

STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:- Councillor M. Williams

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor J. Lawrence



MINUTES OF THE STIFFKEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY, 2024 AT 7.00 PM IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL

Present:-

Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. J. Lawrence,
Cllr. P. Harrison, Cllr. A. Hooper, Cllr. R. Husain and Cllr. J. Sugden.

District Councillor – Victoria Holliday.

PC – Johnathan Kentfield

Julie Chance – Locum Clerk.

Eight members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Claydon.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND MAY, 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22nd May, 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Attached – Appendix A.

Locum Clerk:- Julie Chance, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- clerkstiffkey@gmail.com

4. REPORTS ON PROJECTS

- 4.1 Potential Transport Project:-** The Locum Clerk reported some background on the sum of £800 which is earmarked in the annual accounts as Covid Fund. This grant was obtained to help residents during and from the effects of the pandemic. Discussion is taking place to introduce a voluntary transport scheme to take residents to medical appointments and collect medication. This is important taking into account the imminent closure of Blakeney Surgery. This matter will be discussed further by the Healthy Stiffkey Working Group.
- 4.2 Defibrillator:-** Cllr. Sugden gave an update on the possible location for installation of the defibrillator. There are issues that need to be overcome such as securing a visible site and obtaining all the necessary permissions. There is also the issue of an electricity supply to the unit. This matter will be discussed further by the Members to try and find a solution to all the issues.
- 4.3 Community Speed Watch Scheme:-** The Chairman reported that a public meeting was held and eight volunteers have come forward to form a Community Speed Watch Scheme in Stiffkey. Liaison with the Police concerning training will take place and it is hoped that the scheme will be up and running in the near future.
- 4.4 Police:-** PC Kentfield reported that he has been the Beat Manager for Wells since November 2023. He reported that Stiffkey is a quiet village with very few crimes to report. Speeding is the main issue and he feels the Community Speed Watch Scheme will help to target any speeding.

5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024

The Clerk circulated copies of the annual accounts to members of the public.

6. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

- 6.1 Community First Responders:-** Report from David Hooper attached. Appendix B. It was noted that the Community First Responders have offered to give training on the use of the defibrillator once installed.
- 6.2 Stiffkey Village Hall:-** Report from Cllr. A. Hooper attached. Appendix C.
- 6.3 St. John's Stiffkey Parochial Church Council:-** Report from Alan Duff, Secretary attached. Appendix D.
- 6.4 Camping Hill Garden Plots:-** Report from Cllr. A. Hooper attached. Appendix E.
- 6.5 Stiffkey Local History Group:-** Report from Geraldine Green, Chair attached. Appendix F.
- 6.6 Stiffkey Social Services Committee:-** Report from Cllr. P. Claydon attached. Appendix G.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A member of the public enquired how to access the social media as there has been no advertising.

Cllr. Hooper said that there are access buttons on the Stiffkey Parish Council website. They are virtual notice boards and the public are unable to leave any comments. The Parish Council are in the process of changing the domain name which is why there has not been any advertising to date. Once the new Website and domain name is in place advertising will take place.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

AGM Statement

It has been a busy year for the Council, my first as Chair. We started the year with four new Council members following the election on 4th May last year. I was elected Chair on 22nd May 2023, and the next few months were quite challenging, not least because we've had four different Clerks between that date and December of the same year. I'm both grateful and pleased to report however that we now have Julie Chance as our clerk, and she has brought a steady hand to our tiller and provided us with invaluable experience and calm. Thank you Julie.

During the first half of the year proceedings were somewhat dominated by the National Trust and the campaign which we wholeheartedly supported to restore the bridge across the marsh which they had removed. We facilitated public meetings which were well attended by local people, who heard from representatives of the Trust, their structural engineers and our local MP Duncan Baker who has been very supportive of the campaign. These meetings highlighted the benefits of having a Parish Council whereby it can act as a forum for the local community to express its views, and gather information.

Alongside the bridge campaign the Parish Council has supported several local initiatives in a variety of areas. One which has been the focus of multiple efforts has been the Health and Wellbeing of our community. We have lent our support to the campaign to keep Blakeney Surgery open. We have supported our Community First Responders with publicity and practical financial help. This vital local resource needs the continuous support of our village and I would encourage all residents to assist their efforts in whatever way they can. Special recognition should be given to Councillor Alex Hooper who has been at the forefront of these worthy causes.

We have made significant progress towards providing the village with its first defibrillator, and I would like to thank Councillors Janey Sugden and Paul Claydon for spearheading this project. Alongside these contributions we also have plans to introduce a voluntary transport scheme to assist villagers who need to attend surgeries or have medication collected.

One area which is always a concern for our residents is traffic and speeding through the village. We have worked with both the County Council and the local police to try and alleviate this, with additional signage, road markings, operating our SAM2 speed sign and facilitating a new Community Speedwatch group.

