

# **MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 5 May 2022 at 7.00pm Held at Stanton Community Village Hall.**

**Present:** There were 16 people present, these included District and Parish Councilors, Invited representatives from village organisations and members of the public.

**Parish Council Chairman Mr. Francis Hart chaired the meeting.**

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Alan Kemp, Ian Engall (Report received), Cllr David Cleland-Smith, Cllr Karen Davies, Bob Clarke – Stanton Bowls Club – (Report received), County Cllr Joanna Spicer.
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 27 May 2021 were accepted as correct.

The following reports are attached as Appendix A

3. **Report of Parish Council Chairman: - Francis Hart**
4. **Report of County Councillor – Joanna Spicer**
5. **Report of District Councillor - Jim Thorndyke**
6. **Reports from Village Organisations**
  - a. Community Village Hall – Jim Thorndyke
  - b. Stanton Musicians – Colin Bedford
  - c. Stan Coco and Stanton Village Trust – Ian Engall
  - d. Village SID Watch – Peter Palmer
  - e. Stanton Steamer – Peter Palmer
  - f. Blackbourne Local History Society- Peter Palmer
  - g. Bowls Club – Bob Clarke
  - h. WI – Maureen Johnson
  - i. Friendship Club – Alan Johnson
  - j. All Saints Church – Cathy Bladen
  - k. Village Trust – Maggie Woodhouse
  - l. Brian Bartrum – British Legion
7. **Presentation of the Community Recognition Awards 2022 by the Chair**

**Citations/Nominations for Community Recognition Awards 2022**

1. **Lee Maddox** (Individual) – Nominated by Amy Fulcher, Megan Garnham, Rose Avis, Stacey Mayhew, Jessica Forster, Paul Musgrove

*Excerpts from nominations –*

*There are many reasons why, probably too many to list, but the main reason is I have never known someone to devote themselves so entirely to their local community.*

Lee is always the first to organise, Co-ordinate, help, suggest any ideas or occasions for the village. It seems before the rest of us have even thought of an idea, Lee has got the ball rolling and set the wheels in motion! Not only does he organise wonderful events for the village and surrounding areas, but he is always the first to help whenever anyone is in need. For example, clearing the Grundle or aiding people whose vehicles were stuck in the recent floods.

For many years Lee has held fundraising events and also offered to help those running events in any way possible. He is such a well-regarded person in the community and many turn to him in need.

He thrives on supporting local businesses always buying local and advertising what's on locally. Everything he does he does fully with a big heart and never does he ask for anything in return.

Lee was not present to receive his award

## **2. Ashmore Nursing Home – (Business) Nominated by Debbie Groom**

*I'd like to nominate my team at Ashmore Nursing Home, for the Community Recognition award.*

*The last couple of years have been exceptionally hard on everyone, but the team here, nursing, care, kitchen and domestic staff, have worked non-stop throughout the pandemic, supporting residents, their family and friends, very often overcoming their own fears and worries, especially at the start of this when information and support was very limited and often frightening. Initially we had a very limited supply of PPE, including masks and shields, but everyone recognised that we couldn't not do our jobs and that our residents needed us to be there for them.*

*A high percentage of the staff are from Stanton, as well as other staff from neighbouring villages. They are a close team and have supported each other with humour (necessarily very dark and mostly non repeatable!!), a lot of laughter, many tears plus a shed load of tea, biscuits and hugs.*

*It has been said before that its 'their job', but I feel that they have given a heck of a lot in recent months to the most vulnerable people in our community.*

*I am proud of each and every one of them*

The Award was presented to two members of staff present

## **3. Stanton Post Office Team (Business) – Nominated by Maggie Nicholls, John Walker and Lorraine Frost**

*I would like to nominate Maurice and team at the post office, they have gone above and beyond to help the community and especially during the Covid pandemic.*

*The team has organised and given lifts to those elderly and in need, and has been doing and delivering shopping to the people of Stanton community.*

*The whole team of staff and postal workers has worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone who needed help was given it where possible and their customer service had been absolutely exceptional.*

*We are lucky to have such devoted and caring staff.*

The award was presented to Maurice Lynch on behalf of the Post Office staff

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their reports and their hard work in the Village during the year.

