hall.

**Play area** Due to deterioration it was necessary to close off the children's play area a few weeks ago. The total refurbishment of the play area is set to start at the end of this month. A lot of time and effort by the Parish Council has gone into this major project for the village. It will be funded mainly from the Stanton precept and also grants. This, we hope, will be completed before the start of the school summer holidays.

**Bonfire & Firework Night** - We had another successful bonfire & firework night in November last year. This was again self-funding. Thanks goes to the hard work of Parish councillors with the assistance of members of the football club.

**New Clerk, Councillor and Councillor training** - Due to the retirement last August of Audrey Hubbard our clerk for many years, we have now have Joy Hart as our new Parish Clerk. We said

farewell to Councillor Rowland Unsworth who has left the Stanton area a short time ago. We welcome Mr. John Frizzell who just this month has been co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy.

To improve local training opportunities for councillors, we arranged two training sessions in the village hall in September not only for our own councillors but also for councillors from surrounding villages. This proved to be very beneficial and successful.

**Cemetery** - The Parochial Church Council has given notice of their application to the Ministry of Justice to discontinue burials at All Saints and St John's Churchyards, as they are now full. We are therefore now using the new cemetery area for burials.

**Flooding in the Village** - We are pleased to report that the new Grundle grill is in place and appears to be helping to reduce the problems associated with the old grid. Parish councillors when possible are assisting key residents to keep the new grid clear at times of heavy rain fall. We have also installed bins to remove debris from the site. We have in March this year had site meetings with the police and Suffolk highways regarding flooding, road safety and hedge cutting. This was in conjunction with borough and county councillors.

**Speed Watch** - The Parish Council is grateful for the work done by the speed watch coordinators and the parish council are in discussion with them about upgrades to their equipment.

**Social Media** - Thanks to our Parish clerk, we are now on social media with a Stanton Parish Council Facebook page. This is proving to be extremely popular and another way to keep Stanton residents up to date with what we are doing.

**Public Meeting** - I need to mention the current situation in our village regarding the spate of burglaries. At our Parish Council meeting earlier this month we had over 40 residents attend, who were very concerned about this problem. Although we had police present to answer their questions, it was not felt that sufficient information was available. Therefore, it was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange a public meeting as soon as possible and ask senior police and officials to attend to answer questions. We have arranged this meeting for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, in the main hall at 7pm. This meeting is open to Stanton residents and also residents of surrounding villages.

**Thanks** - I have now completed my first full year as Chairman for the Stanton Parish Council. I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council, who freely give their time and energy for the benefit on our village. We have a good strong team of councillors who work together provide a valuable service to the village. I also give my thanks to Joy Hart our Parish Clerk who does an amazing job of keeping all the administration under control. Last but not least my thanks to Councillors Jim Thorndyke and Joanna Spicer for their continued help, support and guidance.

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## Report of County Councillor Joanna Spicer, Suffolk County Council

Thanks to Chairman, Alan Shelton and members, and Joy Hart your new clerk etc. for the welcome and keeping me in touch - both at meetings and when needed in between meetings. Also my thanks to Jim Thorndyke for keeping me in touch with problems and usually keeping a copy of the Stanton Steamer for me!

County Council remains very committed to retaining essential **front line services** – despite massive cuts in government grant and we expect more to come

**Savings** of over £170 million in last 4 years. £34.4 million this year and a further £75 million to come over next 2 years – HUGE amounts of money and really difficult.

County Council element of the **council tax** has now been frozen for the 6th consecutive year. However, after some considerable debate and worry we did accept the Government's request to add a 2% levy to the council tax to go towards the rising costs of adult social care

**Schools:** education remains a top priority and you are aware how concerned I have been that not all schools in Suffolk were rated “Good” or “Outstanding” by OFSTED and how low Suffolk was in the various league tables. Statistics can tell any story – good and bad - but I can now report an increase in good and outstanding schools in the county (up to 80%) AND we have moved significantly up league tables for key stage 3 and GCSE results.

