

**Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**via Zoom (online meeting)**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr R Hancox  
 Cllr J Astle  
 Cllr A Bianco  
 Cllr D Jack  
 Cllr T Wright  
 Cllr W Redford

There were 2 members of the public present.

**1. Attendance and Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Redford and Cllr L Rolli.

**2. Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

R Hancox proposed for Chairman by Cllr Jack and seconded by Cllr Bianco. This was unanimously agreed.

J Astle proposed for Deputy Chair by Cllr Jack and seconded by Cllr Bianco. This was unanimously agreed.

**3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Hancox signed a formal Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman.

**4. To receive all Councillors' Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Astle signed a formal Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Chairman.

Cllrs Jack and Bianco signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

It was agreed that Cllr Rolli would sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

**5. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**6. Chairman's Allowance**

It was unanimously resolved that the Chairman's allowance for the year would be £80.

**7. Committees of the Council**

It was agreed that there would continue to be no committees of the Council.

**8. External Committees**

To appoint members to serve on the undermentioned committees:

- a) Stoneleigh Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust: Cllr Hancox
- b) Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses, Stoneleigh: David Franklin and Suzanne Crofts were appointed in 2019 as Trustees for a period of 4 years.
- c) The Leigh Educational Foundation: Cllr Astle

d) Trustees of the Stoneleigh United Charities: Cllr Hancox

## 9. Reports

- A written report was received from the Village Hall Committee, annexed at page 3.
- A written report was received from the Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses, Stoneleigh, annexed at page 4.

*Standing orders were suspended at 19:20*

- A report was received from the Sheila Woolf on behalf of the Leigh Educational Foundation, annexed at page 6.

*Standing orders were reinstated at 19:24*

- A written report was received from the Trustees of the Stoneleigh United Charities, annexed at page 7.

## 10. To confirm that the Parish Council continues to hold General Power of Competence

It was confirmed that the Parish Council retains its General Power of Competence, fulfilling the criteria:

- at least two thirds of the council hold office as a result of being declared elected; and
- the Clerk holds a recognised professional qualification (Certificate in Local Council Administration)

## 11. Calendar of meetings

The dates listed below for meetings of the Council for the Council year May 2021 to April 2022 were approved. – annexed at page 8.

## 12. Closure

The meeting was closed at 19:28

## **Yearly report from Stoneleigh Village Hall**

This year has been a difficult year.

We made the village hall Covid safe according to government guide lines, until the inevitable happened and we closed.

This did not stop us from getting on with planned projects. There is now a hearing loop installed in the hall, in the meeting room the acoustics have been improved. A defibrillator has been placed on the front of the hall.

The playing field has been cleared of brambles and weeds by volunteers from the football club.

The committee have worked extremely hard through lock down to keep the village hall going through emails and zoom.

Financial support from the parish council, male voice Choir, and Women's Institute has helped with will some of our projects and we are very grateful.

There are other projects to be implemented in the future, the permissive path to be finished, replacing the border hedge on the field side, improving security in the car park, hopeful a projection system installed in the hall, upgrading the football changing room, and others projects to be looked into.

There is always ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the hall.

The village hall will be opened eventually in accordance with the government guide lines.

## **Almshouses Trustee's Report – Activities during the year 2020**

During 2020 the Charity continued to provide accommodation for residents in the ancient parish of Stoneleigh and all the Almshouses were occupied throughout 2020.

Trustees have continued with day-to-day repairs as well as remedial and modernisation work to the Almshouses, as best they could, whilst under COVID-19 restrictions and government lockdown. The minor indoor repairs have largely been put on hold until lockdown eases and due to social distancing and the age and vulnerability of some of the residents.

Croft Construction carried out ridge tile roof repairs and thoroughly inspected the roof and chimneys. The ongoing issues with damp have largely been brought under control, however, it is possible that the damp and water ingress is being caused by problems with the chimney's and is under constant surveillance by the Clerk. Remedial works to the lead flashing and repointing of the chimney's is due to begin in June 2021 to try and eradicate these issues.

