

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Stalisfield held on Friday 10 May 2018 at 7.30pm in Stalisfield Village Hall

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Holly Alexander, Cllr Tracy Dove, Cllr Chris Norwood and Cllr Nina Williams; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and four members of the public.

1. Report of the Chair of Stalisfield Parish Council

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 May 2018 were read and agreed to be a true copy of the meeting. Cllr Horn duly signed the minutes.

Cllr Horn said that there had been a possibility of cuts to rural bus services but this has been put on hold. The church had a period of interregnum but does now have a new vicar. Concern was raised regarding the issue of litter in the village and the Parish Council organised a litter pick. Swale Borough Council were going to lend equipment but forgot to delivery it however, the litter pick did take place. It was decided to litter pick the verges when cut but Kent County Council forgot to cut the verges.

Cllr Horn said concern was raised about the problem of potholes and residents were asked to report road issues to Kent County Council.

Cllr Horn reported that over the past year the Parish Council has been consulted on a few planning applications in the village.

There has been a change to Swale Borough Council and it is no longer controlled by the Conservatives and there may be a change in the Council's policy. The Parish Council will need to keep abreast of the changes.

Cllr Horn said the Parish Council obtained a grant from Swale Borough Council for the village Christmas tree and also obtained a grant of £400 from SBCllr Prescott's Members' Fund towards the new notice board.

All Parish Councillors stood for re-election and this was uncontested.

2. Financial report of the Parish Council

2017-2018

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2018 in May and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was completed at the Parish Council Meeting on 30 May 2018. Under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Parish Council certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review and the Certificate of Exemption was submitted to the PKF Littlejohn immediately after the May meeting.

2018-2019

The Precept for 2018-2019 was £2900.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £2900 (ex VAT).

Total receipts for the year was £3586 which includes a VAT refund of £166 and £120 from the Swale Festive Lights Grant Fund which purchased the Christmas tree on the green and a grant of £400 from SBCllr Prescott's Members' Grant Fund towards the new notice board.

Total payments were £3534 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2019 was £4692.

The Elector's Rights Notice will be displayed on the Village Notice Board and the Parish Council website giving formal notice that the End of Year Accounts are available for inspection by the public. Viewing is by arrangement with the Chairman.

Donations made in 2018-2019

The Parish Council made donations of £100 to the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust; £20 to Swale Citizens Advice Bureau; £20 to Carers Support and £20 to the Gardening Group at Charing Surgery.

2019-20

The Precept requirement for 2019 -20 is £2,925, a small increase of 0.9% to allow for inflation and this makes the additional council tax for band D properties in the parish be £29.13 compared to £28.87 in 2018/19

3. To receive reports from local organisations

WI

The WI is very enjoyable and the meetings very informal with a speaker, followed by tea and cake and then a business meeting. The numbers have declined from thirty to approximately eighteen members. Members went on the Bluebell Walk which was followed by tea and cake. There was also a visit to the Sikh Gurdwara. New members are very welcome.

Kent County Council

KCCllr Bowles reported that he covers twenty-three parishes and there are many WIs which are struggling with membership numbers.

KCC has a new budget and has a major increase in its budget for roads, previously funds were diverted to Social Services but pressure from Members has succeeded in increasing the budget.

The storm on 29 May 2019 caused a major issues with properties being flooded particularly in the Doddington valley, Teynham and Lynsted. Cllr Bowles said he attended various meetings with KCC Highways Drainage Team and Helen Whatley. KCC needs local assistance to ensure all drains are located. KCC has more surveyors to help with highways issues.

KCCllr Bowles said that he is Chairman of the Regulatory Committee which deals with home-to- school transport appeals.

Cllr Horn thanked KCCllr Bowles for attending and for his report.

Village Hall

The Village Hall has regular bookings which give it a sound base to operate on. The review of the end of year finances has been completed and there had not been enough events to put money into reserves. The hall is four years old. There were problems with the boiler which had to be addressed.

The Village Hall is being marketed and Facebook has generated enquiries. Wedding planners took photos of the hall being dressed and while this was being done a wedding was booked. The committee have stopped using the hallmaster booking system and there is a volunteer booking clerk in the village. A few more wedding or party bookings will help cover the overheads.

The hall is in a good state of repair with good reserves. The committee is looking to raise funds to purchase new chairs and tables. There are events planned for the village.

4. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.

A resident expressed concern about the green plastic at the hall and offered grass seed. There could be Health and Safety issues as the plastic could be a trip hazard.

Cllr Dove said it needs to be pegged down and trimmed. There have been maintenance issues with the door and the noticeboard blew down. Everyone is a volunteer and everyone has a full-time job.

A resident said some pot holes have been repaired well but some have opened up and are very deep and dangerous.

Cllr Williams said some of the passing places have not been repaired.

Cllr Dove said these were not official passing places. Parts of the roads are dangerous to cyclists.

KCCllr Bowles said he will progress the matter.

ACTION: Cllr Dove to send KCCllr Bowles the post code.

A resident said cars speed through the village.

Cllr Horn said KCC will not consider a lower speed limit unless there have been accidents which have caused injury.

KCCllr Bowles said Kent Police need to be on board with any traffic scheme. It would be good to have all the roads in the AONB 40mph roads.

KCCllr Bowles said that in 2018-19, KCC spent £5,500,000 to extend the life of roads and £11,000,000 on resurfacing. The budget has been increased to £9,000,000 for repairs and £20,000,000 for resurfacing.

Cllr Horn said issues must be reported to KCC.

A resident said the road is very muddy and asked if a sign could be installed.

Cllr Horn said it was because the tractor was carrying matter from the farm to the field.

KCCllr Bowles said only roads with kerbs are swept.

Cllr Horn thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair

Date: 4 May 2021