

**MINUTES OF THE STOKE ALBANY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2012 AT 8.00 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Present

Councillors: J Wallace (Chairman), J Tugwell, B Squires, D Small

In Attendance: Mrs V Parish, Mrs L Parkin - Clerk.

Apologies Cllr A Wiley, Kettering Borough Councillor, Mr M Parish,
Neighbourhood Watch Co-coordinator

2 Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2011

The minutes were approved as a correct record and it was **Resolved** that they be signed.

3 The Annual Report of the Parish Council 2010/11. –

The Chair read her review as follows:

‘After my second year as Chair, I would firstly like to thank Leigh Parkin for her hard work and efficiency as Clerk and also to members of the Parish Council, Bruce Squires, Jane Tugwell, David Small and Tracy Thompson. Steve and Tracy Thompson have moved away, so thanks for their contribution to the Parish Council; Tracy as a Councillor and Steve as Footpath Warden.

- Consultation has begun on the Kettering Borough Council Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document.
- Speeding traffic continued to be an issue as well as lorries using the Desborough Road as access to Magnetic Park. There is to be an extension of the 30mph speed limit along Wilbarston Road, Stoke Albany.
- Bruce Squires checked the bus shelters, seats and BMX track on a monthly basis and all were in good order;
- The Asset Register was updated;
- Parish Enhancement Gangs trimmed hedges and carried out general tidying jobs;
- A Desborough Road sign was erected opposite the White Horse Pub;
- The village clean-up was a great success in April with 17 willing volunteers as well as an additional party clearing vast amounts of litter halfway to Ashley;
- Bus timetables have been placed in each bus stop following the bus service changes which came into effect from 5th September 2011 including the new County Connect Service;
- An extra rubbish bin was installed by the bus stop opposite the White Horse Pub;
- The red telephone box is due to be repainted this summer;
- The introduction of the Localism Act will bring changes to Parish Councils. Consultation has already taken place on the Draft National Planning Framework. Changes to Standards and the Code of Conduct for Councillors are expected in July 2012;

- The Parish Council grant was reduced again by Kettering Borough Council this year. There is to be a full review of funding for Parish Councils by Kettering Borough Council during summer 2012.

Finally over the last few months many members of the village have been organising events and activities in preparation for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee'.

The review was **Noted**.

4 **A Financial Report of the Parish Council 2011/12**

The Clerk reported account balances of £5,743.76 (including National Savings) at 31st March 2012. There were no significant areas of expenditure for 2011/12. The report was **Noted**.

5 **Reports**

Village Hall

Cllr Tugwell reported that a lot of improvement work is being undertaken on the Village Hall including the redecoration of the upstairs meeting room. A grant has been acquired from Kettering Borough Council to undertake work on the roof. The Village Hall Committee has new members and continues to actively fundraise to support and develop the Village Hall. The report was **Noted**.

Footpath Warden

It was noted that Mr S Thompson, Footpath Warden, is no longer undertaking the role as he has moved away.

Snow Warden

A letter had been received from Mr R Freer, Snow Warden, resigning from his position.

Pocket Park

The Clerk reported that a risk assessment and safety inspection were completed in February 2012. These will be reviewed and up-dated on an annual basis or sooner if required. The report was **Noted**. It was agreed that the Pocket Park will be taken off future Annual Meeting agendas as it is a standing agenda item at the Parish Council meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr M Parish provided a written report on behalf of himself and Mrs C Prince as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators:

'We are fortunate in Stoke Albany in terms of crime incidences, but we have had several vehicle thefts and heating fuel stolen from the church so we cannot be complacent. Please keep your eyes and ears open and report any suspicions you have to the 24 hour hotline 01604 432436. For emergencies of course use 999.

I urge everyone to look at the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) website for information and advice. Use the web address www.nhwkettering.org.uk or simply Google 'nhw kettering'. The site has links also to the main Police site, BBC's Crimewatch site and much more.

A recent new initiative is Dog Watch. This is open to all dog walkers, runners or anyone who likes to get out and about in our beautiful countryside. It is a sad fact that the missing links to many crimes are often in out of the way places in the country whether it be a stolen vehicle, an item of clothing or a discarded tool. Dog walkers are often the means by which vital information is found. Dog walkers are often the first to notice dumped waste, damage, graffiti etc. as dogs venture into areas not noticed by passers-by. New members are issued with general information on Dog Watch, a badge and contact details should a problem require to be reported.

To become a member complete the on-line application form on www.northamptonshiredogwatch.co.uk, call 101 ext 5724 or write to Northamptonshire Dog Watch, Rushden Police Station, North Street, Rushden, Northants NN10 6BU.

General contact numbers:

- Emergencies: 999
- Police Control Room: 101
- Watch Hotline: 01604 432436
- Call Anonymously: Crimestoppers 0800 555111

If you wish to become a member of Stoke Albany NHW Scheme and receive a twice yearly newsletter please contact myself or Christine'.

The report was **Noted**

No other reports had been received.

6 Local Issues

None

The meeting closed at 8-25pm