

STOKE FERRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 6.30 pm Virtually on Zoom

DRAFT Minutes (Until approved at the next meeting)

Attendance: Chairman Cllr Sue Lintern
Councillors Cllr Trudy Mann
Cllr Andrew Hayward
Parish Clerk & RFO Helen Richardson

Public: 2

Cllr Martin Storey, Norfolk County Council Councillor

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr Kit Hesketh-Harvey, Cllr Mandy Leamon, Cllr Stuart Collins, Cllr Janet Taylor and Donna Stocking.

2 Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 4 May 2019

The minutes were approved and accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Lintern; **Seconded:** Cllr Trudy Mann, all were in favour.

4 Matters Arising

There was none.

5 Chairman's Report

In March 2020 no-one will have supposed we would still be in 'Lockdown' a whole year later. As so often happens in a crisis, good things come from bad. The Village Volunteer Group generously gave extra time to help any villager in need. They shopped, delivered prescriptions, or just had a phone chat to banish a neighbour's loneliness. Recently, they have driven miles to take people to their vaccination, or other medical appointments.

If you find that you need help, the Volunteer Group continues to help out. You can find out how on our Facebook page Stoke Ferry Isolation Volunteers, or you can email me direct. The Volunteer Group consists of several members of the Parish Council, including myself, and others willing to pull together to help others. We

would like to thank all helpers for their time and their kindness. They made a dark time a little brighter.

Of course, our monthly Parish Council meetings also had to be adapted to the new 'norm' and were held via Zoom - so we continued to make progress with planned projects. We've almost completed the Parish Partnership projects. We can also now perch in the bus shelter, with thanks yet again to the generosity of Bonnetts. Numbered badges have been fixed to the finger-posts along the PRow, which ties in with the Footpath booklet to help identify the route you are on. Many thanks to Tony Hunt and Ray Edwards for attaching the badges - you were extremely helpful by completing what was a really big task.

As part of this project we are creating a village map which will be installed on the plinth in the Lyn Road garden area. This, too, will tie in with our walks booklet to give an overview of all village walks. The map is almost complete. I am sure everyone will love it as well as finding it useful. And the village gates have now been set up and signs are ready and waiting for Highways to attach.

Meanwhile, the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. We hope to have a draft ready for consultation in late summer. Unfortunately, Covid rules meant that we were unable to have public participation, but - fingers crossed - we may be able to invite public comment by the summer.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with the Borough Council regarding planning applications. We speak regularly to make sure your views are heard and taken into account when a critical decision is being made.

Like so many things, last year's Summer Fayre had to be cancelled. It is with regret that we have also had to cancel this year's Fayre. But we hope to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Playing Field in the not too distant future.

Come autumn, we are planning to have a large scale bulb planting event to brighten all our village entrances. We are looking into the National Green Initiatives and tree planting schemes to work out what we might be able to do to further brighten the village. And we are in talks to take over the Borough Council land behind Buckenham Drive for village use.

Meanwhile, the grass cutting and maintenance contracts continue with Mr Sparkle doing an excellent job. As always, if anyone sees an area that needs improvement please let us know.

We are also continuing to give our support for the Blue Bell to become a community asset and are hoping to hear good news on that front very soon. Village charities and organisations continue to be supported and I take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who keep them running, and help make Stoke Ferry a friendly village.

Special thanks should go to our Clerk. She has worked diligently for us in these extraordinary circumstances. Well done, Helen, for doing such an excellent job.

I sincerely hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, as we look forward to a brighter future.

Sue Lintern.

Chairman of Stoke Ferry Parish Council.

6 Reports from Village Organisations

The Chair read the following reports (attached as appendices to these minutes):

- Stoke Ferry Playing Field Trust Annual Report - It has been a very quiet year with Covid restrictions in place, therefore not much to report, we are very grateful for the new litter bin that you so kindly supplied. Looking to the future we have had a football team approach us about using the playing field, this is great news and we are helping them in any way we can. The windows have been broken in the pavilion again so we are hoping that once restrictions have been lifted we will be able to raise funds to replace them once again, at the moment the two containers are being painted to make them tidy again. David Sewell Chairman
- An update from the Bluebell would be provided at the Parish Council meeting as usual.

7 Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting closed – 6.40 pm.