There is however the good news about **Stanton School**. All is set for the move to take place during the summer holidays

**Ixworth Free School** continues to grow in numbers and they have a superb new extension. Transport is provided from Stanton to both Thurston Community College and to Ixworth Free School

**Waste** – very pleased incinerator (energy from waste facility) now open and fully operational – and will mean no more waste to landfill, energy for growing veg and a saving per annum of £8 million. We still need to resolve the location of a new transfer station in BSE which is proving to be controversial in planning terms !

**Roads** : biggest concern to public and parish councils. Contract now with Keir May Gurney – many of our staff have transferred to them. Problems of potholes worse than ever after flooding – but working through backlog – also re-surfacing programme. An extra £10 million of capital funding for roads has been allocated this year but it may be difficult to get all the schemes in the pipe line delivered

**Adult care** biggest pressure and responsibility – as well as important investment in child protection (700 children in care) and I still work on county fostering and adoption panel 2-3 days a month

**Stanton issues** over the last year and on-going

- The Grundle new grid – thanks to all concerned
- George Hill (B1111) action plan
- Crime and the police response
- Upton Road traffic calming and parking problems etc
- GP surgery Hopton and Stanton
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Please note my e mail address is [Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk)

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## Report of Borough Councillor Jim Thorndyke, St Edmundsbury Borough Council

It has again been a fairly slow year. The **planned consultation** for short stay Gypsy and Traveller sites due in December 2015 seems to have stalled but after the disastrous effort in 2014 we must be prepared in case we have a similar ill thought out scheme put forward for Stanton.

Joint working with Forest Heath has continued with all services now having the same staff working across both councils.

We are receiving comments on the proposed **waste services** depot, household recycling centre and waste transfer station idea somewhere near Bury St Edmunds, many are concerned about lorry and other traffic movements. At this time we are still waiting to see if one site for all or two separate sites will be suggested.

At last a new grille has replaced the old vertical screens in the **Grundle** and there are now bins to put rubbish in so in theory at least it should all be much easier and safer to look after.

My responsibilities, I shall be continuing on **Development Control (Planning) Committee** which I have had the privilege of chairing for the last four years and one which has seen many interesting

emails and phone calls, with cunning, devious and even dishonest attempts to have applications approved or refused. Grant Working Party which in recent times has approved grants to Stanton of £10k towards the play area and £3,500 towards the new hall boiler, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Joint Emergency Panel, amongst others.

New to the Borough for the last couple of years has been a **locality budget** of £2,500 per year which ward councillors can spend on local problems and projects, because Stanton has a population over 1,000 I cannot fund parish council schemes. In the first year funding went to SWWAG for a brush cutter, the History Society for a projector, the Indoor bowls club for a replacement mat, the Village Hall towards a live performance and the Football Club towards a container which allowed the Village Hall to regain some of its storage area. Last year's funding went mostly on a new piece of furniture for Stanton Pre-school ready for their move to the new primary school site and the football club for a replacement mower.

My thanks to Alan and Joy and the Parish Council and to Joanna for the help and guidance they have given me over the past year.

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## Report of Suffolk Constabulary SNT

### POLICE REPORT 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 – 1<sup>th</sup> May 2016

I am pleased to report to you that Crime in Stanton has decreased by 5 % in the past 12 months, compared with the same period in 2014 – 2015. There has been an increase of only one more Burglary Dwelling than the previous year, however a huge reduction of 46% for Burglary Other Buildings. The breakdown of other offences is shown below.

	01/05/14 –01/05/15	01/05/16-01/05/16	% Change
All recorded Crime	140	133	5 % Reduction
Burglary Dwellings	15	16	6 % Increase
Burglary Other Buildings	11	6	46 % Reduction

Reported crimes over the last 12 months include:

24 x Assaults

11 x Criminal Damage

7 x Harassment

2 x Theft from Motor Vehicles

15 x Thefts

7 x Sexual Offences.....and 0 Drugs offences!

**News from the Safer Neighbour team** - There have been a number of changes over the past 12 months, with the Safer Neighbourhood Team now based from Bury St Edmunds Police Station. The team consists of Sgt 810 Chisnall, Sgt 1031 Whybro, PC De Jongh, PC Howard, PC Fox, PC Lawrence, PC Brown, PCSO Ruston, PCSO Wilkens and PCSO Dodd.

