

# STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Stalisfield held on Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 7.30pm in Stalisfield Village Hall

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

Also present were twelve members of the public.

### **1. Report of the Chair of Stalisfield Parish Council**

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Horn said that Ian McKay had resigned from the Parish Council after many years of service to the village and thanked him for all he has done for the Council and for the village. There is now a vacancy on the Council and the Council can co-opt a member, it is a good way to serve the community and to be involved.

The Council has considered a number of planning applications all of which, except one, were approved.

There was concern that the village might lose its bus service and she and Cllr Dove attended a meeting about the proposed cuts to the rural bus services. Following pressure, KCC decided not to implement the cuts so the bus service in Stalisfield will continue.

Cllr Dove reported a Clerk was appointed in August 2017 and the Council purchased a laptop with a grant from the Transparency Fund.

### **2. Financial report of the Parish Council**

The Clerk thanked Cllr Dove for her sterling work on the accounts and reported:

#### 2016-2017

PKF Littlejohn audited the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 which was a Standard Audit. There were no outstanding issues from previous years that required reporting to the Audit Commission. PKF Littlejohn approved have the accounts on there were no issues raised causing concern.

#### 2017-2018

The Precept for 2017-2018 was £2600.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £2600 (ex VAT).

Total receipts were £4196 (ex VAT) which included a grant of £1579 to alleviate the burden of complying with the Transparency Code.

Total payments were £2454 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2018 was £4894.

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

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 2017-2018

The Parish Council maintains the village defibrillator and the village green. It also paid for the Christmas tree on the green in 2017.

#### 2018-19

The Precept requirement for 2018 -19 is £2,900, a small increase to allow for inflation. The Parish Council has budgeted to celebrate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

### **3. To receive reports from local organisations**

#### Table Tennis Club

The Club meets on Tuesday evenings between 7-9pm. An average of ten players attend and sometimes there are fifteen to twenty players. The club has a table tennis coach from Faversham and he has provided a new table so there are now three good quality tables to play on. The club needs more members and children are welcome to join.

#### Village Hall

Mr McKay he has resigned and was thanked for his sterling work on the Village Hall. The committee always welcomes new members. Many events are arranged throughout the year including a quiz, a safari supper and the Royal Wedding with a bring and share lunch. The upcoming events include a barn dance, an afternoon tea, the fete and the panto.

The Hall's finances are strong although there is an upcoming expense as the boiler broke at Christmas.

#### Church

The church is currently in an interregnum and as there is one service a month, which is Holy Communion, a vicar has to be found to lead the service each time. The Parochial Church Council is small and the church needs more help. The church is currently looking at a Friends' scheme for those who are interested in the heritage of the building. The building has been well maintained.

There is a small congregation and villagers also support the church financially. The church also receives a grant from the Otterden Trust and it holds services for six months in Otterden Chapel.

#### WI

The WI has excellent speakers and it has also been on a bluebell walk. It is a very enjoyable group to belong to. Members do a variety of different activities and it is an active and dynamic group.

Cllr Horn thanked everyone for their reports.

### **4. To receive questions and comments from parishioners**

*A resident raised concern about the amount of litter in the village.*

Cllr Horn said the Parish Council could organise a Keep Stalisfield Clean Day. Sometimes the rubbish falls out of the dust carts when the bins are collected and the Council could mention this to Swale Borough Council.

*A resident raised concerns about pot holes which are in the passing places as well as on the roads.*

Cllr Horn said residents must report pot holes to KCC and this can be done online. KCC will only repair pot holes in official passing places which are tarmacked. The Council can contact Kent Highways and ask to carry out a survey

**5. Presentation of the KALC Community Award 2018**

Cllr Horn said the Parish Council would like to give the KALC Community Award to Mrs Jean West who has served the community since arriving in Stalisfield in 1971. The Kent Association of Local Councils offers Community Awards for Parish Councils to nominate someone outstanding. Jean and her husband Ken moved to the village from South Africa and lived at the vicarage, Jean's uncle was the vicar. Jean was a health visitor in Charing and then at Ashford before joining her husband in his business. During all this time, Jean has always been focussed on the elderly and people who are unable to help themselves. One resident was able to stay in her house until she was one hundred years old due to Jean organising people in the village to go in and help. Jean is a volunteer at the Canterbury Hospice and has also helped with Sailing for the Disabled; helped young offenders learn to read; is on the Parochial Church Council; Church Warden and is on the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council had no hesitation in nominating Jean for the award.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair  
Dated 10 May 2019