

# PARISH OF STRADBROKE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at STRADBROKE HIGH SCHOOL, STRADBROKE on THURSDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019 at 7.30PM

**Present:** 21 members of the public, including 10 members elect of the Parish Council

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

**Apologies for absence:** Rev. Susan Loxton, Bruce Francis, Michael Hugman, Stuart Gemmill, Rosemary Warne and Mary Ellis.

1. James Hargrave, Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting would be recorded.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2018 were approved.
3. There were no
4. matters to report from the minutes of the last meeting.
5. The Chair of the Parish Council thanked the High School for hosting the Annual Parish Meeting. A report was presented and a copy is appended to the minutes.
6. District Councillor – Julie Flatman, presented a report. A report was presented and a copy is appended to the minutes. Julie added that she was happy to be contacted by anyone who needed advice.
7. A report on the Annual Crime figures produced by the Safer Neighbourhood Team was available to view on the night.
8. The following parish groups or organisations presented reports, full copies are appended to the minutes:
  - 8.1 Stradbroke High School
  - 8.2 Stradbroke Primary School
  - 8.3 Stradbroke Courthouse & Library Trust (SCALT)
  - 8.4 Stradbroke Monthly Governance Board
  - 8.5 Stradbroke Cricket Club
  - 8.6 All Saints Parish Church
  - 8.7 FOASS
  - 8.8 Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre
  - 8.9 Good Neighbours
  - 8.10 Stradbroke WI
  - 8.11 Stradbroke Trust
  - 8.12 SARA

Matters arising from any of the reports:

Pam Cane - gave a thank you to the Trustees both past and present of the Stradbroke Trust who have worked hard and she noted that she was sad about the decision to surrender the Lease.

Karine Last – sought clarification on the current nursery building, and asked whether the current provider paid rent. The chair clarified that no rent was currently paid and that the building was no longer fit for purpose.

A question concerning the Doctors' Surgery @ Stradbroke was also raised. KL asked why the rent to the Drs had been increased so much over the last year. The Chair clarified that the rent to the Drs had not been increased, infact the rent received from the Drs is set by the NHS in consultation with the District Valuer. The Drs recover the rent that is then paid to the Parish Council through a rent recovery process which is standard NHS practice.

8. The audited Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were available for review.

There being no other business the Chair thanked all those for coming and closed the meeting at 20.30 and refreshments were served.

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

## **Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2019**

This year has been a very productive one for the Parish Council.

Most notably we completed and brought to referendum our neighbourhood plan that articulates a clear vision for the development of Stradbroke over the next 20 years.

This took a huge amount of work by councillors and the other volunteers on the neighbourhood planning team building on several years of work.

This hard work all paid off when more than 80% of those voting backed the plan at the referendum in January. The plan is now "made" and is part of the planning policy that Mid Suffolk District Council must use when determining planning applications.

We have already seen one of the four sites we put into the plan come forward and be approved for outline planning by Mid Suffolk. The proposal submitted was in line with the plan including the community benefits required, in this case this means it includes both affordable housing and an expansion to the playing fields.

But the development of the plan doesn't mean that the work is done. The Council has already developed a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan to set out priorities for development of infrastructure in the village to support any new housing. This includes setting out how we might spend the community infrastructure levy (CIL) money that comes to the parish council from new development and also how we might bid into the bigger CIL fund that Mid Suffolk has as well as other sources of revenue.

We have already earmarked CIL money for two priorities. The development of plans for a new nursery building and improvements to the surgery building.

Mention of the surgery building brings us to the other most notable matter the Council has dealt with this year. The lease on the surgery building that was held by the Stradbroke (Charitable) Trust.

Dealing with this issue has been extremely difficult as the Trust held a very different view from the Council. In particular the Trust wanted to continue to use substantial amounts of the rent they received from the Doctors (which comes from the NHS) to advance other community projects. The Trust also wanted to be able to borrow money for other projects using the surgery as collateral to advance these projects.

