

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Stalisfield held in Stalisfield Village Hall on 16 May 2024

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Jerry Brown, Cllr Chris Norwood and Cllr Richard Vant; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were Ward Member Terry Thompson, PC Dave Ansbro, two PCSOs and seven members of the public.

1. Welcome

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Nina Williams and County Councillor Rich Lehmann.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023

Cllr Horn read the minutes which were agreed and signed.

3. Report of the Chair of Stalisfield Parish Council

Cllr Horn reported that there had been five meetings of the Parish Council. The memorial bench has been a major project and this has been well-used. There will also be two arm chairs and a picnic bench. Memorial plaques are available.

PC Garry Morris attended to give an update on policing, he is the Beat Officer for the East Downs Ward.

Cllr Vant is the Council's liaison for highways matters and there has been some success with pot holes. Pot holes are easy to report online and Cllr Vant can assist with this.

The second village gateway has finally been installed at the other end of the village, KCC Highways was restricted by where it could be sited. The gateways are white plastic which is safer and they cause less damage if hit.

The Council has considered five planning applications and submitted comments to Swale Borough Council.

4. Financial report of the Parish Council

2022-23

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2023 remotely and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was completed at the Parish Council Meeting in May 2023. 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.

2023-24

The Precept for 2023-24 was £2925 which was a slight increase of £42 but, due to the way the Council Tax base figure is calculated, there was no increase in the Band D property equivalent which remained at £29.14.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £4890 (ex VAT).

Total receipts for the year were £4788 which included a lottery grant of £1,002 towards the King's Coronation celebration in the village.

The Council continues to maintain the village green.

Total payments were £4580 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2024 was £3105.

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 2023-24

The Parish Council made donations of £300 to the Kent, Sussex, Surrey Air Ambulance; £100 to Swale Citizens Advice Bureau; and £300 to Stalisfield Church towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

2024-25

The Precept requirement for 2024-25 is £3087, being a 3% increase in the Precept for band D properties in the parish, giving an increase of £162 to the Parish Council.

5. To receive reports from local organisations

Police

PC Gary Morris has a surgery on 11 July 1- 3pm at Painters Forstall Community Centre. The only crime reported since the January was the theft of flowers from Hillside Road. There have been no reports of anti-social behaviour. PC Morris covers eleven parishes.

Cllr Vant asked if Operation Galileo is still in operation.

There is a Rural Police Team which is separate, information on Operation Galileo will be circulated. There will be more staff deployed in August.

Cllr Horn thanked the Police for attending and for their report.

Ward Member's report

SBCllr Thompson reported that there had been a lot of issues with bin collections, Councillors have been promised a follow round in rural areas and Stalisfield is one of the areas highlighted. They will follow crews to see which areas are missed. Problems have occurred because of road closures, staff sickness and smaller trucks needing to be emptied more often. It is hoped that the issues will be resolved. Under the terms of the contract, Suez has until 8 June to settle in and then Swale Borough Council can impose penalties.

Cllr Horn thanked SBCllr Thompson for attending and for his report.

Village Hall

The Village Hall will be ten years old on 1 June 2024 and the anniversary will be celebrated with a Fare to Share event. The Trustees are responsible for the finances of the hall and also for ensuring all is in good order. There is a team of six running events which raise money for the village hall and also brings the community together including a coffee morning with a soup lunch and games; a treasure hunt; and the August Bank Holiday Fete. The events are reliant on volunteers getting involved.

Otterden & Stalisfield WI

The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month except August, we have a variety of speakers and activities. Full details are in the parish magazine, everyone is welcome.

Stalisfield Youth Club

This meets on alternate Wednesdays in the village hall, with a variety of activities including music, karaoke, X-box, table tennis and a tuck shop. It is going well and the young people enjoy it.

Stalisfield Church

There is a group of six people trying to maintain the church and keep it going. Fundraising last year included the bluebell walk and a quiz; this year there will be funds from the safari and

a quiz. The church is a Festival Church and has six services for Mothers' Day; Easter; Hymns and Pimms; a benefice Service; a November Service around All Souls Day; and Christmas. Current fund raising is for the maintenance of the fabric of the church. Last year the roof was repaired although it requires further work; the Mediaeval windows also need repairing.

Zumba

Classes are on Thursdays and cost £7.50; they are very active and good fun.

Line Dancing

Classes are on Wednesday mornings, £7 for an hour. It is great fun and not so active.

Table Tennis

The Club meets on Tuesday evenings.

Cllr Horn thanked everyone for their reports.

6. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.

A resident raised concern that flooding is a contact problem at the bottom of Gravel Hill. It has been reported numerous times as an emergency because it is a hazard for vehicles, there was an accident before Christmas.

Cllr Vant said the problem is it has been hit by a lorry; it has been reported.

SBCllr Thompson said he will raise this with the County Councillor.

SBCllr Thompson reported that the old Steiner School theatre, the Garlinge Theatre, has just been opened for the community. A variety of events are held there and there is a mini bus to bring people to the theatre from the villages. It is a community theatre, not for profit.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 15 May 2025