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.25pm**

Minutes signed as correct .....Francis Hart (Chair) Dated .....

## **Appendix A**

### **Chairman's report**

Covid continues to affect our daily lives but the Council is now back to face to face meetings and it is business as usual.

The Village groups and friendships formed during the pandemic continue to flourish in these difficult times and it is good to see many villagers prepared to put themselves out to help others.

It is hoped that the Community spirit evident during this pandemic will remain with us for years to come.

### **Councillors**

Cllr Lorraine Frost was co-opted to the Council in June 2021 to replace Cllr June Miller.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances Cllr Alan Shelton resigned in December 2021.

The vacancy has been advertised and the Council is still actively seeking his replacement.

### **Cemetery**

The contract for grass cutting and maintenance of the areas of the Parish Council Cemetery in Bardwell Road was awarded to West Suffolk Council in February 2022 for a period of 2 years. They also maintain the old churchyard at All Saints and St Johns Cemeteries.

A Memorial bench has been installed at the Cemetery by the Royal British Legion, together with an Oak tree sapling and plaque. The cost of the bench was donated by Mr Lee Maddox and Mr Kevin Bird.

Charges were increased in 2020 but still remain much lower than the West Suffolk cemetery charges. The charges are used towards the maintenance of the Cemetery and includes hedge cutting, weed killing on the gravel driveway, bulb planting, grass cutting and the provision of water for the use of visitors laying flowers.

### **Flooding in the Village**

The structures in The Grundle are still the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.

We continue to be vigilant in reporting blocked drains and would encourage the public to do likewise. We are grateful to the Maddox family for their efforts in clearing debris during heavy rain to avoid flooding problems in The Street.

### **Street Cleaning**

We are very lucky to be able to afford the services of a street Cleaner, Kenny Brown who turns out in all weathers to keep our village looking nice. We also have a weekend Litter Picker - Charlie who does a great job on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

In April, another well organised litter pick was carried out in the Village. It was great to see so many new faces turning out on the day. Thank you to Cllr Barbara Smithson for organising the same.

### **Village Tubs**

The tubs have again been planted up with plants supplied by Hillcrest nurseries and we will shortly be replacing the pansies with another colourful display.

### **Village Maintenance**

This year has seen additional expenditure on the Clock tower which has received necessary maintenance work and painting. A new dog waste bin has been installed at Old Bury Road.

Daffodil bulbs were purchased and the Council is grateful to Cllr Barbara Smithson and family for planting them on the verge at Hepworth Road j/w the A143.

### **Recreation Ground**

We are lucky to have very good play area facilities on the Recreation Ground which continues to be very popular with local children and subject of many compliments.

A Play Area Inspector carries out monthly checks to ensure that all the equipment is safe to use. Cllr Phil Smith is also qualified in play area inspections.

The tennis court and MUGA have been cleaned regularly and the Village is lucky to be able to offer free tennis courts to anyone wishing to play. The play area also has two free table tennis tables.

The teen shelter and picnic table have been repainted, and repairs carried out on the play area equipment including a replacement inclusive swing which was purchased at a cost of £545.

Works to clear a large dead tree at a cost of £1,875 took place in October after which the Council agreed a new boundary line for a resident.

Stanton Football Club has been granted a 25-year lease for the area known as the 'top pitch' which will allow them to apply for improvement loans.

The public toilets have been repainted and refurbished but there are still concerns about the misuse of the facility which had to be closed for some weeks after a door was damaged. Ultimately the facility may have to be withdrawn if the misuse continues.

### **Allotments**

A full review was undertaken of the allotments and Cllr Brown met with allotment holders to consult about a new set of rules and regulations and the increase of the allotment rent to £15 per annum from 1 January 2022, in line with other similar charges elsewhere.

The allotment holders have also joined the National Allotments Society which will provide support and advice, discounted allotment insurance and retail offers.

The allotments are currently fully occupied with one person on the waiting list as at the end of April.

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Lorraine Frost and Cllr Kaz Davies have been working hard to put on a family event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The event will take place on Saturday 4 June with a BBQ, music and children entertainment from 12 noon on the recreation ground.