Brad Steele, a Master Stonemason was engaged to carry out routine maintenance to stonework and to some paving during the year. This included additional lime mortar repointing and an inspection of possible damp/mould/water penetration to property No 10 and associated remedial works around the fireplace.

Urgent electrical maintenance was carried out as and when required, although the annual PAT testing of all resident's and charity owned electrical appliances had to be put on hold until the lockdown lifted due to social distancing.

The Almshouse is a listed building and there seemed to be questions as to whether the properties required EPC ratings. Following the installation of new night storage heaters in 2018 it was decided to have each property's EPC rating inspected. Inspections were carried out by Graham Murdoch of CV Energy during late October and November 2019, with all properties now confirmed and certified as being a 'Band E' rating, which is valid for ten years.

Urgent plumbing repairs were carried out under strict COVID19 rules and included the repairs following water leaks from toilet cisterns and taps, a blocked sink, immersion thermostat valves and shower repairs.

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 to:

- Shakespeare Hospice
- The Addington Fund
- Waverley Day Centre
- Warwickshire Vision
- 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 latest project that the Trust donations have help support has been the recruitment of a Youth Worker at St Andrews Church who provides youth activities in the community.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

##### **THE DAME ALICE LEIGH'S ALMSHOUSE**

Account's year end to 31st December 2020

##### **INCOME**

Contributions	40,300.00
Grant from Duchess Dudley Charity	24,000.00
Bank Interest	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>64,300.00</b>

##### **EXPENDITURE**

Donations	-7,000.00
Governance Costs	-658.00
Housing Management Costs	-11,801.07
Repairs & Maintenance Costs	-17,015.67
Service Costs	-22,202.82
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-58,677.56</b>

<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>5,622.44</b>
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## **The Leigh Educational Foundation**

### **– report for Stoneleigh Parish Council, May 2021.**

The charity was set up as a Foundation in the 1980s following the closure of Stoneleigh School Six Trustees meet four times a year and award grants to young people under the age of 25. Meetings have been held via Zoom in the current year.

Applicants (or if under 18, their parents/guardians) must be resident in the Civil Parishes of Ashow, Leek Wooton, Burton Green and Stoneleigh.

Examples of help in the financial year 2020-2021 have been

- Assistance with school uniform/equipment
- Help with expense for school trips
- Support for youth groups
- Help with school/college/university expenses such as fees, equipment.

During the year we were sorry to lose Sarah Williams as a Trustee on her resignation from the Parish Council, but were pleased to welcome her replacement, John Astle.

Over the year we have helped about 30 applicants, half of whom have come from Stoneleigh.

Trustees are keen to encourage applications and have published publicity material in association with this.

*Sheila Woolf,  
Chairman, Leigh Educational Foundation, May 5 2021.*

**Stoneleigh United Charities  
2021 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 usually also receives a donation each year from Coventry Mummers following their performance at Stoneleigh on Boxing Day, however due to COVID that did not take place this last year.

The Charity is administered by a Clerk to the trustees and a board of six 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 2020 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).

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, she may be contacted by phone on: 01788 890618 or by email: [stoneleighunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleighunitedcharities@gmail.com).

**Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council**

**Calendar of meetings 2021-2022**

**All meetings start at 7 pm unless stated otherwise. Meeting locations to be confirmed, dependent upon social distancing guidelines**

April 8 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Online, via zoom
May 6 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Online, via zoom
June 10 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Stoneleigh Village Hall
July 8 <sup>th</sup> 2021	tbc
August 2021	No meeting
September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2021	tbc
October 14 <sup>th</sup> 2021	tbc
November 11 <sup>th</sup> 2021	tbc
December 9 <sup>th</sup> 2021	tbc
January 13 <sup>th</sup> 2022	tbc
February 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022	tbc
March 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022	tbc
April 14 <sup>th</sup> 2022	tbc
May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022	tbc