

MINUTES OF THE STOKE ALBANY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd MAY 2023 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

Councillors: D Benson (Chair), M Kelly and G MacKenzie-Kent

In Attendance:

Mrs J Medwell – Clerk
NNC Cllrs M Tebbutt and D Howes
2 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr G Squire

The Annual Report of the Parish Council – given by the Chair

Council Members. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2022, Cllr David Benson was elected Chair, and Cllr Gavin Mackenzie-Kent was elected Vice-Chair. Cllr Jane Wallace resigned in March 2023.

Jubilee Refurbishment. The Council undertook refurbishment of a number of assets around the village to mark the Platinum Jubilee, focussing mainly on painting and repainting benches. Several Councillors and Parishioners volunteered to help out on the project.

Defibrillator. A community grant was obtained from North Northants Council (NNC) towards replacing the defibrillator, with SAPC meeting half the costs over an estimated 10-year lifetime. The replacement was installed and handed over into the care of our Community First Response team on 19 February 2023.

Planning. The Council considered 14 planning applications during the year, approving 6 and objecting to 8. Five of the objections related to the Traveller Site at Bowd Field.

Chestnut Edge Development. The Council received many comments and complaints from Parishioners throughout the year in connection with the Chestnut Edge development (including inconsiderate parking by workers, mud on the road, flooding, location of the electricity sub-station, out-of-hours working, noise, litter), and made representations on these matters to NCC and to the developers themselves.

Stoke Feast. The Council donated £65 towards the 2022 Stoke Feast. In subsequent debate about public liability insurance cover it was decided to adopt Stoke Feast as a formal sub-committee event of SAPC for 2023 and beyond.

Road Safety. The Council remains concerned about speeding in the village and continues to use the vehicle activated speed sign that it shares with several other rural parishes, hosting it on 4 occasions during the year. SAPC reached out to the police road safety team with a view to setting up enforceable police speed traps on the Desborough Road in due course. The Council registered its support for a 40mph limit to be put in place on Wilbarston Road.

Bus Service. The Council continued to provide financial support to the Welland Wanderer Bus Service, although the medium-term outlook is bleak unless substantial funding can be secured from NNC.

Risk Assessments. New risk assessments were produced for the Upper & Lower Greens, taking into account the need for 3rd party users to provide their own public liability insurance should they deem it appropriate.

Documentation. Historical documents related to the creation of the Pocket Park were collected from the old district council offices in Brixworth, and are now stored in the Parish Council's archive chest at the Chair's house, 17 Ashley Road. The filing cabinet remains in the custody of Mr & Mrs Green at the Old Rectory.

Financial Report of the Parish Council

The Clerk presented the financial statement at 31st March 2023

Stoke Albany Parish Council

Receipts & Payments Account 2022-23

	2021-22	2022-23
Receipts	£	£
Precept	3,865.00	5,225.00
Interest on Investments	0.45	9.79
Allotment rents	125.00	100.00
Ground Rent	300.00	300.00
VAT Reclaimed	19.45	0.00
Grants	224.84	1,570.00
Total Income	<u>4534.74</u>	<u>7204.79</u>
Payments	£	£
Administration	595.28	259.08
Clerks salary and pension	3,933.48	4,318.04
Insurance	320.82	322.64
Poppy Wreath / Scout Donation	50.00	50.00
Bus Shelter Rent	50.00	50.00
Village Hall	50.99	100.50
Website and Bank Charges	47.20	113.20
Village Overheads	190.00	472.54
Memberships and Training	0.00	379.42
Donation	0.00	65.00
Defibrillator	0.00	725.00
VAT	12.59	203.89
Total Expenditure	<u>5250.36</u>	<u>7059.31</u>
General Fund	£	£

balance at 1 April		6,364.40	5,648.78
current	1,984.88		1,165.21
Less u/p	142.60		39.00
Savings	4,522.12		4,522.57
 Add receipts		<u>4,534.74</u>	<u>7,204.79</u>
Total		10,899.14	12,853.57
deduct payments		5,250.36	7,059.31
 Balance at 31 March		<u>5,648.78</u>	<u>5,794.26</u>
 Current account		1,165.21	5,794.26
Nat Savings		<u>4,522.57</u>	<u>-</u>
Total		5,687.78	5,794.26
Less unrepresented cheques		39.00	-
Balance at 31 March		<u>5,648.78</u>	<u>5,794.26</u>

Village Hall Annual Report – provided by Shirley Morgan

Some significant changes have arisen in recent years, some regular users have changed, Covid regulations-imposed changes, and the 2 mornings a week playgroup has increased its usage to 5 full days a week, with a nursery placement in the upstairs meeting room. This is now a private business and as such has changed the nature of the Hall and, as noted in my previous report, is still producing extra burdens on the Hall and therefore the committee volunteers. Sadly, we have lost two hard working volunteers this year, but are pleased to welcome Carol Elliot onto the committee.

This year the committee arranged a brass band cream tea afternoon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Many scones were made and served although inclement weather forced the planned outdoor event to retreat to the Church. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and the Tea, made by Committee members who worked very hard to make it a very successful afternoon.

We had the usual request from Stoke Feast to run the refreshment stall, and again sterling workers from the Committee made it another successful event.

Improvements to the Hall this year included painting of the exterior of the windows. The shed reroofed and painted, repairs to the kitchen floor and a new cupboard built in the entrance lobby to house the playgroup carpets giving the back lobby a much tidier entrance. We have a new regular user, a martial arts class, every Monday which is

great, and the booking clerk tells me we have had lots of enquires for private functions. The "Big Help Out" suggested as part of the new King's coronation has highlighted how vital volunteering is in supporting local communities. A huge thank you to every single committee member, for their help, support and hard work this year.

Footpath Warden Report – provided by Bruce Squire

All paths walked by me at least once during the year. Most paths in good order with the main problem being a poor stile and bridge over the ditch where HH14, HH16 and HH22 meet. This has been reported. There were only two instances of crops not being cut sufficiently, both were rectified on receipt of my email.

Local Issues

There were no local issues raised.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm