

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Stalisfield held in Stalisfield Village Hall on 18 May 2023

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Richard Vant and Cllr Nina Williams; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were two members of the public.

1. Welcome

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr Jerry Brown, County Councillor Rich Lehmann and Ward Member Terry Thompson.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held remotely on 16 May 2022 were read and agreed to be a true copy of the meeting. Cllr Horn duly signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Report of the Chair of Stalisfield Parish Council

Cllr Horn reported that the Council had dealt with several issues within the parish. A contentious proposal for a natural burial ground was considered by the Council; the application was withdrawn by the applicants.

The Council facilitated a public meeting to discuss the proposals for the conversion of disused stables into holiday accommodation at Woodsell Farm. This was an opportunity for the applicant to explain the scheme to the parish and also allowed residents to raise questions. The planning application was permitted by Swale Borough Council.

A Parish Highways Improvement Plan was drawn up and a meeting was held with KCC Highways, this has resulted in KCC Highways agreeing to fund the installation of village gateways. The work should be completed within the next three months.

David Simmons, the Ward Member, was not re-elected and Terry Thompson is the new Borough Councillor. The Council is grateful to David Simmons for his support.

4. Financial report of the Parish Council

2021-22

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2021 remotely and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was completed at the Parish Council Meeting in July 2021. 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.

2022-23

The Precept for 2022-23 was £2883 resulting in no increase in the Band D property equivalent which remained at £29.14.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £2935 (ex VAT).

Total receipts for the year were £2900.

The Council continues to maintain the village green.

Total payments were £2682 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2023 was £2,897.

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 2022-23

The Parish Council made donations of £50 Victim Support; £100 to Swale Citizens Advice Bureau; and £250 to the Church towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

2023-24

The Precept requirement for 2023-24 is £2,925, again with no increase in council tax for band D properties in the parish but a slight increase of £42 to the Parish Council due to the way the Council Tax Base figure is calculated.

Cllr Horn thanked the Clerk for her report.

5. To receive reports from local organisations

Unfortunately, local organisations had not been invited to give their reports due to the change of meeting date.

6. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.

No matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair
Date: