

STONELEIGH ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Thursday 19th May 2022, at Stoneleigh Village Hall, commencing at 7pm

AGENDA

1. **Chairman**
To appoint a Chairman (Chairman of Parish Council if in attendance).
2. **Attendance and Apologies**
3. **Parish Council**
To receive a report from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022
4. **Matters Raised by the Electorate**
5. **Update of Village activities**
 - a) Stoneleigh Village Hall
 - b) Stoneleigh Village Club
 - c) Stoneleigh Village Orchard
6. **Other Matters Raised by the Electorate**
To receive and answer questions from the electorate
7. **County/District Council**
To receive verbal reports from County Councillor W Redford and District Councillors Wright &/or P Redford
8. **Resolutions from Electorate**
To receive and consider any written resolutions from electorate.
9. **Closure**
Chairman to the Parish Council

"Councillors and the public are reminded of their duty to consider all aspects of equal opportunities, crime prevention, unlawful discrimination, and other best practice when making decisions at the meeting."

Minutes of the Stoneleigh Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday the 19th May 2022 at 19:00.

The meeting was attended by:

Diana Jack - Parish Councillor
Peter Freeman - Resident
Amanda Smith - Resident
Sue Malone - Resident
Mick Malone - Resident
Nora Blagburn - Resident
Anthony Bianco - Parish Councillor
John Astle - Parish Councillor
Richard Hancox - Parish Councillor

1. Chairman

Councillor Richard Hancox (Chairman, Parish Council) being in attendance assumed the chair for the meeting.

2. Attendance and Apologies

An attendance sheet was circulated around the meeting and signed by all 9 persons present.

There were six apologies for non-attendance, Pam Redford, Warwick District Councillor, Trevor Wright, Warwick District Councillor and Wallace Redford, Warwickshire County Council Councillor and residents Tim Bull, Sheila Walters and Alistair Whatmore.

3. Parish Council Report

The Chairman submitted the annual report of the parish council covering the period 1st April 2021 to the 31st March 2022. A copy of this can be found attached to the minutes in appendix 1. Having been considered this was accepted by the meeting. Anthony Bianco proposed and Nora Blagburn Seconded that the report be adopted, this was agreed by all present.

4. Matters Raised by the Electorate

Sue Malone raised three issues:

a) HS2 - residents are concerned at the news of the huge extension to the HS2 Compound.

Councillor Bianco updated the meeting with the latest news on the issue. The Parish Council will be scrutinising the application and commenting appropriately. It was felt by all present that the application seemed wholly inappropriate and the meeting hoped that WDC would refuse the application.

b) Closure of the Birmingham Road – what is the latest?

Sue explained how the continued use of the Birmingham Road by HGV's was causing damage to the properties all along the road. The Chairman updated the meeting with the latest news. It was reported that the County Council had agreed to move the scheme into design and to progress the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, it was agreed that this was not likely to have happened if the County hadn't found the funding. So currently it didn't look like the funds offered by either the Parish Council or the residents was required. Huge thanks should go to Councillor Wallace Redford who had used his designated fund to ensure the project could proceed.

The Chairman also reported that the scheme to amend the crossroads leaving the village on the Birmingham Road and to install temporary traffic lights was being progressed by the HS2 team.

Amanda Smith also raised the misuse of the bridge into the village on the B4113. It was felt that recently this was due to the temporary traffic lights in use by Severn Trent, however it was unlikely to be fully resolved until we had a Stoneleigh Bypass. The Chairman and Anthony Bianco explained where the bypass project was and that although still likely to be built it could well be 6 or 7 years away.

HS2 and WCC have agreed that the installation of the traffic lights will not prevent the Birmingham Road being closed, they would have to be altered to a T junction though.

c) Stoneleigh Events – Gravity Show – July 2022 – What is the latest on this show?

The meeting was told that the Parish Council had made numerous attempts to contact the team at Stoneleigh Events but without success. Both our WDC Councillors have also tried but again without success.

