

PARISH OF STRADBROKE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, STRADBROKE on THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: 23 members of the public, including 8 members of the Parish Council

In attendance: Cllr Julie Flatman (MSDC); Odile Wladon (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Stuart Gemmill, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Chris Edwards, Lynsey Smith, Jim Baker and Oliver Last.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2016 were unanimously approved and signed.
3. There were no matters of report arising from the Minutes.
4. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Stuart Gemmill, presented his Annual Report for 2016/17 as follows:
It's been a year that has seen a lot of changes. Three of our members, two of them long standing, have moved on, and one Lady and two Men have taken their place making me now the oldest member of the Parish Council.
The Stradbroke Monthly Team are now responsible for their own production since the setting up of their new Governance Board represented jointly by the Editors, the PC and independent members with their own bank account which is held by the Parish Council who have to approve payment.
During the year, the Highways Working Party have been monitoring the speed and volume of traffic through the village. We now have access to speed monitoring devices.
The construction of the Grove Farm development has still to commence, but we look forward to receiving some Section 106 funding for the village.
There have been long term differences of opinion between the Parish Council and the Stradbroke Charitable Trust in relation to the Doctors Surgery. Hopefully a successful solution is within sight.
Undoubtedly the highlight of the year has been the fundraising for the improvements to the play facilities. Led so enthusiastically by Ellie Wharton and ably assisted by Don Darling and others. With some grant funding in addition, they have succeeded in raising enough funding to commence the project. Very well done!!
Whilst we know that there are three or four defibrillators in the village, we are expecting very soon to be able to house one of them in a case in the phone box. It will then be available to anyone in emergency on a 24/7 basis.
As I mentioned at the beginning of my report, we were sorry in October to lose three valuable members of the PC – namely Gerald Jenkins, Peter Smith and Ollie Coles. We thank them for all the work that they put in over the years.
After advertising for vacancies, we were delighted to be able to co-opt to the Council: Lynsey Smith, Chris Edwards, and Jim Baker.
At various times during the year we have been updated by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee who continue to work on our behalf towards the adoption of a plan, but they will give you a report coming up shortly.
During the year, we have been kept on the straight and narrow by our Clerk Odile Wladon, and our grateful thanks to her for all her hard work.
5. Cllr Flatman presented a report which is appended to these minutes.
6. Safer Neighbourhood Team -a report was received from the PCSO Steve Long as follows:
The parish of Stradbroke has had thirty one crimes throughout the past year. These break down as follows –
5 x Common Assaults
1 x Attempted Blackmail
1 x Aggravated Taking a Motor Vehicle Without Consent
1 x Drink Driving
1 x Distribution of Indecent Images
9 x Criminal Damages
4 x Theft from Motor Vehicles
1 x Vehicle Interference
2 x Thefts
1 x Bladed Article of School Premises
3 x Section 4 Public Order Offences
1 x Threats to Commit Criminal Damage
1 x Burglary Other Building
2 x Actual Bodily Harm
1 x Engage in Controlling and Coercive Behaviour
Your local Police Station is currently in Eye from which 42 parishes are covered by PCSO Steven Long and PC Lee Andrews-Pearce.
Inspector Mark Jackson and Sergeant's Mark Beresford and Mark Woodmansee are currently based at Halesworth along with the Response Team for the area.

A Speed Data Recorder was recently deployed along Laxfield Road to gather the speeds of traffic travelling along the road 24 hours a day. As a result of the data, the Safety Camera Team will now enforce when they are in the area. The Police Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore will be hosting a Public Meeting at Eye Town Hall on Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm, all members of public are welcome.

7. Neighbourhood Plan - Gillian Rennie-Dunkerley presented an update on the Neighbourhood Plan work to date and stages going forward – a copy of this can be found at: <http://www.stradbrokeonline.org.uk/index.php/stradbroke-neighbourhood-plan-home-page>

Gillian expressed her thanks to the volunteers for giving up their time and who have stuck with it and for being fully committed to the project.

Questions were raised about the site assessment criteria and it was confirmed that the local needs have been used to formulate the criteria by which each site is assessed.

Ian Poole of MSDC confirmed that the even though the plan was not yet adopted, all the evidence and information gathered can be used when submitting comments on planning applications.

Consultation is ongoing as to whether the new sites not previously included in the questionnaire can now be added without a further consultation on this element of the plan.

Upcoming events:

- Site assessments
- Housing allocation option event
- Completion of draft plan
- Launch of draft to the community in October 2017
- Pre submission launch at the end of the year
- Submission in the new year.

8. Stradbroke High School - Mr John Axtell (Head of School) and Mr Smith (Chair of Governors) presented, a copy is appended to the minutes.

9. Stradbroke VC Primary School - James Hargrave (Chair of Governors) presented a report as follows:
This has been another busy and successful year for Stradbroke Primary School. Our partnership with All Saints Primary School in Laxfield continues to grow. We share an Executive Headteacher – Melanie Barrow - and have a single governing body.

