

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 31  
May 2018 at 7.00pm  
Held at Stanton Community Village Hall.**

**Present:** There were 29 people present, these included County Council, Borough and Parish Councillors, Invited representatives from village organisations and members of the public.

**Parish Council Chairman Mr. Neil Chapman chaired the meeting.**

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr F Hart, Cllr Brown, Cllr Willcox

**Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Frizzell that the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 May 2017 be accepted as correct. Seconded by Cllr Mann.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Report of Chairman – Neil Chapman**

Having just taken Office at the last Annual meeting of the Parish Council I would like to thank the previous Chairman Kelvin McDonald for the many hours and fantastic work he did, both as Chairman and as Councillor over a significant number of years as Chairman. He will be sorely missed. The whole Council were very sorry to see him leave due to personal circumstances and wish both Kelvin and his wife Julie all the very best for the future.

**Councillors**

The Council has remained stable over the last 12 months with no new faces. However due to the resignation of Kelvin McDonald, a vacancy has been advertised and we are hopeful of getting a good response from the Parish for that vacancy.

**Cemetery**

The churchyards of St Johns and All Saints have been closed for any further burials or cremated remains except where there are second burials in current graves. The maintenance of these areas has been passed to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. This has resulted in the grass cutting contract being split with St Edmundsbury Borough Council taking responsibility for the Closed Churchyards and the Parish Council Contractor, Vertas, cutting the Cemetery. Hopefully this will be a good partnership for the future.

The Parish Council Cemetery has been opened since May 2016. This is still a relatively new experience for the Council who are learning from each occasion that a burial takes place. We would like the grounds to be a quiet and restful place very much in keeping with the Churchyard of St Johns opposite and therefore the rules remain the same as the St Edmundsbury Diocese rules with each application for burial or memorial being decided on its merits. Fees have been increased this year to fall in line with Cemeteries of neighbouring areas of St Edmundsbury but still remain much lower than the town cemetery.

Councillors John Frizzell, John Mann, Francis Hart and Sue Willcox have planted more Spring bulbs which resulted in a fabulous Spring flower show this year and has received very positive comments from visitors.

### **Flooding in the Village**

The County Council have installed modifications to the existing metal screens to enable debris to be removed more easily and a New Natural Flood Management (NFM) structure (Woody Debris Dam) has been completed which is designed to catch the debris before it gets to the metal screens. This has yet to be tested. I, and volunteers from the village regularly visit the area to clear the gates and fill the brown bins.

The extraordinary floods experienced on 22 April 2018 were due to a freak storm passing over. No amount of drain cleaning or barrier work could have coped with the volume of water which came down in a very short space of time. The mud and silt was washed down from the fields in Wyken Road and after the Clerk called the emergency line on the Sunday evening, the County Council were very quick to attend and clean up and are to be congratulated on their response.

I would also like to thank County Councillor Spicer who was in the Village on the day and Borough Councillor Jim Thorndyke who were instrumental in getting emergency help. And not forgetting the villagers that turned out to help those affected by the floodwater. Thank you.

The Parish Council are now working with the County Council to identify any areas of ditch or grids that can be improved to take rain water away from the village centre to ensure the likelihood of flooding in the future is reduced.

### **Street Cleaning**

We are very lucky to be able to afford the services of a street Cleaner and are grateful to Kenny Brown who continues to turn out in all weathers to keep our village looking nice. There is currently a vacancy for a weekend litter picker.

Cllr Barbara Smithson organised a very successful litter pick in the Village in March and it was great to see so many new faces turning out on the day. Thank you.

### **Speeding**

The Council has invested £3,000 in a second SID – Speed Indicator device - which you may now be familiar with as they pop up at 7 different locations within the village.

You will shortly receive a verbal report from Peter Palmer who is here tonight and who manages the Speedwatch team. He will be able to update you on how the units have been used this year.

### **Village Tubs**

The tubs have been planted up by Hillcrest nurseries who will shortly be replacing the lovely pansies with another colourful display.

Cllr June Miller should be thanked for her regular work in looking after them.