We have tried to keep our villagers informed about local issues and notify them of important matters, and it is with this in mind that we have developed new social media streams alongside our more conventional village notice boards and website. These have included road closures, flood warning information, updates on the telephone digital switchover amongst others. I'd like to thank Councillor Rocky Hussain in particular for her work on establishing and maintaining our new social media.

We have undertaken a review to facilitate an improvement project of our village assets, and this is ongoing. This includes repairing and renovating the bus shelter at Camping Hill, and replacing fence posts on the Muckledyke Path, for which the practical skills and knowledge of Councillor Jamie Lawrence have been invaluable. I must also thank all the members of the public who without reward or acknowledgment continually improve the footpaths around our village with essential clearing work and give willingly of their time and effort to support the work of the Council in many ways. Councillor Phil Harrison is very supportive of this work and has offered practical assistance with repairs and clearance.

APPENDIX A

On a personal note I must also thank vice Chair Jamie for stepping into the breach as my very able substitute when ill health got the better of me. I would also like to thank all our Councillors, past and present for their service to the village, for their help, advice and support.

CFR Report to Stiffkey Parish Council

The Stiffkey CFRs have attended 35 emergency call outs in the year ending 30th April 2024. Over the last 13 months, we spent just under 1,019 hours on duty, and were on shift a total of 235 times.

Of these 35 call-outs:

Seven were Category 1 – Life-threatening illnesses and injuries which included traumatic head injury, suspected heart attack and stroke.

Twenty-five were Category 2 – General Emergency calls for non-immediately life-threatening conditions, these included difficulty in breathing, severe pain, and unconsciousness.

Two were Category 3 – Urgent calls, which were generally non-injury calls of unknown duration.

and

One was a Category 4, less urgent calls, which in our case has been a call of unknown duration.

On one occasion we were able to escalate a traumatic head injury victim from an ambulance response to an air ambulance, and we have also assisted both specialist Paramedics, Rapid Response Vehicles and NARS crews during the last year.

The majority of the emergencies that we have been dispatched to have been in Stiffkey, Blakeney, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton and Binham, but we also been as far afield as Holt to the East and Holkham to the West, travelling just under 340 miles in the process. Of our 35 call outs, 4 were in Stiffkey.

Our operational radius remains roughly ten miles from Stiffkey and - on average - we generally arrive on scene within 6-10 minutes and between 15 minutes and 2 hours before Paramedic crews arrive on scene. In some instances – particularly in the case of non-injury calls, we are the only team to attend, saving the East of England Ambulance Service time and physical resources that can better be deployed elsewhere.

Given the benefit to the village and the lack of available funding, the Stiffkey CFR team took the decision to personally contribute funds in order to purchase a Raizer II lifting chair. We have utilised the chair to lift patients a total of 11 times, and this timely intervention has avoided subsequent hospital admissions on two of these occasions.

In terms of professional development, we have attended a variety of different trainings designed to improve our medical knowledge and skill-set and we have also recently passed our mandatory annual Basic Life Support Certifications. One of the team has recently passed the First Responder Emergency Care Level 3 qualification, and will be moving forward to the FREC4 qualification within the next few months.

The CFR Team is always looking for further support and assistance as only the fuel costs for attending emergencies are covered, while other mileage incurred in attending compulsory monthly training, annual re-certification and so forth are not covered. Wear and tear to vehicles and to our uniforms and equipment is also not covered, nor is the annual running cost of the NMA, the device that allows the EASST's Ambulance Operations Centre (AOC) to provide us despatch instructions, medical history and navigation to scene.

Village Hall Report

The longstanding volunteer who oversaw finances retired in the middle of last year and a replacement financial oversight volunteer was appointed.

The 200 Club continues to successfully operate - supporting the running costs of the hall. New members are always welcome!

I am pleased to report that the Hall has been used on a regular basis over the past 12 months and has hosted a number of events and regular activities as well as loaning tables and chairs for other village events not held in the Village Hall. It continues to be used both by the Parish Council for meetings and by the village as a wheelchair accessible polling station.

Research for funding and funding opportunities for the Village Hall are underway.

It is hoped that the Village Hall Committee will get up and running again over the next 12 months and move things forward so that the Village Hall can continue to be used for the benefit of the Village.

APPENDIX D

Church News for Stiffkey Parish Council meeting 13th May, 2024

Key points for the year

The Bishop of Norwich's Church Buildings Commission was finalized in Summer 2023. It made some recommendations to make the process of looking after churches easier (and to consider what might happen in a very small number of cases where the future looks less secure). The advice we have in Stiffkey and those other churches in our Benefice of ten parishes and nine churches, is to ensure that we have an incumbent (i.e. the Rector) in place. Therefore, the subsidy of the Parish Share to the Norwich Diocese and the payment of costs for the Rector is essential. Stiffkey was able to pay the full shares for 2023, but it is equally important that other churches in the Benefice can pay theirs also.