**Crime reporting** - If you suspect a crime is in progress, please call 999 immediately. Try to obtain a description of the offender and details or description of any vehicles used. Try

to provide an address or accurate description of the location to assist officers responding to the crime.

For any other type of crime report reports i.e. one discovered after the event; or non-urgent matters, please call 101.

Please also note the new email address for the SNT - [SNTBuryStEdmunds@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNTBuryStEdmunds@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

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## **Report of Sue Chapman – Head Teacher, Stanton Primary School**

Also present was Charlotte Hare, Chair of Governors and Deputy Head Liz Bonnelyke. Standards are rising. Education in Suffolk is the third worst for funding in the Country. Fairer funding is being introduced and may improve matters. These are interesting times. There is a demanding curriculum – the Year 6 SATS tests have just been completed. We tried to make them more comfortable in the process by giving them breakfast every day so it was more like a social occasion and they felt chilled and relaxed before the tests.

The Year 2 tests (ages 6/7 years) were carried out by telling the children they were doing 'special work'. Changes are afoot but not yet known what they will be.

This is our last half term at the current site and we are very excited about the move to the new school site. We are hoping to develop the breakfast and after school club. All seems to be going to plan at the moment and we will be handed the keys on August 15<sup>th</sup> so it will be a busy summer for us but we are confident that we will be ready for the new term on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> we are having a 'Farewell' party at the old school and everyone is welcome. Liz Bonnelyke (Deputy Head) told the meeting that the new site was big and the field was huge. Children have visited the site to try and organise how things will work. We are going to keep the 'forest' area and have been supported by the 'Green light trust' in doing so. We hope to have mini beasts, marshmallow toasting and other wildlife activities. 80 tree saplings have been donated and planted and we have had some willow donated from Newmarket Racecourse. No funds have been budgeted for work outside so we are looking to fund raise through grants such as the Tesco carrier bag fund to create a pond dipping and music area. A parent working group is being formed to assist with the jobs that need doing.

The future looks very exciting.

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## **Report on Stanton Steamer – Mr Peter Palmer**

During the last year we were forced to change printers when the County Council closed their Bury St Edmunds social community printing services in favour of their Ipswich branch. For two or three months the Ipswich logistical arrangements became convoluted and the print quality deteriorated. Fortunately, the former BSE manager decided set up his own private printing services, with a small increase in publishing costs and better paper quality the Steamer is back on line.

1300 copies of The Steamer are now produced each month with the increase attributed to 75 'Abbey Homes' properties along with several new infill homes. It was decided not to increase advertising rates to cover the new printing and additional copy print at this time.

Volunteers are always required to deliver the Steamer with currently two rounds unfulfilled.

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## **Stanton Community Speed Watch – Mr Peter Palmer**

In the last year 30 radar events were performed with 465 vehicles recorded as speeding at over 35mph in the restricted area of George Hill and the unmanned VAS machine was deployed for four months of the year at other sites. After five years of action by 'Speed watch', speeding is still a high risk problem to the public throughout the village.

A recent report was presented to the Parish Council recommending that a new type of Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) should be considered for display use on a 24 hour 7-day week basis to remind drivers of their actual speed in the 30mph areas of Stanton. It would be less time consuming and easier to manage than the current lending arrangements via the Highways Authority.

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## **Report of Stan Co-Co Trust - Mr Ian Engall**

**Trustees** - As Village Trust

Membership – 1. The trustees of the Stanton Village Trust

2. Any resident of Stanton Parish who has subscribed not less than £7 to the Stan Coco Tote or by donation to the Trust during the previous financial year.

### **Objects**

- The provision of grants to any or all of the voluntary organizations operating within the parish of Stanton for the general purpose of improving the amenities of the said parish.
- To enable and assist any voluntary group in the village regardless of status.
- To provide funds for the charitable Trust known as 'The Stanton Village Trust'.