## **Village Maintenance**

The notice board in The Street has received a makeover and the bus shelter has been steam cleaned and painted. Work has been carried out on the paving and wall next to the Clocktower to clean the moss and rebuild the wall to make it safe.

There is a current project to identify an aluminium flag pole to replace the old wooden one which has now warped and in need of replacement. This is being co-ordinated by Cllr Smithson with the flag supervisor Mr Jim Gill to whom we are grateful for his services and keeping the flag flying on the right days.

All Councillors have recently been walking around the village to inspect village assets and identify and identify street furniture that is in need of replacement. Any defects in furniture should be reported to the Clerk.

## **Recreation Ground**

Councillor Larry Morris keeps a regular eye on the play area doing weekly inspections. It continues to be very popular with local children and subject of many compliments.

A water fountain has recently been installed adjacent to the public convenience and has already proved popular. My thanks go to Kelvin McDonald for his foresight and to both him and Cllr Francis Hart for installing the fountain for minimal expense.

The toilets on the recreation ground needed emergency plumbing work as the cold snap hit us. Pipes burst in the extreme temperatures and the toilets have now been repaired and the pipes lagged. The cleaner continues to attend to them 3 times a week.

The skate park and Basketball court, tennis court and MUGA have been power washed and the teen shelter painted with black metal paint to reduce graffiti.

Low level fencing that had rotted and a broken drop-down bollard has been replaced. Mole treatment was needed as the hills had become hazardous and seems to have worked at the moment!

A Public Space Protection Order has been granted for the enclosed areas of the MUGA, tennis courts, play area and skate park. Notices have been erected notifying the public that these areas are strictly 'no dog' areas.

## **Grass cutting contract**

The two-year contract was put out to tender in January and four responses were received. The Council voted to award the contract to Vertas who have been the contractor for the last two years.

## **Bonfire & Firework Night**

A very successful night was run in 2017. More and more residents of surrounding villages are coming to Stanton as it is good value and a great display. Again, our thanks go to Kelvin McDonald and the Councillors who turned out on the night to man the gates and take monies. Also, to our regular helpers who have been personally thanked.

Moving forward we do need to get more residents involved in the organisation of this event if it is to continue.

## **Highways Issues**

A number of issues were raised with Suffolk County Council in relation to overgrown hedgerows and the condition of pavements and speeding in George Hill along with minor signage and pot hole issues elsewhere. A list of the reported issues is on the Parish Council website.

There are ongoing projects between the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council in respect of the traffic calming scheme and parking problems outside the School in Upthorpe Road and the concerns about safety on the A143 crossing points. The Council has requested a site meeting to discuss the A143.

The Council is grateful to County Councillor Joanna Spicer for her relentless work to resolve Highways issues.

## **New homes and Planning**

The Council has been advised of a proposed development on the Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate which would involve up to 500 new homes and industry. This proposal is still in its infancy. County Councillor Joanna Spicer and Borough Cllr Jim Thorndyke are keeping a watchful eye on any progress and the Parish will be informed as soon as the developers complete a scoping exercise. In due course any proposed development will be subject of a public meeting.

An application for a tree preservation Order on the trees in front of the Tripp Batt site was applied for and granted and must be considered in any future development. The proposed housing application has been withdrawn as the owner must show that the site has been marketed for commercial purposes before applying for housing on the area.

## **Liaison with residents**

The Facebook page is proving to be extremely useful for keeping contact with local residents and the Clerk regularly updates any issues that we become aware of that will help keep residents safe. In addition, there is now a website that is being maintained by the Clerk which contains all our current policies and procedures and minutes of each meeting.

A leaflet was produced and delivered to all houses in the Village to give Parishioners more information about what the Parish Council do. This has received some favourable comments.

## **Accounts**

At the budget meeting in November 2017 Council agreed on a budget which resulted in a small increase in Council Tax (4.68% or £3.16 per annum per Band D property) for all residents. The extra money will be considered for use towards extending the Recreation ground car park and the upgrading of lights at the MUGA to LED to save energy in the long term.

The end of year accounts shows a small underspend of £805 with savings having been made in administration with a move to BACS payments for invoices and a negotiation of new terms in respect of public liability and contents insurance.