The Council took the view that the rent coming from the Doctors surgery building should be spent to maintain and develop the surgery building. Councillors also took the view that borrowing money against the building for other projects could put the surgery at risk.

This dispute concluded in April with the Stradbroke Trust surrendering the lease to the Parish Council. This means that the Doctors rent the building directly from the Council without the Trust as "middleman". The Council has earmarked all the rent to maintain and develop the surgery building and undertaken a conditions survey and begun to carry out improvements to the building. We believe this new arrangement will be beneficial to Stradbroke and allow health services to grow as the village grows.

It has been a great shame that the relationship between the Council and the Trust has become so difficult during this time. There is a need for all of us to work together to re-build this relationship and draw a line under this disagreement that has now gone on for many years. I will say more about this a little later.

We have also begun work this year to “modernise” the Council. Up until recently we were literally signing cheques in meetings to pay our bills. We have now moved to online banking and payment by bank transfer for almost all our bills. We have put the necessary checks and balances in place to ensure this is secure and all transactions need to be approved by two people once approved at Council.

We have also developed the Council’s website which is now comprehensive and has all council papers, policies, financial documentation and news and information.

We also began to look at re-organising the Council’s governance to allow more of our work to be done by Committee to avoid the business heavy and long monthly meetings. This was difficult this year due to the large number of vacancies we have had on the Council but now we have a full Council again this will be something we can focus on this year.

We have managed to achieve a great deal this year with a small number of councillors. In no small part this is due to the outstanding contribution to our work made by our Clerk, Odile Wladon, who works tirelessly for the Council on behalf of the village. Much work in the public sector and government is by its nature thankless. People quite rightly think they can question and criticise those who hold public office but we should also thank them and show our appreciation. There is a danger that people “shoot the messenger” and sadly this has happened all too frequently as people have forgotten that Odile is an employee of the council doing her job implementing council decisions. They have also forgotten it is her job to give advice without “fear or favour”.

Odile has not only helped and supported the council with the significant programme of work this year but also deals with an increasing number of requests for help from people in the village.

As cuts to our colleagues in the public sector in Suffolk continue to bite in Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk and the Police more and more work seems to get pushed down to parish councils to deal with. Whilst we may all have sympathy with these services parish councils have the least resources to be able to deal with things and it seems strange that multi million pound a year organisations with hundreds of staff are unable to do simple things like cleaning road signs.

After the elections last week we now have a full complement of 13 councillors and I am pleased to welcome six new councillors – Pam Cane, Don Darling, Stuart Gemmill, Dennis Merritt, Gillian Rennie-Dunkerley and Peter Smith to join the seven current councillors that continue in office.

It is good to have a full team again and hopefully there will be more stability in membership of the Council. That said, if vacancies do occur during the next four years I think the council needs to consider ensuring that it is more representative of what the village looks like. As things stand I am still the youngest member of the Council and whilst I am in my forties I am nearer to 50 than I might like. We need to do more, in my view, to listen to and represent the views of younger people and in particular families with children.

We have had younger councillors before, but a number left and others are perhaps understandably unwilling to join the Council.

Which brings me to an important point about how we all conduct ourselves. Unfortunately public life in Stradbroke has become somewhat toxic in recent years. Just a year ago we all received an anonymous letter which brought a large number of people to the annual parish meeting. This was followed by another letter this year, which was signed.

The tone of this letter and indeed the tone of some of the contributions at the last annual parish meeting and in the public forums of parish council meetings has not been constructive. Sadly disagreements on issues with strong views entirely legitimately held have turned into personal dislike and grievances.

A number of people involved in this have now become members of the Council. This gives us a real opportunity to put aside these differences and work together for the benefit of Stradbroke. We ought to set a better example to younger people in the village and show that we can disagree with out it becoming personal. That we can respect our clerk and remember that this is her workplace. If we do, then more people will want to join us.

