

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockton Parish held on Monday 13th May 2019 in Stockton FC-CC at 7.00pm

Those Present:

Parish Councillors: H.Collerson; J.Emberton, C.Millidge, T.Warner, W.Rumsey, H.Kittendorf, and the Clerk

District Councillor: Cllr.L.Adam

County Councillor: Cllr.A.Crump

General Public: 13 members of the public

Apologies:-

Parish Councillors:

District Councillor:

County Councillor:

General Public:

Introduction

The Chairman, Cllr.H.Collerson welcomed all attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and outlined the format that the meeting would take.

Villager of the Year

The Chairman noted this year the recipient of the award is the Parish Clerk Bill Robinson for his work over the years in the community and as the Clerk to the Council

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting having been previously distributed, it was proposed by J.Emberton and seconded by T.Warner that they were a true record of events, this was unanimously agreed

Financial Report

The Clerk of the Parish Council then delivered the annual financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2019, and outlined the differences in the accounts from last year and reasons for the variations. Questions from meeting were addressed and the financial report was closed.

Chairman's report

The Chairman noted that last year there has been an overspend on our budget of around £12,000. This was a planned overspend and was met from the reserves. There was several on-off items of expenditure namely replacement of street light columns, and activities to mark the centenary of the end of WW1,.

The position on last year's action plan is as follows:-

Playing Field lease, this has been held up and is linked to the planning application for homes on the old football field which is unlikely to be submitted to Stratford on Avon District Council until the autumn 2019

Street Lighting, although three columns were replaced the Parish Council has been unhappy with the charges from E.ON the power supplier, and have now agreed to switch supplier to SSE and will save around £3,000 over the four year contract.

New cemetery, there is still some places in the old cemetery so this has not been a priority.

Stockton crossroads, the consultants report has been received and is available on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council has discussed which recommendations will be a priority.

Village heritage features, the railings have been erected around the village pump and the interpretation board will be delivered and erected soon.

Next years plans will be:-

Street lighting, to replace ten sodium lights, with the white LED versions, and to identify a further ten to be upgraded on 2020-2021.

Stockton crossroads, discussing with the highways department which of the consultant's recommendations we can implement and to put in a bid to the Warwickshire Road safety fund. The Parish Council wants to see an improvement to the signs and road markings to increase motorist's awareness of the junction and to reduce speed.

Playing field lease, once permission to the building is given the lease will be agreed and alternative funding sources approached.

George street bungalows, The parish Council considers these as a valuable part of the village housing stock, and is against the Orbit Housing Association decision to sell one, and seeking assurances that this will not become a normal practice.

Road closures, over the last year there has been significant disruption to the bus service, and each time the Highways department and Stagecoach assure us that it will not happen again, but due to poor communication it seems to be the norm. With our County Cllr.

We will push both organisations to put a proper communication plan in place and transmit it to bus users.

Heritage features, the paved area around the war memorial off Glebe Close will be extended with a memorial bench, and an ornamental railing fence added.

Precept, the Chairman noted "I referred at the beginning of this report to our budget this year and that we have increased the precept which is collected from you the residents to £25,000. This amounts to a charge of £44.62 for a band D property (about 85 pence per week). In the Stratford area there are 89 parishes and Stockton is 49th highest out of 89. The highest is £143.77 and the lowest is £12.76 with the average being £62.01 so in my view we are a very cost conscious council"

Lastly the Chairman gave his thanks to fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support, and to County Cllr. Andy Crump for his unstinting support, and welcome our new District Cllr. Loius Adam, and look forward to working with him.

This concluded the Chairman's report which will be placed in the magazine.

Open Forum

A member of the public asked whether we could have traffic lights at the crossroads and the Chairman in reply noted that it would be most unusual to have a traffic light system on a village crossroads on a main trunk road. The Chairman further noted that the crossroads junction it is possible to have two vehicles side by side accessing the junction the A426, this is inherently dangerous and perhaps there may be a way of reducing the number of cars accessing the A426 together. Other ways of reducing speed could be flashing signs that actually work and perhaps altering the site of the sign on the Southam side of the junction.

A complaint was received regarding the non mowing by Orbit of grassed areas in the village, the Chairman noted that they obviously are not providing contractors with proper maps for the mowing areas.

Residents complained about overhanging trees in the new development at Grange farm Drive and asked who is responsible- The Parish Council were unable to answer this question as we don't know. The Chairman is also unhappy with Taylor Wimpey as they appear to have lost our sign. A member of the public asked have the Parish Council asked Cemex to indicate who they sold the Grange Farm Drive hedge to

There being no further business under the Open Forum the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the Annual Parish meeting at 7.30pm.