## Special Projects

The Council has now purchased two defibrillator units which have been installed outside the doctor's surgery on The Chase and on the side of the Clocktower. Thank you to Cllr Sue Willcox and Cllr Francis Hart for their work on the project. We are extremely grateful to the WI and Stan Coco trust for their significant donations towards the purchase.

A working party chaired by Cllr Hart and involving Cllr Smithson, Cllr Morris and other village organisations including the Royal British Legion is currently planning a celebratory event for the anniversary of WW1 on Sunday 11th November 2018. Whilst still at the planning stages, the event will include the lighting of a beacon at 7pm on the evening.

The Clerk is currently working with Suffolk County Council in respect of a Right of Way application on Park Farm Drive for residents to use the road when the Grundle is in full flow or access is restricted. Questionnaires have been completed by a number of residents and are being considered. Unfortunately, like all legal matters, these things take many weeks and months to resolve.

Cllr Sue Willcox has worked hard to promote a Mother and Toddler Group in the Village. This has been supported by the Parish Council paying the room hire charges and is proving very popular. She has also been liaising with RAF Honington and encouraging parishioners to start clubs for young people. This project is ongoing.

Cllr Brian Brown is working on a project with the Parochial Church Council to provide a Christmas tree in the village this year with a Carol singing event. Again, this is still in its planning stages.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council who give their time and effort for the benefit of Stanton village. To Joy Hart, our Parish Clerk, Kenny Brown, our Street Cleaner and to Councillors Jim Thorndyke and Joanna Spicer for their continued help and support.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

I would like to thank Kelvin Macdonald and all the Parish Councillors very much for their welcome to me at meetings. My welcome to Neil Chapman

My thanks also to Jim Thorndyke for his advice and support on Stanton issues and of course to Joy Hart for keeping me so well informed and many matters arising in the village that involve the County Council

The year that has just come to end started with county council elections in early May and I was honoured to again be elected as your county councillor. The main work I do now at the County Council involves sitting on fostering and adoption panels and assisting with constitutional work and scrutinising the increasing outsourcing that the county council is involved with. Last month I was elected chairman of the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership. This will involve bringing together local authorities, the Police, the NHS, Probation and the voluntary sector in establishing joint community safety plans.

The County Council have appointed a new Chief Executive, Nicola Beach, who is currently a director with Essex County Council. She will start in June. Last week Matthew Hicks became the new leader of the county council.

You may have read in the press about “unitary” councils again being discussed. As with previous reviews I would very much support the principal to save money and create efficiencies – but I am not sure the time is right with the new West Suffolk Council coming in to being next summer and I give my full support to this new council.

The newly elected Council has had to continue the relentless search for savings with the continuing cut in our grant from Government and with some reluctance we have put up the Council tax this year – the first rise in the basic rate for 7 years. We have made more than £236million savings since 2011 and some of the changes have been tough.

The biggest budget pressures continue to be adult care services and child protection. It is interesting that whenever we do surveys although the people of Suffolk recognise the importance of our statutory duty to protect the vulnerable and elderly they continue to suggest highways should be our highest priority.

Which leads me on to highways! The contract the SCC have with Keir is considered to be working better now but it seems very cumbersome and clunky to get responses. Specifically in Stanton over the last year:

- Streetlight problems
- Flooding in the centre of the village in April
- Congratulations and thanks to Speedwatch and Peter Palmer
- Safety issues at the Primary School and Upthorpe Road
- Road safety on the A143
- Potholes and hedge trimming (with thanks to Shelbourne Reynolds who cut the SCC hedges in Stanton as a goodwill gesture)
- Work has been completed on a new grill in The Grundle

Additionally

- Stanton Primary School continues to be rated “good” by OFSTED following a recent inspection
- I have had an informal meeting with developers about the possibility of a new housing and light industrial development on the Shepherd’s Grove Airfield

There have been two important SCC consultations recently

- To ascertain the use of mobile library service
- To consider changes to how school transport is provided

I will continue to report on both of these at regular parish council meetings

Please note my e mail address is [Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### **West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH)**

The planning application for the Waste Hub was approved at the third attempt and building has commenced and will hopefully be completed and hub in operation next year, anybody going into Bury via Barton Hill will see a huge building site off the Fornham Road.

**Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan** is moving forward, now with the inclusion of the Post office building, it seems that all that will be retained of the building is the historic frontage as most of the rest of the building is in poor condition and conversion of existing would not be cost effective.

**The Eastern Relief Road** was completed last year and running from Skyliner Way/Moreton Hall to the A14 junction with Sow Lane has helped with traffic flow and opened up 68 hectares of potential business land.

**The Ikea Site**, has seen discussions with a developer with an idea for a number of houses to be built to help fund infrastructure and in particular the roundabout off the A143 in Hepworth and the relief road across to the West side, something that has been on the table for well over twenty years.

**The Tripp Batt site** following the departure of most of Tripp's operation to Marlow's a planning application for housing was made but it appears that Con Mech the owners could not establish that they had marketed the land as an employment site and they have now withdrawn their application until the site has been advertised for employment use in accordance with policy DM30.

We have continued working with Forest Heath towards a common workforce now the aim over the next twelve months is to become one West Suffolk District Council, we are continuing to work on a new constitution and removing the inconsistencies in working methods between St Eds and Forest Heath. Lots of work has been done on resolving ward boundary issues and there will be a reduction overall in the number of councillors from current 72 down to 64 and all wards based on an electorate of around 2,200, Stanton is already at this level so no changes here, nor with Bardwell, Barningham or Ixworth wards.

We are now waiting for agreements on our suggested ward boundaries and the next stage of public consultation. The new council will start out as district council, on the first of April 2019, but could see application made to become a borough council again.

While most committees will run with shared membership the regulatory committees, Licensing and Planning will continue with separate committees until 31st March 2019.

For the final year of St Edmundsbury Borough Council's life I am staying on the Grant working party and Development Control (planning) Committee which I have had the privilege of chairing for the past six years although the work of that committee is getting evermore difficult with eternal changes to policies, these changes from the government are on an almost monthly basis. We now work with a system where it is judged a sustainable application when converting an old barn in the middle of nowhere but to erect houses on a similar site is not sustainable, nightmare.

From my locality budget I have made a grant to Shepherds Grove Park residents association for the installation of a defibrillator for the park's use.

My thanks to Kelvin, now Neil and Joy and the parish council and to Joanna for the help and guidance they have given me over the past years.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Report of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (Apologies sent)**

I have attached a spreadsheet with what types of crimes had been reported over the past year. There are many more crimes recorded but they are not in the community interest.

It is clear to see that burglaries peak over the festive period. One case of oil theft was recorded. A number of the vehicle damage crimes are “in-house” incidents between family members. Only two reports of ASB had been reported and this say a lot for the good work that the parish council have put in in regards to the play area. The two reports were vehicle and motorbike related. I am happy to report that in the case of the vehicle a gentleman had been issues with a Section 59 Warning.

No doubt there will be isolated issues from time to time. It may be that ASB will increase over the summer holiday period. That will be the case all over. I will endeavour to arrange for more targeted evening patrols over that period by making use of special constables.

You will notice that we have recorded a lot of child and adult protection cases. This is mainly due to the fact that Stanton have a large elderly population and the vast majority of child protection cases are with one family. I have included these numbers just to give everyone a feel of the amount of community input we have in rural villages.

There are ongoing reports of parking problems during school drop-off and pick-up times on Upthorpe Road. I would urge local people to try and stop using vehicles and to walk if and where possible Stanton is not that big! These morning and afternoon school traffic issues happens at every school and it is hard to police “morning-rush” parents. We often rely on people’s common sense.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

The Editors and its delivery team of volunteers has just completed its 21st year of production to provide a community information service to over 1300 homes. The Steamer will shortly be paying approximately £1300 to Saxon Monumental Crafts of BSE in support of the Stanton Branch of the Royal British Legion for the new stone plaque commemorating the village men that gave their lives in the Great War.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Report on Stanton Community Speed Watch – Mr Peter Palmer**

The Speed Watch radar gun was deployed 16 times this year reporting 250 vehicles speeding on George Hill to the police. Sadly, one of our very active team members, Mark Saberton, died suddenly last year, and his enthusiasm and accuracy is sorely missed.