We are extremely proud to be one of only two schools in Suffolk to have received letters from the Department for Education because our children were in the top 3% of all schools in England for pupil progress. The only other school in the county to get such a letter was our partner school in Laxfield! Progress is measured from when children are seven to when they leave the school after their SATs when they are 11. Congratulations to all our staff and children on this achievement.

Stradbroke continues as a strategic partnership school in the “Primary East” teaching schools alliance including local schools such as Gisligham, St Peter and St Paul Eye and Wortham. We are the lead school for initial teacher training in the alliance which means we select and help to train teachers. These trainee teachers work in local schools – including Stradbroke and Laxfield – whilst they also undertake class based training one day a week.

Our trainee in Stradbroke this year – Laura Muttock – has been appointed to a vacant teaching post at Laxfield from the start of the next academic year. We already have a member of teacher at Stradbroke – Becca Keeble – who joined us after successfully completing her training. Next year ten teachers will train across local schools.

Our Executive Headteacher Melanie Barrow has been designated as a National Leader of Education this year which means that Stradbroke is now a “national support school”. National Leaders of Education are appointed by the Department for Education and are strong school leaders, who have experience of effectively supporting schools in challenging circumstances. Melanie and other staff from Stradbroke and Laxfield will continue to support other schools. Our Chair of Governors, James Hargrave is also a National Leader of Governance and has just finished supporting a school in Haverhill.

The children at Stradbroke continue to enjoy a rich curriculum with a good balance between academic work, the Arts and opportunities for trips away from school.

This year’s overarching topic across the school has been legends and legacies and the children have been on trips to the Harry Potter Studios and to Bewilderwood to help with their learning.

Stradbroke children performed A Midsummer Night’s Dream this year at the Apex Theatre in Bury St Edmunds. The audience also saw performances from children from three large secondary schools. Our pupils gave a convincing performance which was well received by the audience.

The school continues to be very well supported by parents and the Friends of the School are active in fundraising to support the school. Currently the Friends are raising money for a new outdoor stage for the playground.

10. Stradbroke Trust – Jane Merritt presented a report on behalf of Peter Smith, a copy is appended to the minutes.
11. SCALT – Maureen John reported that the Café and Post Office are busy and continue to flourish. It is proving a popular community hub and the new carpark has improved that part of the village.
12. Stradbroke Good Neighbours - Jane Gemmill presented a report as follows:

During the past year we have continued to help many people in and around Stradbroke with about 200 trips to hospitals, 150 to Drs, 50 to various places, such as Opticians, Dentists and a Heart clinic.

We also collect prescriptions and help with visits to sick relatives.

There have been a few different requests including sorting out a fridge door and trips to the vet, some of which we do have to refuse.

We have about 73 clients on our list with 25 regular users and 29 drivers including 5 new ones this year which is a great help.

Many thanks to all the drivers and to the phone holders.

We have also to thank the Parish Council, The Charitable Trust and the Village Lottery for their donations, which help with Insurance, Phone Top ups and DBS Forms .

Many thanks to all the Committee, Brian for his fast and efficient secretarial work and Carol for keeping the phone topped up and our accounts in order. Also thanks to Jennifer and Dennis for all their help.

Sadly, Martin Wake, who started the Good Neighbour Scheme in 2004 passed away this year.

A great thing he started.

13. Stradbroke Media – James Hargrave reported that Radio Stradbroke continues to broadcast every weekend.
14. Stradbroke Monthly - Kate Axon submitted a report which is appended to the minutes.
15. Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre: Jane Merritt presented a report ,a copy is appended to the minutes.
16. Footpath Warden – Dennis Merritt introduced himself as the new Footpath Warden. He has reviewed all the footpaths and has identified 5 posts that are missing or damaged together with a faulty bridge. He has a contact with Suffolk County Council and hopes to work closely with them. He is hoping that the footpaths will be well used and is hoping to organise communal walks particularly the Christmas Walk – where he would appreciate some volunteers to help with mince pies. He reminded all that there is a leaflet available that shows all the footpaths in the area. He is hoping to be able to update the footpath maps in the village at some point in the coming year.
17. Stradisphere – Jo Baber presented a report, a copy is appended to the minutes.
18. All Saints Church – Rev Susan Loxton submitted a report, a copy is appended to the minutes.
19. Youth Football Team – Don Darling presented a report, a copy is appended to the minutes.
20. Playpark Fundraising Group – Ellie Wharton reported that the fundraising for the new equipment had actually gone beyond the original target which meant that picnic benches could be purchased for each site. The fundraising from the community has been in excess of £5,000 and she thanked all those who have helped, particularly Gemma and Katie. She also thanked Skinners for not only the £1,000 they donated but the additional £2,000 from the Skinners Fund distributed to us by the Suffolk Community Foundation. Ellie thanked the Community Centre for their donation of £10,000 and MSDC for their grant assistance and advice. Thanks were also expressed to SAS for their generous donation of £1,900. Ellie wanted also to thank Don Darling and Oliver Last for their help in the early stages and Don for his negotiation skills.
19. The audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 were available for review together with the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017.
20. There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10 and refreshments were served.

Signed:

Chairman

26 April 2018