I make this appeal to the whole council, not just newly elected members, we all need to behave better and where necessary apologise for past mistakes. We need to bring this to an end. I know that all 13 of the members of the new Council want to make Stradbroke a better place to live and that all of us have given a lot of time to various organisations and groups to make Stradbroke better. Let us put our energy into that rather than fighting each other and we can achieve even more in the next twelve months.

**James Hargrave**  
**Chairman**  
**Stradbroke Parish Council**

## **Stradbroke Annual Parish Council Report 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 by District Councillor Julie Flatman**

I have just completed my first term as your district councillor, and I would thank you for your kind support. I have had the pleasure of representing your views, queries and even complaints.

As community's Cabinet member, I have secured funding for various improvements to local amenities within my ward and assisted parishes by sign posting to appropriate funding.

I have sat on planning, licensing and Cabinet member for Communities which took me across the district.

I have supported the village halls, helped buy state of the art playground equipment, Re-build a village pond at Laxfield and play area and fencing etc., buy a new rural coffee caravan after theft, Home Start at Stradbroke, village maps showing footpaths, The Court room refurbishment at Stradbroke, Radio Stradbroke and many more projects with my Locality Award.

In the past year, the communities' team have been successful in delivering the following:

- Social subscribing (activity opposed to pills) at Stradbroke and Fressingfield surgeries.
- Safeguarding, mental health awareness, Dementia awareness and supporting activities and setting up clubs.
- Launching awards ceremony for volunteers and businesses across the District.
- Funding two PCSO's for two years and addressing County Lines by training staff.
- Arts and music- across the district.
- Town and parish liaison, Community liaison throughout the district,
- Grants for improvements to shop fronts across the district any many more projects
- Helping villages with securing Assets of Community value. (Low House)
- Needham Lake development and funding across the district and many more projects.

The women's EVO cycling tour promoting Health and wellbeing which also brings money into the district and supports local businesses.

I had the pleasure of judging the local school's fantastic entries for the Ladies cycling tour and presenting prizes along with the decorated cycle competition at Wilby. I look forward to this happening again this year for those who would like to get involved.

The EVO cycling tour will pass through Stradbroke on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

There will be activities on the playing field/community centre at Stradbroke 6.00-8.00pm. Sponsored by Mid Suffolk.

Radio Stradbroke will also be keeping us entertained.  
Fressingfield Scouts will run the barbeque.

We have just developed our community Strategy, that went to our partners for consultation in February. I presented the final document to full council and passed on 18/3/19.

I am very pleased to be representing you for another term of office. If you need help: email [Julie.flatman@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.flatman@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

01986 798661

Best wishes

Julie Flatman

## Stradbroke High School

This is my third and final report to the Parish as Head of Stradbroke High School. I am delighted to report that the High School had another very successful academic year come to a close in August 2018. The examination results attained by our students, once again, put our school high up in the Government's performance tables. In all the varied ways that schools are measured, Stradbroke out-performed national averages. The benchmark that the school is particularly interested in is the relatively new Progress 8 measure, which recognises the progress made by each individual student from their starting points. According to the official government Department for Education figures, in 2018 our Progress 8 score was "well above average" (their highest category), and I am especially delighted that our score was the second highest across all secondary schools in the whole of Suffolk and Norfolk combined.

As our current students begin their own exam season we know that they are working hard, and we are confident that they will do themselves justice in their exams and go on to achieve great things in the future.

We are now firmly established as a member of Sapientia Education Trust. We are working within this trust with three other high schools and eight primary schools. This structure is already bringing benefits as the schools work together to enhance the experiences of our students. Staff from the schools are sharing training, ideas and resources; the Trust has secured significant government funding to maintain our premises; and there is a transport link for those of our students who want to go to the sixth form at Wymondham College.