Commemorative mugs have been purchased for all the children at Stanton Primary School and the cost of this has been kindly donated by District Councillor Jim Thorndyke, the Steamer and the Stan Co co trust

### **Bonfire & Firework Night**

Thanks to Cllr Barbara Smithson and her team of volunteers, the Firework event in November 2021 was a great success.

A decision was made to cancel the bonfire which made the event easier to steward.

It is hoped that the 2022 event will go ahead although there is a need to identify new volunteers to help with the arrangements.

### **Christmas Tree Event**

Despite the efforts of Covid restrictions to keep us all away from each other this year, Cllr Brian Brown once again managed to arrange a fabulous illuminated Christmas Tree in the Village centre.

The usual carols, mulled wine and mince pies were on offer and the event well received by the village residents.

Our thanks go to all who supported the event with mince pies and refreshments.

### **Highways Issues**

The Clerk is kept busy reporting signage and pot hole problems and we do encourage the public to do the same directly to the County Council.

Councillors met with the County Cllr Joanna Spicer and school staff to discuss speeding and parking issues at the site of the Primary School in Upthorpe Road. This is an ongoing problem and parents were urged to consider walking to school instead of driving to ease the problems.

Council has been working with County Councillor Spicer this year to make the A143 safer and a proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph finally came to fruition in March 2022. Our thanks go to Cllr John Frizzell and Cllr Phil Smith for their work on this project.

Cllr Alan Kemp has been working with Suffolk County Council on a project to designate 5 roads in Stanton as 'Quiet Lanes'. These are Duke Street North, Wyken Road (from the A143 to the Junction with Wyken Rd), Glassfield Road and Bury Lane. If successful, signs will be installed at the locations alerting drivers to the presence of pedestrians, cyclist and horse riders. This is ongoing.

The state of the pavement at George Hill is of some concern and Cllr John Frizzell has regularly raised the issue of the safety of pedestrians with County Cllr Spicer. The Highways team has agreed to revisit the area to see what can be done.

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

### **New homes and Planning**

Councillors, along with County Councillor Joanna Spicer and District Cllr Jim Thorndyke are keeping a watchful eye on the proposed developments at Shepherds Grove and at Bury Road (Bloor Homes).

Responses to planning applications are posted on the minutes and publicly available.

The Parish Council has met with the proposed developer of the Jaynic site at Shepherds Grove and has pressed for a full public consultation once the plans are finalised. Of specific interest will be a proposal from the developer to construct a link road to the Industrial estate from the A143 to take Heavy Good Vehicles away from the village. Should their application be successful then the Council will aim to pursue HGV restrictions in the centre of the Village and Upthorpe Road areas.

The old Primary School site at Bury Lane has now been sold and the offer from the County Council to adopt the old school playing field as a 'Village Green' is still an ongoing project.

### **Liaison with residents**

The Facebook page is 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, the website is being maintained by the Clerk which contains all out current policies and procedures and minutes of each meeting.

The Clerk also utilises a Social media site called 'Next Door' which is another way of contacting our residents and is accessed through email for those who don't have a Facebook account.

### **Accounts**

At the budget meeting in October 2021 Council agreed on a budget of £77,710 (Last year £76,320) which is an increase in Council Tax of £5.22 (7.11%) resulting in a Parish Band D Council Tax of £78.64. In order to keep the rises to a minimum Council offset the budget with £4000 of reserves.

The end of year accounts has been finalised and show an overspend of £11161. This was due to legal costs incurred. The accounts are published on the website and available for public view.

### **In the Future**

The Council has updated its Action plan for the coming year. This is published on the website and will include plans to renovate or replace the bus shelter at Old Bury Road and the adoption of a new Village Green on the old school playing field at Bury Lane.

Should the Bloor Homes proposal be successful the Council would like to consider a larger project for a pavilion and changing rooms on the recreation ground.

Smaller projects include an additional speed indicator device on the A143, and a defibrillator for the Village Hall.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council who give their time and effort for the benefit of Stanton village.

And especially Joy Hart, our Parish Clerk, Kenny Brown, our Street Cleaner, Charlie Smith, our Litter picker and to Councillors Jim Thorndyke and Joanna Spicer for their continued help and support.

Question - MJ asked why the Council was going ahead with Quiet Lanes when this was voted on as being a waste of time. MJ was advised that after the public meeting the matter was considered by full Council in June 2021 at which time Council resolved to approve the application.

### **County Cllr Joanna Spicer not present – read by Vice Chair Smith**

I was honoured to be re-elected in May 2021 as your County Councillor. Many of the concerns discussed with parish councils when I was first elected in 1989 have now been resolved, but worryingly some big challenges still remain and new ones have come along!

There is still the difficulty of managing demand for new houses with the quality of life in our villages that we hold dear. New developments, whatever the scale, should bring with them added value for a village such as green space, rights of way, play equipment or road safety improvements. This should be in addition to the provision of adequate school places and environmental gains.

Over the last year Covid19 has continued to disrupt much of our lives and furthermore had a devastating effect on children's education as well as family loss and illness. I am proud that the County Council has led the public sector partnerships in both response and recovery. The funding from Government has been considerable (over £150 million) and now it is important that it is all accounted for.

I am playing a significant role in the governance and expenditure review of Covid19 as I am continuing to be the Chairman of the County Council Audit Committee.

In addition to our Covid response the county council has had to adapt to the implications of Brexit and now we are responding as best we can to the crisis in Ukraine.

We have increased our refugee support service and additionally, we were the first council in the country to cancel our contract for gas with Russia.

In parish council meetings I am sometimes asked for more information about the bigger issues facing Suffolk as a county. These include major infrastructure projects (like Sizewell C, solar and wind farms and off shore energy issues) environmental matters including our policies relating to climate change and carbon reduction, strategic transport links, the proposed Freeport of Felixstowe.

I could fill several pages of an annual report on these issues but prefer to liaise with constituents or parish councils on issues they feel important.

This has been a busy year for Stanton and I am pleased that the County Council has been able to play a small part in that. We are involved in several projects to enhance the quality of life in Stanton.

These include the environmental improvements to The Grundle to prevent flooding, the creation of a small "village green" on the site of the former primary school. I must say how sorry I am these projects have been slow.

There is continuing frustration with residents of Mill View that there is still no completion of highway agreements with the developers.

The County Council last Autumn approved the compulsory purchase of land off Grove Lane to make a link between the two Shepherd's Grove industrial estates.

As always road safety is a great concern. During the last year we have collectively tried again to make Upton Road outside the Primary School safer for children, parents and motorists. We are all pleased that the speed limits on the A143 have now been changed and I thank the parish council for their practical and financial support.

Looking ahead there are some big issues that I wish to work with the Parish Council on. These include the proposed development by Bloor Homes on the A143, the impending planning application (including a spine road and roundabout) Shepherds Grove East. Stanton has also been shortlisted to take part in a "Reclaim the Rain" project.

I would like to thank Parish Council members and the Chairman Francis Hart very much for making me welcome at your meetings and my thanks also to your excellent clerk Joy Hart. I am fortunate to have an effective working partnership with Jim Thorndyke as District Councillor and together we try and navigate the complexities of our different local authority responsibilities!

Questions – Can CCIr provide any update on the situation with the Co-op. The Chair will raise this issue with her.

### **District Councillor Jim Thorndyke**

Another different year in the way we work, pre Covid I would expect to be in the offices at least twice a week for meetings and also find other officers I needed to talk to while there, now it is more like twice a month and we continue with the work from home culture and while we have adapted by spending hours glued to computer screens it can make getting answers happen slower. A visit to West Suffolk House will still often find a lack of people able to answer questions or talk around plans, an example is the new West Suffolk Development Plan which has been consuming much time since last May and which has as it goes out to consultation still many unanswered questions.

Despite difficulties most of the ongoing main projects have moved forward notably the new public service village at Mildenhall, where the public facilities have opened up to the community in a rolling programme from around May.

As part of this programme, Mildenhall College Academy has relocated from Bury Road to the hub in Sheldrick Way, and welcomed students from summer half-term, other services to open since then include new leisure centre with two new pools, a gym, 3G outdoor pitch, fitness studios and a sports hall, alongside a new town library, health centre, children's centre and a job centre.

The hub also features office space for the NHS, police, Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council and a café.