Our extended membership of the Parochial Parish Council (PCC) along with more regular meetings led to

- Full handover of the planning of events and fund-raising to the broader team
- Reinstatement of the combined Stiffkey Local History Group Exhibition and Bank Holiday Sunday stalls on the knoll, raising over £1100 for the Church in August 2023 and anticipating a similar event this year with the theme of the exhibition being "Transport and its effects on People"
- Arrangement of a performance of light music by Gresham's School in early May, made possible by many preparing the Church and serving drinks and food during attended by over seventy concert-goers.

At the end of 2022, Heather Harrison resigned from her role as Treasurer of the PCC, handing over to Alex and David Hooper with financial oversight from an independent reviewer and an accountant in the village. We recognize and thank Heather for her enormous contribution over many years to the running of the Church and are pleased that by remaining on the PCC, she can continue to assure continuity and advice to those in new roles.

The PCC thanks those maintaining the grounds, looking after the Church and supporting our fund-raising. Any further volunteers for the cleaning and flowers rota or the graveyard mowing team would be most welcome! Many hands can make the work yet lighter for each!

Alan Duff, Secretary St. John's Stiffkey, PCC stjstiffkey.sec@outlook.com

Stiffkey Annual Parish Meeting**Garden Plot Report**

Despite periods of heavy rain followed by almost drought conditions and the rather precocious Muntjac – production at the garden plots continued to be successful.

The plots are used not only for vegetable and fruit growing, but also for the cultivation of flowers – particularly for use in local churches. These activities aside, the plots serve as safe spaces for those simply wishing to relax and enjoy the outside environment and its known benefits for mental health.

The year started with 2 full empty plots and ended with just one still vacant. Anyone wishing to take on a plot is more than welcome to join the community. The Clerk of the Parish Council can be contacted for further details.

REPORT TO STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL AGM 13/5/2024
FROM STIFFKEY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

SLHG has been busy refreshing the group.

On the events front we hosted an exhibition entitled "STIFFKEY ON THE MAP" on the three days August bank holiday. We displayed our recent purchases as well as maps that we have collected over the years. These included the 1622 map, some from the 2nd World War and the 1953 flood map.

We worked with the Church PCC in order to raise funds for the church fabric fund and helped by providing refreshments and helped with the "Stalls on the Knoll" event on the Sunday. In all over £1,100 was raised. I would like to thank all those who helped and supported us.

Now work is progressing for our next exhibition for August 2024.

In November we held a talk in the village hall which took us from Wells to Cromer along the coast hosted and given for free by Philip West. It was well attended and very much enjoyed.

Our constitution was revisited and approved at our AGM in April this year.

We have joined the BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY group. This gives us public liability insurance as well as access to to all sorts of interesting history facets that will be available to our members.

We now have a regular entry in the Wells QUAY magazine where we give small snippets of Stiffkey history and can advertise any forthcoming events.

On 26th of May at Warborough House open gardens (11-5) we will have a small exhibition about the occupants there since the house was built in 1833.

Geraldine Green Chair SLHG

APPENDIX R.

Report from the Stiffkey Social Services Committee (Stiffkey Playing Field) to the Stiffkey Parish Council Annual General meeting 2024

The Playing Field Annual General Meeting was held on 1 June 2023. Chris Cooke and Paul Claydon agreed to carry on as joint Chairmen. Jamie Lawrence was confirmed as a new Trustee and Mark Harrison's resignation was received. Greg Pepper agreed to take on the role of Clerk following the resignation of Di Dann who had decided to step down due to other work commitments.

A successful season for the Cricket Club followed in 2023 with the majority of their games being won. The playing field and play area looked good all through the summer and early autumn bringing many appreciative comments, which we were very pleased to hear. Mowing the field and strimming the children's play area at least once a week is a time consuming task which falls on very few people. Any volunteers to help would be hugely appreciated.

Our old tractor lasted the season, just! We had to have a new cylinder head gasket fitted towards the end of the season and it ended the year running well. The relatively new mowers for the field and the wicket performed well all season. There are no immediate plans to renew any of this equipment although purchase of a new strimmer may be necessary for 2024.

Quotes and funding for refurbishments to the pavilion and replacement of the fence along Hollow Lane are being sought. We hope work can start on both of these plans during 2024.

The tennis court project is struggling for funding but it is still our intention to progress this with a concentrated push for funding in the next twelve months.

Other fundraising is needed to cover our annual costs of insurance, fuel, electricity, water and repairs. This is constantly being discussed by the Trustees.

By the time you read this, grasscutting for 2024 should have started. The Cricket Club have another full calendar of games. We hope to be able to publish the dates once they have been finalised by their secretary. Support for their home matches would always be appreciated by them.

Whether its dog walkers, children, picnickers, cricketers or whoever, we hope the playing field and play area will provide enjoyment for many in 2024