The event is going ahead, and the parish council are still hopeful of being able to influence the routes signed to and from the event, the main aim is to ensure no event traffic use either the Birmingham Road or the Coventry Road. All traffic should be signed to access and egress the event away from the village. However, whilst there is no contact with the organisers this is going to be difficult.

Amanda Smith raised the issue of piling for HS2 works in the area and whether it might damage properties in the village. There had been concerns in the past with vibration from aircraft when the airport at Coventry was in full operation.

The Parish Council are working with HS2 and their main contractor, BBV, and Councillors agreed to take up this matter with both and report back to the Parish Council. Anthony Bianco explained how the vibration was being monitored and what involvement some residents were already having with this. It was something the Parish Council would be keeping a close watch on.

John Astle raised an issue regarding aircraft noise currently, the meeting felt that in recent months the noise had increased and aircraft heading for Birmingham Airport were perhaps taking a different path across the village and this might be the reason for the increase in noise.

John agreed to raise the issue with the Airport Liaison Group and report back to the Parish Council.

The meeting asked what the latest was with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting was informed that there was still funding available to develop the plan, but the Parish Council could not be seen to be leading the process, it needs to be resident lead. Sue Malone and Amanda Smith offered to support the team and push to develop the plan. The meeting then discussed a number of ideas for the plan such as Green Parking - the idea being to improve parking in the village so that the current use of Vicarage Road would stop and perhaps also look to improve or relocate the parking on the B4113 up towards the main entrance to Stoneleigh Park.

The meeting was then asked to note a large HGV show that would be taking place at Stoneleigh Park in late June 2022 - the Parish Council needs to ensure that the traffic for this show uses appropriate routes and does not use the village.

The Chairman updated the meeting with the latest on the Community Speed Watch. PCSO Ed King was looking to revitalise the scheme in the village. A location had been identified on the Birmingham Road at the end of Stoneleigh Close, the next stage will be to train the teams that will carry out the speed checks, it is hoped this will start in the summer.

5. Update of Village Activities

The Chairman submitted reports from the Village Hall and the Community Orchard, no report had been received from the Village Club.

Copies of the reports are attached to the minutes in appendix 2 and 3.

The Chairman also made reference to other reports received by the Parish Council to their recent AGM, these were from Dame Alice Leigh's

Almshouses Trustees, Stoneleigh United Charities and the Leigh Educational Foundation, copies of these are also attached as appendix 5, 6 and 7 for information.

6. Other Matters Raised by the Electorate

There were no other matters raised by the electorate.

7. County and District Councillor Reports

Our County and District Councillors had all apologised and could not be with us. The Chairman submitted a report from Warwick District Council a copy of which is attached to these minutes as appendix 4.

8. Resolutions from the Electorate

There were no resolutions from the electorate to discuss.

9. Closure

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21:20.

Appendix 1 - Report from the Parish Council:

Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council Annual Report: 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

Members

The composition of the Parish Council is as detailed below:

Stoneleigh Ward Councillors Mr R Hancox, Mr J Astle, Mrs D Jack, Mr A Bianco, Mrs L Rolli

Mr Richard Hancox maintained his role as Chairman and Councillor Mr John Astle remained Deputy-Chairman.

We had one vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

County and District Councillors

The Parish Council is supported by Councillors from Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council.

In April 2021 the supporting Councillors were:

Cllr Wallace Redford from Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Pam Redford from Warwick District Council
Cllr Trevor Wright from Warwick District Council

There have been no changes over the year.

Meetings

During the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, 11 Ordinary Meetings were held. The meetings were a combination of remote and face-to-face meetings.

Attendance of Councillors at these meetings is detailed below (the maximum possible attendance is 11 meetings).

Attendance	Meetings Attended	Percentage
Cllr Hancox	10	91%
Cllr Astle	9	82%
Cllr Jack	10	91%
Cllr Rolli	10	91%
Cllr Bianco	11	100%
Cllr W Redford	7	64%
Cllr P Redford	4	36%
Cllr T Wright	4	36%

Finance

The Precept levied for the financial year 2021/2022 was £17,709.00.

