

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Stockton Parish held on Monday 11th May 2023 in Stockton Village Hall at 7.00pm**

### **Those Present:**

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

*District Councillor:* Cllr.A.Crump

*County Councillor:* Cllr.A.Crump

*General Public:* 10 members of the public

### **Apologies:-**

*Parish Councillors:*

*District Councillor:*

*County Councillor:*

*General Public:*

### **Introduction**

The Chairman of the Parish Council 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 that the winner of this years award has taken the FC-CC to new sports heights, with an increase in netball teams, the introduction of petanque and baseball, and the knowledge that next season there are going to be the introduction of 10 junior football sides which will include multiple young girls teams in addition to young boys teams. This would appear to go against the national trend of young people (especially young girls) dropping out of organised sporting activities, and the Chairman congratulated Mr.Cole warmly.

In reply Mr.Cole thanked the Parish Council for the award, and asked that the cheque that accompanies the award be sent to the Playing Field Committee.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

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

## **Financial Report**

The Clerk of the Parish Council then delivered the annual financial statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and outlined the differences in the accounts from last year and reasons for the variations. Questions from meeting were addressed and it was proposed by J.Emberton and seconded by T.Warner that the financial report was approved. This motion was unanimously agreed.

## **Parish Council Chairman's report**

The Chairman then gave his report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Reluctantly the parish council has had to increase its precept (which is the money that is collected on our behalf through the council tax payments by a significant amount this year due mainly to the increase in energy costs for street lighting. The yearly payment has increased from £2,000 to £6200. Consequently the parish council has increased the precept from £26,500 to £30,000. So the parish council part of the whole council tax bill for a Band D property would be just under £53 p.a.

The parish council has continued to support the village groups with their plans for improving the facilities in the village. Stockton Football and Cricket Club have now completed the improvement of their buildings and the parish council's involvement has been as the prime tenant of the lease with Cemex and also as the body that all of the grants from Sport England have been made to initially.

An enthusiastic Playing Fields Committee has now raised about £35,000 with another £10,000 promised, to be spent on new play equipment for the children of the village. This money will be spent in the coming year and further grants will be applied for to complete the overall project.

Last year I commented on two changes that might affect the parish council's relationship with the primary authorities at Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council.. The first was the decision to change local ward boundaries and despite our objections the Boundary Commission they decided to put Stockton in a new ward with parts of central and east Southam. The new councillor for this ward was elected last week Cllr.Andy Crump.

After several years of lobbying Severn Trent about the fragile state of the mains water supply in the village, they have finally committed to a programme of replacing the old water service so hopefully the years of water stoppages that we have suffered will be over.

Secondly the proposed merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council did not go ahead apparently for reasons of due diligence when legal matters were explored. Consequently, the parish council will continue deal with Stratford for matters such as planning, waste and recycling, sport and leisure, etc. However despite the failed merger the long term local plans for Stratford and Warwick have now been combined in the South Warwickshire Local Plan. This plan will identify a growth strategy to meet the future needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and open spaces until 2050. The plan is going through a public consultation process that will continue until December 2025. The parish council has indicated in the latest consultation stage that it would not be averse to future housing development as long as there was some specific benefit to the local community such as investment in the building of affordable homes, improved village facilities such as the village hall and a turn around point to the local bus service to avoid using Post Office Lane and High Street.

Looking back to the parish council's action areas for the last year the results have been disappointing. The street lighting programme has been successfully completed and all the lights have been upgraded to LED lamps and the old concrete columns replaced.

A second action was to plant more trees around the village but this did not go ahead because insufficient volunteers came forward to look after the trees for their first couple of years. Thirdly the proposal to install radar activated speed warning signs in Napton Road have been squashed by Warwickshire County Council who have a policy of only allowing such sites that they are fully funding and meet their criteria in terms of accident figures, vehicle density and speeds.

In other words although the parish council is responding to pressure from parishioners over many years to do something about speeding and can fully fund the signs the County have decided that people have to be injured, perhaps seriously, before they will consider installation.

A further disappointment has been with affordable housing. Following the Housing Needs Survey carried out in 2021, the parish council was in consultation with Warwickshire Rural Housing Association to go forward with plans for a small development of 10 homes off Jubilee Fields. However, the Diocesan Office, who own the land did not wish to enter into discussions about releasing this land. The parish council has heard that they are still considering plans to develop a larger site with one of the major house builders. The parish council will continue to work with Warwickshire Rural Housing Association to find other suitable sites for a small development of affordable homes for village people.

Turning to our action areas for this next year our first area is to investigate the strengthening of the grass verges in George Street that suffer from the effects of vehicle parking. The parish council did install some strengthening some years ago but this has not proved sufficiently robust and so the plan is to install a much more substantial grid system. The first stage is to hold discussion with Warwickshire Highways as the land is highway land and then to consult individual homeowners about the land outside their homes.

The second action is for the parish council to undertake some preparatory work to ensure the new cemetery extension will be ready for use in the near future as the existing cemetery has little capacity left for full burials. This work might include a survey of the fencing and gates and strengthening of the entrance area.

The third action will be to support the development of the children's playing field by resurfacing the access track from St. Michaels' Crescent as the track gets very muddy in wet weather.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the various people who have supported me in the past year, the parish councillors the parish clerk and our County and District Councillors.

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

### **Open Forum**

There were no issues raised.

There being no further business under the Open Forum the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the Annual Parish meeting at 7.25pm.

Stockton Parish Council  
Income & Expenditure  
Year ending 31st March 2022

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	260000.00
Burial fees	450.00
Sports field	14000.00
Fair	
Grants defib	1900.00.00
refunds	1.00

**Total 29751.00**

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Annual Subs	528.00
P.Field	5.00
Sports Field	35850.00
Street L maint.	608.00
Street L Repair	3255.00
Street lighting	1990.00
Insurance	1114.00
Admin	2643.00
Office Exp.	1328.00
Village hall	1590.00
Cemetery	2079.00
V.Mowing	3345.00
Audit	357.00
Gen.Admin	
Training	60.00
PCC	1824.00
Seating/Bins	
Gen repairs	1047.00
Grant	
VoY	
Mem.Field	1589.00
VAT	

**Total Exp 59212.00**

Stockton Parish Council  
Income & Expenditure  
Year ending 31st March 2023

<b>Income</b>	
Precept	26500
Burial fees	450
Sports field	1400
Fair	40
Grants Defib	1900
refunds	1.00
CIL	2128
Donation	791

**Total 33,310**

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Annual Subs	697
P.Field	792
Sports Field	1400
Street L maint.	812.00
Street L Repair	6795
Street lighting	1995
Insurance	1362
Admin	3595
Office Exp.	1933
Village hall	0
Cemetery	1633
V.Mowing	3575
Audit	375
Gen.Admin	0
Training	0
PCC	214
Seating/Bins	
Gen repairs	530
Grant	
VoY	122
Mem.Field	0
VAT	2180.

**TotalExp 24414**