**Western way hub** This project seeks to create a new public sector hub with new sports and leisure facilities including new energy centre and car parks, The existing NHS warehouse/depot will form the key building for the site, the existing shell is very tired and will be removed but the frame and concrete slab of the existing building will be retained, reused and extended to create a new multi-purpose building to serve as a public hub for the growing needs of the West Suffolk for a variety of public and private services.

An energy centre will house combined heat and power systems and battery storage for power generated by the onsite solar panels on West Suffolk House will be retained. The new leisure centre would occupy the extension

and the western end of the existing building, being accessible from both Western Way and Olding Road. Once the new leisure centre has been provided, the existing leisure centre will be removed and the site used for additional car parking. A new pavilion is also proposed to serve the needs of users of the running track, which is otherwise unaffected by this proposal. The skatepark will be retained in its existing location, but reconfigured and enlarged as an integral part of the development. The new Abbeygate sixth form college has already been built and is operating from part of the site.

**Bury Post Office** The bulk of this building was demolished and two retail units at ground floor and 12 flats built above replace it, great care was taken to protect and keep the historic front at 17-18 Cornhill looking like the former Post Office. Once completed there will be at ground floor level a widened by more than 50 per cent Market Thoroughfare and will create a new commercial frontage onto St Andrews Street South facing the Arc.

**Sadly the progress made** on these projects is not reflected in village developments, the Tripps Co-op site has had permission granted for 18 months but is on stop until County highways and the Co-op can agree on the provision of the Zebra crossing that formed part of the original consent.

Likewise the Primary School site in Bury lane has had full planning permission to convert the Victorian building into three units since December 2020 and the remaining development area approved in outline for seven dwellings also in December 2020 but still awaits a reserved matters application so some time to go.

We still await the planning application for the road across the airfield to the A143 and until that appears speculation about what the future development will be like on that site will continue.

Bloor homes development seems to have slowed and it could be they are waiting for the new West Suffolk local plan to move forward and agree their site, that final decision is some way off. Worrying with this application is the latest on developer contributions and the news that the existing PAN for the primary school could be increased by 50% from 210 to 315 children by opening up the mothballed classrooms. The very real worry is what this increase will do to the already disastrous situation with traffic on Upthorpe Road, remember Blackbourne when a middle school had many children arrive on school busses.

I mentioned the new West Suffolk Plan earlier, this plan which will shape development in West Suffolk until 2040 will be out for consultation later this month and I would urge everybody to study it in particular the pages that cover Stanton and the A143 corridor in section three and submit comments to WSC. A recent planning appeal decision for a site on George Hill seems to go against a statement in the plan that the A143 is a barrier to development to the North, the inspector in his report states that the site is a relatively convenient drive and walk from the village centre of Stanton!

Can I echo Joanna's thanks to the Parish Council and add my thanks to Joanna for her continued work for the Blackbourne division.

### **Stanton Village Hall – Jim Thorndyke**

This report is for the village hall year from January to December 2020.

This has been a very different year which has switched between our normal operation and total lock down and varying states in between.

The first eleven weeks of the year saw income of about £4,500 from bookings and reflecting our normal level of income of between £16 and £20k on the year.

In February the lights in the main hall were replaced with new LED panel lights as the old fluorescent units were failing, indeed around a third of the 96 tubes had ceased to function. Following on we then looked at the remaining 60 plus lights, mostly fluorescent tubes of some description which were getting tired, we moved forward with applications for grants totalling £3,300 to help fund the replacement of most of these with LED variations, this was carried out during the first lockdown period, it seemed the ideal time as there were no hirers to be inconvenienced.

In April the Government decided that village halls and some other community buildings should be regarded as businesses which needed supporting and we received £10k as a grant via West Suffolk Council this was followed by a further £1,334 for the shutdown in November.

We were open on a very restricted basis mainly in September and October but not before we had spent some £500 on signs, sanitiser and other necessary requirements and after we had read many pages of rules and instructions on what was needed to be sorted out before letting anyone back in the hall, it did not help with the number of changes made to these instructions which came in it seemed almost on a daily basis. In the time we were open again income was just £1,300. So we had a total of about £5,800 from bookings for the year.

We had been hoping to recruit some new blood onto the committee but are now waiting for a return to some form of normality when we can start another appeal for support however if anyone wishes to volunteer, I will be happy to discuss the commitment with them.