There was a net gain of 40 members in the Tote, thanks to the welcome number of new members recruited by our collectors, for whose continued monthly effort we are very grateful. We have a vacancy for a collector on Shepherds Grove Park and for the new Housing Estate on Hepworth Road. Any help in these areas would be gratefully received. Unusually, this year, we had no requests for assistance.

Our available funds carried forward should suffice for expected needs, although we would always welcome more members for the Tote which is our main source of income, or straight donations. A copy of the audited accounts for year ending 31st December 2015 was also submitted

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## **Report of Stanton Village Trust - Mr. I Engall.**

**Trustees** – Roland Unsworth, Chairman, Deirdre Siddaway, Secretary. John Robinson, Treasurer, Carol Pharoah. Ian Engall

Trustees may number not fewer than 3 and not more than 7. One trustee must be a nominee of the Stanton Parish Council. Trustee may hold office for four years but are eligible for re-election  
Foundation: The Charity was established by a declaration of Trust dated 10 June 2002 with the intention of carrying on the work of the former Stanton Community Council following the transfer of funds from that Charity when it was wound up.

**Objects**

To apply the funds of the Charity and the income therefrom for such charitable purposes within the Parish of Stanton as the trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine.

**Trustees Report for year ended 31 December 2015**

In 2015 we made grants of £280 to the Primary School towards the costs of school trips, £75 to First responders for service within Stanton and £800 to the Stanton Community Village Hall. The balance of £1635 remaining to the fund is deemed sufficient for present purposes

A Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st December 2015 was also submitted.

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**Report of Stanton Poor's Estate - Mr. M Ronchetti.**

The value of vouchers paid was slightly less than the previous year (34340 in 2014 against £4320 in 2015) although we had anticipated a higher take up due to the increase in housing within the village. There were no additional hardship claims this year.

The system using vouchers, to be exchanged for goods solely within the village, again worked very well and the Trustees intend this method to continue into the foreseeable future. A copy of the audited accounts has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

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**Report of the Royal British Legion – Mr Brian Bartrum**

The Stanton District Branch of the Royal British Legion has a membership of approximately 71, remaining the same as in the previous year.

Branch meetings are held in the Cock Inn, Stanton on the 2nd Tuesday of each calendar month and are well supported. Average attendance ranges between 10 and 18. 'C' Group meetings held quarterly, April, July, October and January at different venues – Hopton, Horringer, Ixworth and Bury St Edmunds. The branch being well represented at each of these venues.

Branch dinner held on 19 May was reasonably supported, (but as is always said, could do with more support)

County conference at Needham Market in January was represented by D Sexton, Chairman. 1 member was there on County duty and 1 member as a visitor.

National conference at Southport on 15-16 May was attended by myself as our Branch delegate. The Branch information Day on 27 September held at Stowmarket RBL Club, 2 members were in attendance.

The Branch Standard was 'paraded' at Remembrance Sunday at Stanton, Armistice day at Walsham le Willows, Suffolk Agricultural show, Festival of Remembrance at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds and at the funeral of a member, Mr. G Goodchild, MM.

#### **Other events**

Invite by RAFA to RAF Honington Cheese and Wine evenings on 24 Jun15 and 22 Mar 16.

VE Day – 70th anniversary commemoration – Cock Inn Stanton.

An organising Branch for the 'Fun Day' on 18 July on the Recreation Ground, Stanton

Supper night, Cock Inn, Stanton on 14 November

Any monies donated/gifted to the Branch, or raised by the Branch are used for welfare work. As we are a small branch we transfer all such monies to the County Benevolent Fund. Donations which the Branch receives are most appreciated.

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### **Report of the Shepherds Grove Park Residents Association – Terry Brooks**

During the last 12 months we have held a number of outings for our members including boat trips, Mildenhall dogs, trips to Wells next the sea, Sheringham including a steam train ride, visit to Maldon and the Tiptree Jam Museum.

In July we held our annual Park fun day when we invited local organisations to attend, we also had the Fire Service and Police giving advice to residents. We had side shows, raffle, music and in the evening we all enjoyed fish and chips.

In December we had the annual Carol singing on the Park with the local Salvation Army Band and all proceeds from the collection went to them.