I would like to thank the Parish Council on behalf of the team for the second SID machine which is now deployed on George Hill, whilst the other SID is active on the remaining authorised village points. The data captured by the SID's indicate that 10% of vehicles are speeding at over 35mph and of those 10% the average speed is 39.4 MPH

New volunteers are most welcome as, like myself, age related eyesight problems are taking their toll.

Following correspondence in the Stanton Steamer regarding the speeding and the selfish acts of drivers using the A143 at Stanton; several people have expressed their horrors of the many near accidents they have seen and/or experienced. I know the Parish Council has written to the Highways Authority as have personal letters and e mails been sent. I would encourage all road users whom use and cross the so called 'Bypass' to write to the Highway Authority if they see or are involved with road instances before a fatality occurs.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Report of the Blackbourne Local History Society – Mr Peter Palmer**

The Society, founded in 1982, normally meets on last Tuesday of the month at the Church Rooms from September to April with talks on local and national history events. In addition, a Spring/Summer trip is arranged. Last year we were kindly invited to join the Walsham le Willows WI to explore the Bletchley Park Museum, a most informative but long day out was enjoyed by those that attended. Talks last year ranged from, 'Who's Buried under your House in Stanton', to the 'Amazing Story of the Suffolk Gipsy', and 'The Social History of Stanton Past'.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

We started the year with 239 members but by year end this had increased to 250. This level of membership allows us to continue with the same amount of prize money each month - £100 first prize, £40 second prize and £20 third prize. Our collectors do a wonderful job collecting monthly subscriptions but we do need to be mindful of the need to encourage more new members. In a village of nearly 3,000 inhabitants, 250 members represents a very small percentage.

Our available funds carried forward should suffice for expected needs, though we would always welcome either more members for the Tote (our main source of income) or straight donations

\*\*\*\*\*

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

In 2017 the Village Trust made two donations: £500 to the Shepherds Grove Park Residents Association towards the cost of refurbishing a meeting room for members, £450 to the Stanton Cinema Club towards the cost of a new sound system.

The Trust received £50 from Santander Bank as compensation for poor service during the year. The Trust were also the beneficiaries of a bequest from the late John Robinson of £500 which has been dedicated as a contribution to the second defibrillator in the Village in his memory. The balance of £1744.35 remaining to the fund is deemed sufficient for present purposes

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

The Stanton District Branch of the Royal British Legion has a membership of approximately 61 men and women, which is lower than the previous year, but is in line with the current national trend.

Meetings are held at the Cock Inn, Stanton on the second Tuesday, monthly. Average attendance ranges between 15 and 25.

The Branch Standard was 'paraded' at The Suffolk Show and several funerals throughout the year as well as the Festival of Remembrance at Bury St Edmunds, Memorial Service at East Wretham, Memorial service at RAF Barnham, Remembrance Sunday at Stanton and Armistice Day at Walsham le Willows.

### **Other events**

Stanton Show on 15 July 17

Annual Poppy Race Day at Newmarket on 12 August 17

Bric a brac sale on the Cock Inn Car Park, Stanton on 26 Aug 17.

Fund Raiser evening at the Cock Inn on 19 Sept 17

Coffee morning at Walsham le Willows on 20 April 18.

Annual Branch Dinner at The Cock Inn, Stanton on 15 May 18

Members of the Branch were invited by the RAF Association to their Annual Christmas Dinner (6 Dec 17) and a Cheese and Wine evening(22 March 18) both events at RAF Honington

The Branch was represented at RBL Suffolk County Conference held in the Community Centre at Needham Market in January 2018.

The Branch have been represented at Group meetings held quarterly, (Jan, April, July, October) at different venues in the area.

Commencing on the first Saturday of January and for the next 12 months, in conjunction with Hopton and District Branch, we decided to have a 'drop in' morning, with a view to finding out if there were anyone living in the Village in need of Royal British Legion Support.

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 including that from the Parish Council are greatly appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Report of the WI – Maureen Johnson**

Stanton Women’s Institute has had another successful year with a robust membership and an interesting programme of events.