There have been very many other highlights this academic year:

- Students have benefitted from a huge variety of educational trips and visits as well as welcoming visitors into school. Among these are trips to watch sporting fixtures in London, theatre trips, cultural visits, science lectures, fieldwork, participation in many sporting activities and overseas trips. Two significant overseas trips this year have included a skiing trip to Italy and a very moving visit to Auschwitz.
- As a school we pride ourselves on thinking about others and have held a number of successful charity events.
- We continue to be grateful to The Friends of Stradbroke High School for their hard work and commitment in raising substantial amounts of funding for the benefit of our students. For those who would like to support, there is a Car Boot Sale at school this weekend.
- A major event for us this year was our production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It is always a joy to see young people perform on stage, as well as support in technical roles. Most pleasing was the fact that so many of the cast were from the lower school: their confidence was very impressive.
- The guest speaker at our Annual Awards Evening was Richard Hill, Chief Engineer and Aerodynamicist at Lotus cars.

I am proud that Stradbroke High School continues to serve this parish and surrounding area by providing high quality education to all our students, enabling them to make excellent progress from their individual starting points and giving them all the opportunity to develop into well rounded individuals.

This is my final report to the Parish as I will be starting a phased retirement at the end of this term. I am thrilled that the trust has appointed the Deputy Head as the new Head, with added capacity coming externally in the form of an Executive Headteacher from the Trust. I have complete faith that the new leadership team will continue to provide our students with a world class education in the heart of this parish.

John Axtell  
Headteacher



**Stradbroke CE Primary School**  
Queens Street, Stradbroke, Suffolk, IP21 5HH  
(01379) 384415

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs Melanie Barrow  
Head of School – Mrs Hannah Hunt  
[www.stradbroke.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.stradbroke.suffolk.sch.uk)

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2019**

It has again been another busy year for Stradbroke Primary School! It has now been just over a year since we joined the All Saints Schools Trust which continues to go from strength to strength with there now being eight schools in the MAT. We had a very successful first conference held at Dunston Hall in September and this was a great way to launch the Trust. All staff found it very helpful to network with different professionals and we continue to benefit from working closely with a wider range of other primary schools.

Our progress from the end of KS1 to KS2 was again very positive last year with positive progress scores in reading, writing and maths.

We are pleased that our number on role continues to grow and we have gone from having 88 children on role in September to 98 on role as of April with children joining us all the time. The increase in numbers is of course very positive and we always enjoy welcoming new children to our school.

There have been many exciting events this year starting with another successful residential to the Horstead Centre just outside Norwich for our Year 4 and 5 children in September. The children always enjoy going away with the children from All Saints Laxfield and they loved taking part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities including canoeing and the zipwire.

The Autumn term also saw children in Year 5 and 6 take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The class worked incredibly hard to create a wonderful version of the Tempest which they performed at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds alongside other local schools. It goes without saying that we are exceedingly proud of the children, not only for their fabulous performance but also for representing our school brilliantly by behaving professionally and respectfully at all times.

This year, the children marked Remembrance Day by creating a beautiful memorial of poppies. Thank you to the Friends of the School for coming in to work with the children to create the poppies which were really spectacular when displayed. We would like to thank the FOSPS for their ongoing hard work fundraising for our children. They continue to go from strength to strength and our children are lucky to benefit from the opportunities that their fundraising provides.

Our whole school theme this year has been 'Other Worlds' and the whole school have enjoyed a Magic and Wizardry day and a Space day. We were lucky enough to be able to invite a mobile planetarium into the school thanks to the extremely generous donations of the local community both at the Christmas lunch at the Baptist Church and also the Carol Concert. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who donated – the children had a truly great experience and it really brought the topic of space to life for the whole school.

There has been a host of other trips for all the classes including to Charlotte's Wood, The Red Feather Club, Norwich Castle and Strangers Hall. Extra-curricular activities are at the very heart of what we do and the children's experiences during these trips are vital to ensuring they have a well-rounded and engaging curriculum.

The School has engaged in the neighbourhood planning process and is pleased to see that measures to improve access to the school, parking and nursery development are key parts of this Plan.