We did a Christmas shopping trip to Colchester. We had a best decorated home, outside lights etc. This was judged by Dave Sexton – British Legion and Ian Shilling – Tripp Batt. The latter gave us a prize for the best home.

In January we held our annual post-Christmas dinner in the Village Hall attended by 64 members. Our main project for 2016 is that we are negotiating with Berkeley Parks to take over the old shop at the entrance to the Park as a Community Meeting Room. My thanks must go to Cllr Jim Thorndyke for his help in this matter.

When new residents move to the Park we try to encourage them to get involved in village activities indeed the friendly Art Group was set up by some of our members and we now have other people from the village involved

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### **Report of the Stanton Friendship Club – Pip Bedford**

Was affiliated to the Stanton Pensioners Association but it was too political so with an amended constitution we have now gone down a different route and welcome anyone over 50 years old. Meet monthly on Monday afternoons at 2.15pm. Every other month we have a speaker. We also have games and cards or scrabble. We have had some really good speakers and fun times. There is a fee of £5 a year which helps pay for refreshments and hall hire and we also have raffles to help raise funds.

We have organized trips to Cambridge and Gorleston Theatre and had 104 residents attend for Christmas lunch with entertainment.

We would welcome new members and help. Contact Pip Bedford on 01359 251013 for info, trip bookings or a lift to any event.

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their reports.

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## **Presentation of Community Recognition Awards**

At the conclusion of the reports the Chairman announced the introduction of the Community Recognition Award and explained that it was intended that the awards would be given annually to people or organisations to recognise their work in the community of Stanton, or who make environmental achievements or in some other way contribute to the life of the Parish. Anyone could nominate their friends, co-workers or suppliers of good service to receive an award and Councillors then considered and decided the award winners for the year.

This year we had 5 nominations which were presented by Councillor John Mann MBE –

### **Mrs Celia Maddox**

Nominated by Mrs P Lowe and seconded by Mrs J Songbrite who say 'For over 30 years Celia has been a very active fund raiser for children in need, children who have had cancer, Dr Barnardos and other Charities. She has been known to ride on a tractor and trailer collecting for ovarian cancer and breast cancer in different villages. In her role as hairdresser she looks after clients who are disabled and if unable to get to the salon she will pick them up herself or get someone else to do it for her. She also bakes cakes and has tea parties in the summer in her garden to raise money. She does so much and never talks about it. I am immensely proud of her'

### **Mr Jim Thorndyke**

Nominated by Mrs N Shelton and seconded by Mrs B Smithson who say 'Jim has helped, assisted and run numerous committees, shows and activities over many years for Stanton.

These include: -The Stanton Steamer for 19 years, Stanton Cinema, Stanton Show, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, and previous Chairman of the Stanton Parish Council.

Jim does frequent voluntary maintenance and is handyman to the village hall and the village in general. Over many years he assisted in Stanton Village flood protection turning out in the middle of the night to prevent the Grundle blocking up which would have caused flooding to properties on the High Street. Jim is involved in helping to decorate the Village hall every Christmas for the various events held by Pensioners group, WI and others and was previously involved with the Stanton Fireworks display'.

**Mr John Robinson**

Nominated by Mrs D Siddaway. Seconded by Mr I Engall who say 'John has been a very supportive member of our community for many years. John set up the Stan Coco Village Trust. He was the Chair and Treasurer since its inception, only recently stepping down. John still collects the Tote for part of Stanton. John also works tirelessly for the All Saints Church'.

**Mr Jamie Maddox and Mr Lee Maddox**

Nominated by Mr N Chapman. Seconded by Mr F Hart, who say 'Jamie and Lee turn out in all weathers, often at night and often in foul weather to clear the Grundle of debris. Their willingness to respond quickly in adverse conditions is testament to their commitment to keeping the village safe. Without their constant vigilance and willingness to respond the Grundle would quickly overwhelm the grills and flood the village centre. There is no doubt that their hard work has made a significant contribution to village safety.

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.15p.m.**

Joy Hart – Clerk

Stanton Parish Council

9 June 2016