Other income during the year was Bank interest of £12.08, plus VAT refund of £305.31.

The total income for the year was £18,026.39, which when added to the accumulated balance gave a working total of £46,706.75.

During the year total expenditure was £16,296.98 which results in a surplus of £30,409.77.

Included in this are £17,441.11 of earmarked funds.

No grants were distributed during the year.

Planning

All planning applications received from Warwick District Council, and a number from Warwickshire County Council are considered.

During the year a total of 47 new planning applications were considered.

The applications can be classified as shown:

- 36 full planning applications
- 11 listed building applications

The outcomes of the applications were:

- 23 granted
- 10 refused
- 12 withdrawn
- 1 awaiting outcome
- 1 permitted development

Stoneleigh Village Play Equipment

The annual inspection of all the play equipment was carried out in October 2021, with no defects detected.

Becky Maoudis
Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

Appendix 2 - Report from the Stoneleigh Village Hall Trustees:

**Stoneleigh Village Hall
Review April 2022**

Due to the commitment of the committee we have achieved quite a lot this year, we still had the Covid strategy in place which has been slowly relaxed with the help of the hall's association.

There is always ongoing maintenance, hedge cutting mowing, cleaning etc.

Our bookings are slowly coming back. We have achieved some of the planned projects, replacing all our chairs with easy cleanable seats, safety bollards at entrance and exit, hedge planted around the playing field, replacing the tree that was blown down at the front of the hall, fence at the left-hand side of the hall and a hearing loop and a projector system.

We have ongoing plans for the future, especially on the exterior of the hall.

Appendix 3 - Report from the Stoneleigh Community Orchard:

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC Report
Date 4th April 2022
Pete Freeman

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC continues to evolve as a community resource.

Our harvests steadily increase year on year to the extent that they are starting to assume the proportions of an industrial exercise which in itself is a good problem to have though can present processing related challenges which need to be addressed through mechanization and increased storage going forward.

The accounts look healthy in the vicinity of £3000 which reflects our healthy sales of cider throughout the summer of 2021 amounting to some £2446, in addition to steady "friends" contributions.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC can be observed to feed profits back into the community particularly by way of its popular annual Wassail event occurring each January on "Twelfth Night". The group is open to suggestions as to how funds can be fed back into the community?

On the ecological side of the equation. We intend to leave some margins of the orchard field uncut until October of this year so as to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

The processing of 1100 litres of cider is scheduled to commence towards the end of April and the start of May. So, get your orders in!

Appendix 4 - Report from Warwick District Council:

WDC ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22.

During 2021/2022 Warwick District Council have been extremely focused on securing various grants and support for business and the community during the Covid Pandemic.

In the past year WDC (Warwick District Council) have secured and distributed over £53 million in Government support grants to many different businesses including: -

- Business restart grants
- Sport and leisure clubs
- Hospitality and Leisure sector
- Small business offering services (such as hairdressers)
- Community Projects
- WDC Art's team were successful in securing over £256.000 from (ACE)

Cultural Recovery Fund

The latest Government grant that WDC staff are administering is a grant of £2.5million for low-income families to help pay for energy efficiency measures, such as, wall and roof insulation, and room heating controls.

This round of grants will be targeted at the least energy efficient properties.

The proposed merger between WDC and SDC, as you will know has now failed. Full details of the reason and costs are shown on the WDC website. A number of FOI have been received from residents regarding the reasons for the failure, these questions and WDC responses are on the WDC website.

In the past year Warwick District Council formed a Housing Company partnership with Milverton Homes Vistry Linden, to deliver 620 new quality homes over the next 8 years. This commitment from the council will accelerate the provision of housing, including much-needed affordable housing in the district.

