

MINUTES OF
STAVERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY APRIL 11th 2013

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Tony Glover (Chairman)

Mrs S Foster (Clerk)

13 members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Robin Brown, District Councillors Jo Gilford, Bob Patchett and Liz Griffin, Carol Green, Mark Stott, William Philpott, PCSO Carl Barton.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON APRIL 25th 2012

The draft minutes had been circulated. On item 12f, it was noted that “B” should read “P”.

Proposal ‘That the Minutes should be approved’ by Ian Weaver; seconded by John Golding; carried.

3. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD APRIL 25th 2012

Matters are covered on the agenda.

4. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN – COUNCILLOR TONY GLOVER

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the Staverton Parish Annual Meeting and thank you all for coming.

The parish has had quite a busy year. As you may be aware, Local government has changed somewhat recently due to the introduction of the Localism Act. The idea of this act is to pass more authority and responsibility on to Parish Councils. As a result, we can no doubt expect a greater work load to be placed on to parish councillors, all of whom, of course, are volunteers. However, the good news is that, in general, the length of parish council meetings have steadily been getting shorter.

I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on some of the activities and achievements which have occurred in the parish over the last 12 months.

Firstly, I must mention the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations. These were a great achievement, with an excellent turn out, which helped fund local charities to the sum of nearly £1000. Congratulations to all those who made it such a resounding success.

As for the parish council, we have met every month, and occasionally several times a month, since the last parish meeting. In addition to the continued day to day tasks, work undertaken has included the replacement of 3 existing street lights, 2 which were on concrete posts and one on a wooden pole, all of which were well past their sell by dates.

Work regarding the footpaths in the parish is continuing. The proposed modifications to various paths, including the Loop, have now been passed on to the relevant County Council departments and we are awaiting action on their part. The proposed kissing gates are also well on the way and we hope to be able to report on them in the near future.

The notice board on the village green has been given a new lease of life. John Golding and I were able to replace the rotten wooden posts with concrete ones.

The Parish Website is still in production. We are now awaiting the final draft of the content and we hope to go live soon.

Further to a report concerning the trees on the village green, these have had their crowns cut back and they have been declared to be in good health.

Several wind farm applications have been submitted. However, none of these have yet been approved.

There was a Bulb Planting work party last autumn. The results of which, due to the current weather, are only slowly coming to fruition.

As per last year, the income received from the rental of the barn has been a little slow in arriving and there is still an amount outstanding. We are currently in the process of recovering this and we will be reporting the results in the Parish Councils minutes.

The application for adverse possession of the Pocket Park was successfully completed with thanks going to John Golding for his determination to see this project through.

We have also gained further traffic calming signs on the main A425 through the village.

However, there is still a list of tasks for the coming year. These include:

Replacing all the old mercury streetlight bulbs with new ones as required under new regulations coming into force next year.

We plan to go live with the Parish website as soon as possible.

Footpaths. We need to finalize all the actions currently underway.

After receiving a recent inspection report regarding the condition of the Playing Field and its equipment, we will need to tackle a fair list of jobs, from mole hills to equipment upkeep. None of them have been identified as serious but we do need to keep on top of maintenance.

And last but not least, we need to ensure the continuing upkeep of the village and the surrounding parish. Anyone who would like to help with this would be much appreciated. Do remember this is a spare space on the Parish Council.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome all the new District Councillors who were elected last year. We look forward to working with them in the future.

And finally, I would like to especially thank all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their continued support & hard work, without whom, not a lot would get achieved.

5. PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013

The Clerk reported that the accounts were in draft form and would be inspected by the internal and external auditors. Final figures will be presented to the Parish Council. Draft figures show a bank balance of £11,913.63 with expenditure having been £10,516.48 and an income of £12,082.48.

6a. STAVERTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Baker Burbidge Charity, otherwise known as the Staverton Education Foundation exists in order give Grant support to children and students who live in the village and attend or have attended Staverton School .It also supports Staverton School, most recently with a grant towards the building of the new extension and support for the erection of a mandatory perimeter fence.

Money to support the Foundation comes from the rent of a piece of farm land on the edge of the village. During 2011 negotiations were successful in increasing the rent in line with present day market values.

The Trustees are Reverend Elizabeth Cowley, Gwen Darby, Shirley Frost, John Golding and Maureen Maplethorpe.

The meetings are held in the village every three months.

The Trustees are grateful to the Friends of the Parish Council for their cheque for £30 from the proceeds of last year's royal Wedding celebrations.

Grant requests can be submitted to any Trustee or the secretary at any time and will be considered at the next meeting.

Most requests are for help with expenses in Further Education.

During the last year two applications were made from individual students and one from Staverton School. No applications were refused.

The total of grants awarded was £1,500.

Gwen Proudlock

John Golding noted that future returns on investments will be lower and so funds will be hit.

6b. STAVERTON RELIEF IN NEED

No report.

6c. STAVERTON READING ROOM TRUST

The Staverton Reading Room Trust is a historical village charity which can provide financial support to events and activities for the benefit of the Community of Staverton Parish.

In the year to 31st May 2012 the Trust's income from investments was £193.88 in dividends from 8% Treasury Stock 2013, and no grants or payments were made. The closing balance was £702.29. As the Treasury Stock will be redeemed this year, the Trust's assets will be reinvested but annual income will be considerably less in future.

During the twelve months in question the trustees met on two occasions and there have been recent meetings in November 2012 and March 2013. In the most recent meeting, it has been agreed that the Trust will collate a Welcome/Starter pack, copies of which will be handed to new villagers. Also discussed was a proposal to bring together all the available information and documents on village history, including what was previously gathered for the Staverton Past & Present event held in the church at Whitsun 2009. Means of making this information accessible to villagers by publishing a book or via the village website will be considered at future meetings – the next meeting is on Monday 17th June.

Any one who wishes to make a request upon the Charity should contact one of the trustees, namely myself as Treasurer, Mrs. Valerie Harris as Secretary, Rev Liz Cowley, or Mr. Peter Torr. Also Mr. Tony Glover has become an ex-officio trustee due to his position as Chairman of the Parish Council. Sadly, Mrs Edie Ashwell who had been a trustee for many years, died recently so the Trust would welcome new co-optative members.

I present a copy of my report and of the accounts to the Parish.

David Tunbridge - Treasurer

6d. STAVERTON VILLAGE HALL REPORT

William Philpott's report was read out.

During the year the committee was able to plan and deliver a range of events in an attempt to offer something for as many people as possible and these included;

A Midsummer Supper and Quiz organised and run by the committee.

A blues night proved very popular when Paul Cox and his band entertained us with his interpretation of the genre which set the pulses racing.

Seven Ages – a comedy evening made possible by the support of Northamptonshire Touring Arts.

Devout Coward was presented by Poetic Licence, and the income derived from the event was donated to support the village hall's running costs. I would like to say a special thank you to Pam and David Smith, who were instrumental in leading the arrangements for this event's excellent evening entertainment.

It is of course with great sadness that not long afterwards, Pam became ill and passed away. Our thoughts and hearts go out to David for his loss.

One particular village connection with the history of the hall since it was first opened in 1935 had been Edith Ashwell who sadly recently passed away at the age of 95. It was Edith who was present at the first opening of the hall, and also cut the ribbon when the hall re-opened after extensive refurbishment in 2005.

But of course, one-off events are only part of the benefit of having such a facility in the community, and it is so pleasing that several groups continue to hire the hall for their own activities. These include:

- The Dance classes
- Mum's and Tot's
- Musical Monkeys
- W.I.
- Occasional Bingo sessions.
- Golden Oldies annual Christmas lunch for village pensioners
- As well as of course, the Parish Council.

We have also seen an increase in the number of party bookings compared with the previous year. However, we also recognise the limitations of facilities the hall has to offer, including the absence of even limited car park parking facilities.

Of course, Easter would not be the same without the Staverton Egg Rolling Competition organised by the committee. This was once again well attended and enjoyed by the children, parents and grandparents.

As ever, the hall continues to be managed within a modest budget and we continue to be very grateful for the on-going sponsorship provided by the Friends of Staverton Village Hall.

Although the hall is more financially sound than a few years ago, the committee is only too aware that large items of expenditure are required, and competing priorities mean that

difficult choices are never far away. However, careful fiscal management has enabled us to approve the full re-decoration of the hall, as well as purchasing a new large shed to store equipment for events and Mum's and Tot's.

The general management of the hall is totally reliant upon the goodwill, commitment and hard work of individuals who serve on the committee. I would like to express my sincere thanks to each and every committee member, for their work to make the hall a success.

We are also fortunate that a small number of villagers often help out at events to ensure things run smoothly. I would like to express my thanks to these people who quietly turn up at events and just get on with tasks on the day.

Looking to the future, I would like to take this opportunity to invite younger members of our community, to consider joining the committee. None of us can continue for ever, and it may be timely to start succession planning if we are to ensure that the community continues to enjoy this very local facility.

Thank you.

William Philpott, Chair - Staverton Village Hall

6e. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

No report.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Firstly, I would like to thank you for inviting me to Staverton AGM but unfortunately due to the meeting clashing with a DDC meeting I am unable to attend on this occasion. Both Bob and Liz would also like to have attended but they too have to attend the same meeting as I at DDC.

First of all I would like to thank Staverton Parish Councillors for all their hard work during the year on behalf of Staverton Parishioners. Their roles are voluntary and their job can be quite hard at times.

This has been my first year as your representative and my first year in office. During the council year, most of my time as your District Councillor has been taken up with planning applications in the now larger area of the new Woodford Ward and the District as a whole. I have listened to Staverton Parish Council and put forward their opinions and comments of local residents. As with everything we have won some and lost some.

I am also a member of:

- the Corporate Governance Committee which deals with the changes to the audit system and constitution under the new coalition government.

- the Appeals/standards Committee which deals with the conduct of elected personnel.

Half way into my first year I was appointed the Portfolio Holder for Customer Access, Communication & Marketing. In this role it is my responsibility to make sure that residents have access to services and that as a Council we communicate with our residents.

Improvements have been made to the way residents can report environmental issues directly to the Council via its website. They can pinpoint on a map and report instances of graffiti, litter and fly-tipping, as well as missed bins, grass, hedge and tree cutting. In addition a **Web app** is now available enabling residents to access services and information on the move via their smart phone or tablets.

In connection with DDC there have been a lot of new projects started this year such as:

- the redevelopment of Morris Road on the Royal Oak Way Industrial estate
- 45 new homes are being built to rent out by the council on the Middlemore Estate in Daventry Town under the guise of a Company called THE DAVENTRY ESTATE COMPNAY
- a new Crematorium will be built in joint partnership with Rugby Borough Council on Ashlawn Road Rugby.
- Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the council offices
- the university UTC project is now going ahead and will be open this September.
- A new 15 million pound marina will be built at Onley near to the prison
- and of course the 50 million pound project to provide shops, cinema and supermarket petrol station is now ongoing
- there is a free school at Middlemore now looking like a possibility with funding provided by the new housing development at Monksmore and the County Council.

I have also attended most of the Parish Council meetings, helping when the needs arises with any issues Staverton PC may have.

Staverton will always be a priority for me in the now nine village community of Woodford Ward as I live here. I have enjoyed being your elected representative immensely during the year. There are many other aspects of work at DDC which are too numerous to discuss in a short report but should any of you have any queries or would like me to take up an issue you have with DDC please contact me.

Jo Gilford]Tele: 01327 872156 Email: jmgilford@daventrydc.gov.uk

District Councillor Gilford requested clarification as to how many people either knew of or read the Daventry Calling newsletter.

A member of the public requested clarification on new homes being built on the Middlemore estate in Daventry. District Councillor Gilford reported that a separate company had been formed so the houses will not be council houses. DDC had used some of its capital to funding the development.