Currently we are planning to redecorate the main ladies' toilets and to replace floor covering in the small hall, not sure if the tiles there are from the original build.

My thanks to all committee members who have worked hard to keep the hall ready for whatever we were allowed and now prepared for whenever we can open the doors properly again.

### **Stanton Musicians Report – Colin Bedford**

Our fortnightly music sessions continue to attract around 16 players and we are happy to report 2 new regular attenders, 1 of whom is from Stanton.

After many different types of meetings during the pandemic, online, in players' gardens and in the Community Village Hall to enable social distancing, we are at last back 'home' in the Stanton Church Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. All sessions are very well attended by musicians and we sometimes have a small audience who enjoy the music and a drink with us.

We managed to play at Thelnetham Fete last summer, between Covid rules, and in March this year raised £410 for the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association at one of our Music Cafes. In April this year we played at Wyken Hall for the SWAG Open Garden Event.

We are looking forward to 2 bookings over the Jubilee weekend (Coney Weston and Stanton) 2 events in Thelnetham, Bardwell Fete, Rickinghall Open Gardens and Pakenham Blind/Partially Sighted Club. We only request a £10 donation for each of our bookings and hope people get as much pleasure from listening as we certainly do from playing.

MJ commented that it was nice to have our own group of musicians in Stanton

## **Stan Co Co and Stanton Village Trust – Ian Engall - Not present. Report read out by Vice chair Smith**

The Stan Co Co Trust and Stanton Village Trust have been raising money for local organisations for more than 20 years. During that time we never experienced such difficulties as we did during the covid lockdown. For the first time in the Trusts history we had to suspend the monthly tote for just over 12 months. The Trustees are grateful for the support we were given from all our members and supporters during this time. No one asked for a return of their subscriptions and this was particularly helpful as it enabled the Trusts to continue to give financial aid to village organisations during lockdown despite us having no income.

During lockdown we gave money to help provide food parcels for Stanton residents who were struggling and we are grateful for the Primary School staff and Governors for ensuring our donation reached those most in need. We also gave a donation to the Primary School to help with the purchase of lap tops for the school children. Our constitution does not allow us to make donations to individuals but I am pleased to say that our lockdown donations did provide some help to those village residents most in need.

The monthly tote is the major source of our income and remains popular with many Stanton residents. We lost quite a few members during the last two years or so. A few moved away from the village, some had to go into care and sadly we did lose a considerable number of members who had passed away. Without exception these members had been strong supporters of the tote for many years.

On top of this loss of members we were not helped by a rumour being spread around the village - by one person in particular – that the Tote had – had its day and was finishing. This rumour was perpetuated by two or three others and that did not help our cause and directly because of this rumour we lost several members. On a personal note I had to question why, in these difficult days for us all, that giving a small sum of money to those in need was considered to have had its day. Those who spread the rumour were so wrong.

I can tell you now that this rumour galvanised myself and some of our wonderful volunteer collectors to seek new members for the tote. Within a short time we had, collectively, increased our members back to pre-lockdown levels. I can also tell you that our recent new membership push – by way of a flyer in the Steamer – has proved to be a real success. We are now very close to reaching a record number of subscribers to the tote. The cynic in me says “so much for the tote having had its day.”

We are now looking forward to continuing to help local organisations who need funding for their projects - something we have been doing for more than 20 years and will continue doing so for many more years. In closing I would like to pay thanks firstly to all members who subscribe to the tote -. In doing so you really do make a difference. I would also like to thank my band of volunteer collectors who go out every month – come rain or shine – to collect the subscriptions. I am proud of you.

## **Village SID Watch (ex-Speed Watch) – Peter Palmer**

Three volunteers currently maintain the movement of two SID machines on fixed regulated highway posts. One is in operation on the Barningham Road whilst the other is operated throughout the village withing the 30mph limits. To date no decision has yet been made concerning the new 30mph area of the A143 as to what if any SID is to be used.

Analysis report of Village data of 90,000 vehicle movements over 4 months. Note: recording from only one oncoming recording point from 8 possible different recording positions. These are 85% percentile average figures:

Of vehicles travelling over 35mph the average speed is 38.5mph  
Of vehicles travelling less than 35mph the average speed is 33.2mph

Peter Palmer is grateful to both David Bull, who has been with the scheme since 2006, and also Alan Kemp, who has been running the Barningham road SID for the last year. However, Peter Palmer who has been running and leading the speed schemes in various formats since 2006 requests that the Parish Council to take over the responsibility of the scheme in view of the A143 changes. Both himself and David Bull will continue as volunteers with the village SID.

### **Stanton Steamer – Peter Palmer**

The Stanton Steamer is now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of publication. I would like once again to thank the editors Mr & Mrs Thorndyke and Alan Johnston who distributes to the exceptional team of volunteers who deliver to 1350 households every month.

Commercial advertising revenue is down as companies have been reappraised their working distance zones and their need to attract new customers at the risk of loosing their core customer base. The Steamer managers are keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the team.

### **The Blackbourne Local History Society – Peter Palmer**

The Society, restarted in September 2021 meeting on the last Tuesday of every month until April 2022 inclusive, following the pandemic shut down period. A variety of talks and a Christmas quiz were enjoyed by members and guests alike. A summer outing is being arranged for June to the Stowmarket Food Museum.

There were no comments or questions about any reports

### **Stanton Bowls Club – Bob Clarke (not present) – Report read out.**

Like all organisations, the bowls club has endured some tough times over the last two years. The Committee would like to thank the membership for its ongoing support in these times and hopes things are slowly returning to normal, albeit a “new normal”! The club is grateful for the support of the Borough Council in facilitating the award of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants during the pandemic and this has helped to support the subsidising of membership subscriptions during 2021 to offset the costs for members during the lost months during 2020 and beyond. These grants have ensured the club maintained a good financial position and did not suffer unduly as a result. This was a concern initially, as expensive facilities such as the bowling green require maintenance regardless of use.

We would like to place on record our thanks to the Parish Council for their grant to support the development of bowls in the community. This was used to purchase four sets of bowls aimed at younger people and have so far been put to good use.

We remain in a strong position, certainly when compared to other bowls clubs in the area. Our membership has grown to in excess of seventy five members and we held an extremely successful open day at the beginning of this month which saw over twenty new people register an interest in the game.

The future of bowls remains bright in Stanton. We are always grateful for the support of our President, Sir Kenneth Carlisle, the hard-working membership and the community of Stanton. We hope to see more and more new faces in the near future.

## **Stanton WI – Maureen Johnson (President)**

Our members have remained in touch throughout the last couple of difficult years, with email, online competitions and, where possible 'proper meetings'. These have often been outside, usually in members gardens, but last year our AGM was under a tree on the recreation ground. We are now back to ordinary meetings and have already enjoyed interesting speakers and other varied activities. Our membership will inevitably be down in numbers from previous years due to several reasons but alternatively we have welcomed some new members.

The sub groups continue to do well. We organise the weekly cafe in the church room on a Thursday with all profits going to local charities. We have already donated £1,000 to St Nicholas Hospice and £500 to the Bury Women's Refuge. We are now raising funds to send to SARS (The Suffolk Accident Rescue Service). We are proud that our cafe was featured in the W.I. News which is the National Magazine of the Women's Institute. We run this for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community, so please support us.

The Craft and Chat group is also open to all, including non-members and is well supported. Through the efforts of this group we have sent knitted items to support hospital patients, needy babies in Malawi, and rescue dogs in Romania and at the Dogs Trust.

This is all in addition to our various visits and outings.

We are very proud of our continued success, with a diverse membership and active committee who are full of enthusiasm. Long may it continue.

There were no comments or questions

## **Stanton Friendship Club – Alan Johnson**

We have carried on as best as we could with certain restrictions being in place, but all in all we now seem to be back to normal.

We managed to fit in a few trips etc :-

Buxhall Tea Rooms where we not only enjoyed the refreshments but had an interesting time looking around their museum.

Euston Hall where we went on a tractor ride around the farm to see all the interesting projects that were on the go, and ended with a picnic.

Taverham Garden Centre to do some Christmas shopping, which was a very enjoyable day out on the coach.

The other sociable meetings have continued with quizzes, bingo and cards. All of course having refreshments to finish with.

This year we have 3 trips at the planning stage and several speakers booked to come to our meetings.

