

# STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Stalisfield held remotely on 4 May 2021

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

Also present were County Councillor Andrew Bowles and Ward Member David Simmons.

### 1. Welcome

Cllr Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Holly Alexander and Cllr Chris Norwood.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2019

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2019 were read and agreed to be a true copy of the meeting. Cllr Horn will sign the minutes at the next meeting of the Council.

### 3. Report of the Chair of Stalisfield Parish Council

Cllr Horn reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had changed the way the Parish Council works. The Council has functioned well on Zoom and continued to meet but the problem of remote meetings is that they are less attractive to members of the public and residents have not attended meetings. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Council took the initiative and kept the community informed and together and resilient.

### 4. Financial report of the Parish Council

#### 2019-20

The Independent Internal Auditor completed the audit of year-end accounts to 31 March 2020 remotely in July and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was completed at the Parish Council Meeting on 16 July 2020. 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 July meeting. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the timeline for the audit had been extended.

#### 2020-21

The Precept for 2020-21 was £2929, which although was an increase of £4 to the Parish Council there was no increase in the Band D property equivalent which remained at £29.14.

The forecast budget requirement for the year was £2929 (ex VAT).

Total receipts for the year was £4641 which includes a VAT refund of £56; and a donation of £1505 from Stalisfield Village Hall towards the purchase of tables and chairs.

The Council continues to maintain the village green and has contributed towards the church yard maintenance.

Total payments were £5931 (ex VAT)

The bank balance at 31 March 2021 was £4336.

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 2020-21

The Parish Council made donations of £250 to the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust; £100 to Swale Citizens Advice Bureau. It also purchased the tables and chairs for the hall with the help of their donation.

#### 2021-22

The Precept requirement for 2021-22 is £2,935, again with no increase in council tax for band D properties in the parish but a slight increase of £6 to the Parish Council.

Cllr Horn thanked the Clerk for her report.

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

#### Village Hall

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Village Hall has been closed for most of the year due to Government restrictions. Grants have been received to help COVID-proof the hall and also a contribution towards the loss of income. The Village Hall is in a fairly good position and the grants will be used towards outside storage and gazebos which have now been purchased. There have been a lot of enquiries regarding wedding bookings, there are a number of bookings for this year and 2022 is very busy. Local groups are now re-booking the hall. The grants will enable the hall to re-open and welcome the community back, the first event is in July.

#### Kent County Council

KCCllr Bowles said there are various matters ongoing such as the flooding issues from 2019 and there has been a recent meeting in Doddington with local landowners and the MP to look into ways of resolving the matter.

KCC Finance Team have worked hard to keep things going during the pandemic and within a month meetings were held remotely to keep the business of the Council going. KCC is looking for venues for Councillors and members of the public now the legislation allowing remote meetings is at an end.

KCCllr Bowles said that he had attended his last Home-to-School appeals.

KCCllr Bowles paid tribute to Stalisfield Parish Council, the Chair and the Clerk for their sterling work which had made it a pleasure to work with the Council for the past sixteen years.

Cllr Horn thanked KCCllr Bowles for his service to the community.

#### Swale Borough Council

SBCllr Simmons reported that nearly all of Swale Borough Council's meetings had been held remotely over the past year. The Local Plan consultation had been a major item, the Local Plan will have an impact on everyone in the borough.

The Members' Grant Fund will be replenished in May for applications and the Swale Eastern Area Committee also has funding available.

Next week Swale Borough Council will meet in person, hybrid meetings will be trialled.

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

No parishioners were present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.27pm