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBIN BROWN

It was noted that he was unable to attend the meeting during the period of ‘purdah’ from 25th March through to the day of election which precludes him from using his current position as a Cabinet member of the County Council to gain an advantage over others also seeking election.

R Brown's report read out.

The County Council has been making sustained progress on a number of fronts since my report last year. For the third year running, we have managed to continue a freeze on council tax which means that over the last eight years of the administration, the average council tax rise has been 2.3% compared to an average 7% plus in the eight years prior.

We are in the second year of our four year financial plan and this year we have had to absorb a central government revenue cut of £33m. We have managed to make this reduction by sharing more services in particular “Back” Office such as Finance, HR, Legal and Property Management, plus stopping many administrative tasks previously actioned (less “tick” box target checking) whilst still funding essential frontline services. 600 libraries nationally are expected to close. The County Council have managed not only to avoid any closures but are investing and expanding the range of services offered by libraries in the county including free wi-fi facilities, the opening of job clubs and Sunday opening, as well as continuing the Mobile Service and development of friends of the Library schemes that in some areas provide assistance to the less able in changing and delivering Library Books.

There is continued investment in the roads maintenance programme albeit the dreadful weather this winter has not helped as more damage has been caused and the patch up during the winter is made as a temporary fix rather than the permanent repairs that the Council is now nationally recognised as providing best value maintenance for Rural and Urban roads.

I am pleased to announce that the council have chosen BT as their partner to roll out our Next Generation Superfast Broadband programme which will see many rural areas properly served. We are scheduled to have 90% county coverage by the end of 2015 and full coverage by 2017.

Our Empowering Councillors scheme is as popular as ever. Countywide we have funded 2,000 community projects to the tune of over £2 million. In my district, I made sure my money has made a positive difference by funding picnic benches and play equipment for Staverton playing fields; contributing to Connexions Young Leaders Scheme; purchasing equipment for Age Concern’s mobility bus and donating funds to the Stroke Association as well as supporting a variety of worthy causes in the other Parishes within my division.

1. LOCAL POLICE REPORT PRESENTATION – PCSO Carl Barton

PCSO Carl Barton report was read out.

Theft from motor vehicle x 5 (Please note, this figure was due to a crime spike just before Christmas. Several vehicles were left insecure). Theft of Motor Vehicle x 2. Theft Other x 1. Drugs x 2 (Please note, drug offences are from offenders stopped in their vehicles passing through or near the village). Theft handing x 1.

Sum = 12.

1. UPDATE REGARDING STAVERTON WEBSITE

Tony Glover reported that Staverton Parish Council has employed a company to do the work of putting together the website. Collated information had been provided to them and a style agreed. The project is now awaiting the final proof after which time the website will go live.

John Golding noted that the website had been paid for through County Councillor Brown's Empowerment Grant funding.

1. CO-OPTION ONTO PARISH COUNCIL

There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council.

2. REPRESENTATIONS FROM STAVERTON V ILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

None in attendance.

13. GENERAL DISCUSSION

13a. Jo Gilford noted her thanks for the new street light in Home Close and also for repairing the noticeboard.

13b. It was noted that PCSO Carl Barton was not able to attend the meeting as he had been away from work since 20th March.

13c. Ian Weaver asked whether it would be possible to amalgamate the Staverton Education Foundation, Staverton Relief in Need and Staverton Reading Room Trust organisations. It was noted that this had already been looked into but, as each charity has a specific purpose, it had been decided not to proceed.

13d. John Golding noted that the repairs to the noticeboard could have been done cheaper but this would have been detrimental. The repairs had been successful.

13e. Liz Kenworthy-Browne passed on her thanks to the Parish Council's Chairman and Clerk for their work over the past year.

1. SETTING OF 2014 MEETING DATE

The proposed date of the meeting was 24th April 2014. There was some discussion regarding the start time of the meeting. The Chairman therefore requested a show of hands. The result was 11 in favour of 7.30pm, 2 in favour of 8.00pm. It was therefore agreed that the meeting would start at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all those who had attended and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.