We still only charge £5-00 to join. This covers all the meetings with refreshments.

The only extra cost a member has to pay for, is any outings they wish to go on, and the Christmas lunch. ( which this year is on 8<sup>th</sup> December ).

There were no comments or questions.

## All Saints Church - Rev Cathy Bladen

These last two years have been a challenge for the Church ...as it has for everyone. But as a church we have tried to get along-side and help the community where we can.

With the help of Anne-Marie Stevens and our Angie Burrows and the great generosity of local people we set up our won food bank and have been able to support folk who have struggled. The school has also been a point of contact and where folk have been reluctant to come to us ..We have delivered food parcels to the school for them to pass on to families.

We are continuing to do this ... and will continue ...as we believe the need will grow again as the cost of living soars.

Having initially to had to close the church on instruction from the government we opened up for private prayer as soon as we were allowed to. During this time our services went on line... first being recorded and released on Facebook and YouTube... then livestreaming services from the Rectory and then from the church as we were allowed to re-start services. We continue to live-stream an 11am service each week for those who are either unable to come to church or who are still concerned about coming.

As services have resumed in person our numbers have slowly grown. We currently have two services a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month... a traditional service of Holy Communion with the Benefice Choir and an informal service which we call Everyone Welcome. Our hope before too long is also return the 8.30am BCP Communion to one Sunday a month.

As many of you will be aware we have had many funeral services ...and at the end of December we had a Memorial Service of thanksgiving to remember those who have died in the last couple of years.

Baptisms having increased with the majority of families choosing to have personal afternoon services. And we have a number of weddings as couples whose services were postponed through the lock downs are at last able to have their ceremonies.

We at All Saints have real vision to be a the heart of the community.. here in Stanton ... supporting, caring for and loving the community as best we can.

With this in-mind we are working towards a re-ordering of the church to make it a much more welcoming and usable space. Our plans involve an extension which would provide a level entrance to the church ...making access easier for those with mobility issues, wheel chairs and buggies and a disabled access toilet.

Additional heating... and a large glazed door ...so people can see what they are stepping into. Hopefully this makes joining us for services more inviting ...and comfortable.

By taking some of the pews out we will also have space in which we can have different styles of service ....so hopefully there will be something for everyone

We also plan to have a bespoke kitchen built in along the west wall with will make it easier for us to provide refreshments before and after the services. And over time our hope is to offer different things for the community.

Coffee mornings ...a drop in area for parents having dropped children at school

Amongst our thoughts is to offer a safe space where high school children could come in to have a hot drink and toast and a space to either sit and chat... to play a board game to start homework etc before parents come home.

We've lots of ideas that hopefully over time will become more formulated.

As a church our involvement in the community school is also really important. We've loved having the school back in for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Easter services.

And we liaised with the school to hold a Benefits Information Session where we had speakers from Citizens Advice, The Still Good Food Project, Christians Against Poverty... and our village charity.

Our Christmas Services were well attended... And we have about 150 people through church on the evening of the Christmas Tree lighting. There was a lovely atmosphere as people enjoyed the crafts and activities. We'd like to thank Lee Maddox for his help again to get our nativity scene up and so beautifully lit.

The church belongs to the village... it's YOUR church and Angie Burrow as churchwarden works hard to keep the church open during the day so people can come for some quiet, to pray and perhaps light a candle. We try to ensure there is always colouring to do so folk with children can feel at home too. Angie along with one of our young people recently achieved a Silver Award as an Eco Church, looking at how we as a church recycle along with having added bird boxes to the churchyard and have set aside wild areas designed to encourage insects and wildlife.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Stanton Land Fund – Maggie Woodhouse**

Stanton Land Fund supports eligible residents of Stanton by issuing vouchers which can be redeemed in the local shops.

The vouchers are issued annually in November, in 2021 we issued 67 vouchers.

The money from the vouchers is raised by rent paid on land left to the village.

We are looking for a treasurer to take over next year, if interested or you are able to support in any way, please contact me on 01359251418.

MJ asked whether the fund had a facility for families in urgent need. Maggie Woodhouse responded that the fund did not currently have that facility.

#### **Royal British Legion – Brian Bartrum . – Copy of report not received**