Work started in February on a £2 million facelift to Leamington railway station forecourt, ready to welcome the thousands of visitors for the Commonwealth Games in July. The first drop-in took place at the Royal Pump Rooms on 18th February and will continue monthly between 10am and 3pm. This is an opportunity for local people to call in and find out about what is happening in the district and across the West Midlands, both in the run up to, and during the Commonwealth Games.

In support of the plans to tackle rough sleeping in the area Warwick District Council secured £835,000 of central government funding to help support a range of ambitious local schemes. Confirmation of the funding will allow the Council to continue with a number of projects to assist those facing homelessness and to provide permanent homes for those found sleeping rough. This includes the purchase and refurbishment of a range of accommodation in the district where residents can receive professional support to assist them in turning their lives around, so that they can achieve their long-term goals and potential.

WDC have started to return to residents the £150 government refund for fuel. Those who pay their Council Tax by direct debit are already being paid, those who pay by other means will follow.

Finally, WDC have now installed within their car parks a further 40 electric charging points marking the overall total 60. These are in addition to any planned charging points installed by Warwickshire County Council.

Cllr Pam Redford and Cllr Trevor Wright

Appendix 5 - Report from Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses Trustees:

TRUSTEE'S REPORT - Activities during the year 2021

During 2021 the Charity continued to provide accommodation for residents in the ancient parish of Stoneleigh and whilst six of the Almshouse properties remained fully occupied throughout the year, we had four vacant properties during 2021

No 2 Almshouse was vacant from 18th February 2021 to 13th May 2021.

No 3 Almshouse was vacant from 28th February 2021 to 14th May 2021.

No 4 Almshouse was vacant from 30th April 2021 to 13th August 2021

No.9 Almshouse was vacant from 14th May 2021 to 19th August 2021

The new resident of No.2 subsequently gave notice to leave the Almshouse on 31st December 2021

Trustees have continued with day-to-day repairs as well as remedial and modernisation work to the Almshouses, as best they could, whilst still under COVID-19 restrictions and government lockdowns. The minor indoor repairs continue to be carried out as and when required, albeit with a slight delay due to illness in the Handyman's family.

Croft Construction carried out remedial repairs to the lead flashings, chimneys, and roof tiles. The ongoing issues with damp are being closely monitored and have largely been brought under control in the bedroom area at No9, however, it is now thought to possibly be rising damp or water retention from the outside, via the sandstones and/or mortar which is causing the water ingress to several of the properties, this is being kept under constant surveillance by the Clerk and further investigation is due to begin in the new year.

Brad Steele, a Master Stonemason carried out repairs to the stonework on the Almshouse outbuildings, as highlighted in the last QQR Report of 2020. This included repairs and repointing to the brickwork and guttering of the outbuildings, along with the removal of foliage and moss from around both the outbuildings and main Almshouse building.

Urgent electrical maintenance was carried out as and when required, along with the annual PAT testing of all resident's and charity owned electrical appliances and again for all new residents own personal appliances shortly after they moved in.

Urgent plumbing repairs were carried out under strict COVID19 rules whilst lockdown was still in place. However, due to the four properties being vacant, the Plumbers were able to carry out the refurbishment of all four shower rooms whilst the properties were empty. The showers and shower trays were replaced, and water heaters installed to replace outdated immersion tanks.

It was also necessary to replace the carpet at No.9, prior to new occupancy and the carpets at No2, 3 & 4 cleaned, along with oven cleaning at No2 & 4, prior to the new residents moving in, along with the re-decoration of all four vacant properties.

Garden maintenance has included regular lawn mowing, hedge trimming and the pruning of several trees, in addition to moss and weed spraying.

The Almshouse Trust has continued its support of local charities with donations being made to the following charities at the beginning of the new year, January 2022 to:

The Shakespeare Hospice
Warwickshire Vision

Waverley Day Centre
The Ups of Downs

The Trust also made charitable donations to support needy people living in the Ancient Parish of Stoneleigh through the Together for Change initiative and the Coventry Children's Boot Fund.