Being in our Centenary year we are enjoying several special celebrations. In January we held a party where members dressed in the fashion of a decade from the last 100 years. The costumes were amazing. The 20’s were well represented as, as you might expect, so were the 60’s. Flower power was much in evidence! It was a particularly jolly evening with traditional party games, good food and drink and a celebration cake.

We are continuing to celebrate with our Flower Festival on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June in the Church. Please support this special event.

Our speakers over the last year have included the ever-popular Bryan Thurlow as the Perennial Mr. Potter, a representative from the Fisherman’s Mission and Elizabeth Norman who is the voice of 1571. There have been many others but these were particularly popular.

As well as our regular programme we enjoy organising events which benefit charities. We are pleased to report that over the last 12 months, with our special events, we have donated over £2000 to local charities, including the Bury Women’s refuge, the Parkinson’s Society, the Alzheimer’s Society, the Fisherman’s Mission and the defibrillator for the Village.

During our ‘craft and chat’ afternoons which are open to all, including non-members, we have knitted items for premature babies, fish and chip babies in Africa and many other needy causes. Presently one of our members is in Milawi working and will be delivering knitted items.

We are part of the Suffolk West Federation of W. I’s, participating in many of their events. We take part in their competitions with a great deal of success. We are a competitive group!

Our members are continuously generous with their time and resources. They bake copious amounts of cakes and savouries for events and put energy and enthusiasm into everything they do.

As I said at our recent AGM, I wonder if there will be a group of women doing similar things but with the same basic ethos in 100 years’ time?

It is amazing to think that for the last 100 years there has always been a group, here in the Village, meeting regularly for friendship and fun.

We have so much to look forward to.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Report of the Stanton Friendship Club – Pip Bedford (Not present)**

Stanton Friendship Club continues to thrive with over 80 fully paid up Members so far, still meeting the first Monday of each month. We had 6 games afternoons in 2017, 5 interesting speakers and a Christmas Lunch. We had a change of caterer for the Lunch, giving a choice for each course, served on time to the minute and much appreciated by all who attended. Two trips were organised in 2017, Wroxham with a boat trip and Gorleston including the Summer Laughter Show at the beautiful Pavilion Theatre. The weather was amazing for Gorleston in September and it was good to see Members paddling in the sea! Both of these trips were fully booked.

The Club is now in a better financial position due to full coaches making small profits on the trips and a donation of £250 from Stanton Musicians from their Music Cafe held in January. Our future seems secure with sufficient Members, two trips organised for 2018 and speakers already booked until the end of 2019.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Report of the Stanton Musicians – Pip Bedford**

We practice in the Church Room twice a month and word is spreading! We had three new musicians join in 2017 and regularly play out at various events. Our full membership is now 18. In Stanton we organised a Music Cafe in aid of The Friendship Club and made £250. We also played for the Wyken Plant Sale, the Primary School, Methodist Church and WI Christmas Cracker.

Locally we support Hepworth Bowls Club and Bardwell Fete, Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market and a Family Picnic on Fair Green, Diss - our fame has now spread to Stowmarket, Earl Stonham and East Harling!

The 'band' has definitely improved over time and we hope is set up well for the future but despite meeting in Stanton and calling ourselves 'Stanton Musicians' there are still only two players from Stanton itself - we are ever hopeful!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Report of the Stanton Woodland and Wildlife Action Group – Mark Papworth**

Mark Papworth introduced the Stanton Woodland and Wildlife Action Group (SWWAG) by explaining their purpose as provision of green spaces in the Parish of Stanton which promote the well-being of plants, insects, birds and wild animals - but are also for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone living in the Parish.

Some ten years ago the Group were successful in buying just over three acres of scrub land along Uphorpe Road, and they have built it into a thriving woodland called "Sid's Piece". This was achieved with the help of many parishioners, and especially local school children who helped to plant the trees that have grown so successfully.

Sid's Piece is criss crossed with a series of pathways which give members of the public the opportunity to enjoy it's peace, plants and wildlife.

The Group is a registered charity which supports itself through fund raising at an annual Plant and Craft fair, which is kindly hosted by Sir Kenneth Carlisle at Wyken Hall.

The Group also gives out monetary grants to causes in the Parish which promote green open spaces.

Mark invited those present to SWWAG's Annual General Meeting which this year is being held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th June.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Questions from the Audience

At the conclusion of the reports, a resident asked Cllr Thorndyke about the planning application for the Tripp Batt site as the requirement is to prove that the site has been marketed for retail/employment purposes before it is approved for housing. The 'For Sale' sign is very small. He had contacted Hazells who are marketing the site and was 'fobbed off'. The property is not on the Hazells website. Cllr Thorndyke said that he will take it up with the planning authority.

Another resident asked whether there was any consideration for a defib on the Hilltop Way side of the Village. Cllr Smithson, whilst applauding the defibrillator felt that this was not necessary as the Village would have 4 within a year that could be used.

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their reports.

### **Presentation of Community Recognition Awards**

At the conclusion of the reports the Chairman announced the Community Recognition Award and explained that the awards are 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 4 nominations which were presented by Sir Kenneth Carlisle.

**Neal Bassett** – Nominated by Steve Whittaker and seconded by Francis Hart who say

“As Stanton’s longest serving postman, his cheerfulness around the village and his willingness to help when called upon exceeds normal standards when doing his job.

Serving the village of Stanton for over ten years Neal provides an exceptional service for the Post Office and is a fantastic ambassador for his team.

Neal is often called upon for the most unusual tasks and he has found himself emptying a customer’s dog poo bin, sorting out taxis and rescuing runaway dogs to name but a few!

Everyone on his round welcomes his friendly disposition and willingness to chat for a few minutes and even though it might take him twice as long to get around, Neal is always a friendly face at the door.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Angela Burrows** – nominated by Sir Kenneth Carlisle and June Miller and seconded by Janet Jarman and Will Reed who say

“Angela has given great service to Stanton for well over 30 years. She is a key member of our community. Among her many contributions are:

- She has served as a Church Warden for more than 20 years, working with three vicars, and keeping the church active during the gaps between them. At present, with no vicar, she is pivotal in sustaining our church. She prepares the Church for the Service and tidies up at the end. She arranges lesson readers and prayer leaders and assists at Communion, taking communion to the homes of those who are unable to attend church. She gives lifts to those less able to get to Church and visits the sick and recently bereaved. She acts as the liaison point between Stanton and the seven other churches in the Benefice. She is always involved in catering for special events such as the Good Friday Cycle ride and the Summer BBQ brunch at St John Church. She is a representative on the Deanery Synod and the historic Churches Cycle ride committee. She unlocks and locks the church daily. All this takes many hours each week.
- In addition, she has been a trustee of the Poors Estate for more than ten years. She helps to run it and to arrange the annual gifts to the right recipients.
- She was a founding member and helper of the Stanton Cinema Club which shows popular films in the Village Hall. This is enjoyed by many Stanton residents.
- During her working life she served in the village schools, first helping to run the Nursery School and then helping as a teacher’s assistant in our Primary School.
- Angela, with her husband has an allotment and takes great enthusiasm in producing exhibits for the Village Show.
- She delivers the Steamer in her area and participates in the Annual litter pick

Angela carries out these duties with intelligence and great modesty. She is always cheerful and people know that they can go to her for encouragement and help if they are in need.

**She is someone who helps to hold together the fabric of our community.”**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Anne Goffin and Jane Engall** – Nominated by Maureen Johnson and seconded by Dorothy Miller who say

“For many years, Jane and Ann have been organising and running the ‘Drop in’ Tuesday Coffee mornings in the Church Rooms. This is an event that is enjoyed and appreciated by the many people who attend, many of whom live alone and come to enjoy the friendly company and chat.

Anne and Jane bake all the beautiful cakes and pastries and serve the most delicious tea and coffee, only asking for a donation to go to Church funds.

They are totally committed to this well-established village event and if they cant be there for any reason they organise cover so that the visitors are not let down – What stars!

Anyone who visits the Church rooms on a ‘Drop in’ Tuesday is sure of a warm welcome.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.50pm.**

Minutes signed as correct .....Neil Chapman (Chairman)

Dated.....