Together for Change (TFC) is a joint venture charity between the Diocese of Coventry and the Church of Urban Fund. Together for Change is working with churches and other public & private sector groups to transform the communities of Coventry and Warwickshire and tackle systematic poverty. In the five years since the inception of this project, the Churches in Tile Hill have set up and grown a range of projects supporting needy people in the community. The Job Club and Make Lunch project are among notable successes. The previous project that the Trust donations have helped support has been the recruitment of a Youth Worker at St Andrews Church who provides youth activities in the community. Although no donations were made to Together for Change during 2021, the Trust requested proposals be put forward for future funding and it was agreed that the Trust would donate £5,000 in January 2022 to the Good Neighbours project.

The Coventry Children's Boot Fund started in 1893 with the object of providing boots to children in poverty so that they could attend school. The fund has served Coventry's poorest children through two world wars, the depression of the 30's and the ups and downs of the 20th century. Even today, many children attend school wearing worn out leaking shoes in winter, because their parents cannot afford to replace them, which makes you realise that the Boot Fund is as relevant today as it was over a hundred years ago. The Coventry Children's Boot Fund received a donation of £3,000 in 2021.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

THE DAME ALICE LEIGH'S ALMSHOUSE
Accounts year end to 31st December 2021

INCOME

Contributions	36,681.10
Grant from Duchess Dudley Charity	25,200.00
Bank Interest	0.01
Total Income	61,881.11

EXPENDITURE

Donations	-3,000.00
Governance Costs	-660.00
Housing Management Costs	-9980.79
Repairs & Maintenance Costs	-68,365.25
Service Costs	-23,624.85
Total Expenditure	-105,630.89

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-43,749.78
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Appendix 6 - Report from Stoneleigh United Charities Trustees:

STONELEIGH UNITED CHARITIES
2022 Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting

The ancient charities of Stoneleigh were combined in 1970 to become Stoneleigh United Charities. Details of the original bequests can be seen inscribed on the balcony in Stoneleigh Church.

The purpose of the charity is to provide financial assistance to those in the villages of Stoneleigh, Ashow and Stareton who are in need.

The United charity receives its income from interest on its long-term investments and two generous donations each year from the estate charity of Duchess Dudley.

The Charity is administered by a Clerk to the trustees and a board of five trustees. In the past the charity has helped towards costs such as hospital visits, emergency property repairs, winter heating costs and emergency advances. Every Christmas the charity makes donations to elderly local villagers and those who have come to their attention as being in need, or perhaps having had a particularly hard year. The charity also makes annual contributions to larger local charities as a way of supporting residents who may have use of these. In 2021 the charity supported the following local charities: Air Ambulance, Myton Hospice, The Addington Fund (supporting farmers in need), The Friends of Warwick Hospital and The Salvation Army (Leamington Branch). In the past year the charity has also provided funds towards equipment to maintain the churchyards of Stoneleigh Church and Ashow Church.

The charity welcomes requests for support from the residents of the three villages, or perhaps from their neighbours on their behalf. These requests will be considered at the biannual meetings, or more quickly if there is an emergency. The Clerk to the trustees is Hannah Watts, to whom initial enquiries for assistance should be made. Hannah can be contacted by phone on 01788 890618 or by email: stoneleighunitedcharities@gmail.com.

Appendix 7 - Report from the Leigh Educational Foundation Trustees:

**2022 Annual Report from the Leigh Educational Foundation
John Astle
Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Councillor**

The LEF continues to work for young people under 25 from Stoneleigh, Ashow, Leek Wootton and Burton Green by providing financial support and assistance for school/educational trips both home and abroad, school uniform and equipment, university/college/training expenses and grants to schools, teams and youth groups of all kinds.

The Foundation has granted over £23,825 to such causes during the year 2021. The LEF continues to update its own website throughout the year:
www.leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk.

Applicants can now find application forms to fill in and submit online or the clerk can still be contacted by phone and asked to post out application forms.

Contact details of the clerk: -

Email: admin@leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk

Telephone: 01926 419300 / 07831 816638