We were, however, sorry to see from the consultation that some people think that the school ought to be moved. In at least one response we saw the suggestion was that a retail store could be built on the site of the school.

**Stradbroke Church of England Primary School is part of the All Saints Schools Trust.**

A charitable company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 11216388.





**Stradbroke CE Primary School**

Queens Street, Stradbroke, Suffolk, IP21 5HH

(01379) 384415

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs Melanie Barrow

Head of School – Mrs Hannah Hunt

[www.stradbroke.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.stradbroke.suffolk.sch.uk)

We know that traffic around the school causes disruption at pick up and drop off times and we are already working with appropriate authorities to look to see how this can be improved. However, there are a few things that are important to remember.

The fact that the traffic is slowed down helps to protect the children. Much of the traffic congestion at this part of Queens Street isn't caused by school traffic at all but by a noticeable increase in large trucks and tractors. The size of these vehicles is what often causes traffic issues.

The school, like all other schools in rural Suffolk, is currently experiencing a drop in numbers due to the decreasing numbers of children in the local population. We currently have 98 children but have room for 140.

In October 2014 we were delighted to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the school's opening on our current site. As well as the Victorian school frontage the school has a number of modern buildings including a hall and classrooms built in the late 2000's.

Moving the school would make no sense whatsoever. In any event there is no money at all available for this kind of project even if it was desirable. Planning gain money is only available to expand oversubscribed schools to meet the demands of new housing. Even if every single house envisaged in the neighbourhood plan is built and the demographic trend reversed, we have room for all the children.

It is hard in an age where we struggle with underfunding from the government to both maintain and run our schools not to see comments about re-location as out of touch and ill-informed.

In any event the school is not moving. We are lucky to be part of a supportive multi academy trust committed to the benefits of small rural primary schools. We are also fortunate that the church owns all the land and buildings that the school is situated on.

Our All Saints Schools Trust has already intervened in Eye where attempts were made there to use a neighbourhood plan to move the school. The plan even showed the school site zoned for housing. This has been removed following representations from the Trust which will continue to support and protect its schools.

We are very pleased that Stradbroke Parish Council is working with us in developing plans for a new nursery building. The current building at the front of the school has seen better days and it would be great to be able to provide a purpose-built new building (such as the one at Laxfield) for the benefit of village children.

We are proud of everything that Stradbroke Primary School has achieved this year and we look forward to continuing our work of providing a fantastic education for the children of Stradbroke. We hope that the village will continue to cherish and support its primary school on its historic and beautiful site.

**Melanie Barrow**

Executive Headteacher  
CEO All Saints Schools Trust

**James Hargrave**

Chair of Trustees  
All Saints Schools Trust

**Stradbroke Church of England Primary School is part of the All Saints Schools Trust.**

A charitable company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 11216388.

## **STRADBROKE COURTHOUSE & LIBRARY TRUST**

The Courthouse continues to flourish. This year we have completed the refurbishment of the upstairs room and the Stradbroke Village Archive are currently moving in. The room is also available as a small meeting room for hire or free to organizations that benefit the village. Our next project is to do some decorating and refurbishment work to the Library/ Post Office to move the children's area, to create a more children-friendly interactive space in the library.

The Post Office has become the local bank for many, with banks closing in the small towns surrounding Stradbroke, local residents and businesses now rely on the Post Office for banking facilities.

The amazing Courthouse Café volunteers won a 'Stars of Mid-Suffolk' Community Achievement award this year. Congratulations to them. We all went to the award ceremony in Hadleigh and had a lovely evening. The Café remains a popular venue for the community on Thursday and Saturday mornings and on 'Bacon Bap' Saturday every month we are full to overflowing.



## **Stradbroke Monthly – Governance Board Annual Report 2019**

The Governance Board would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the team of deliverers who take the time to deliver each publication whatever the weather. Like all those involved with the Stradbroke Monthly they are volunteers and everyone that enjoys reading the many interesting articles and the full diary of events should thank their deliverer for their efforts.

This year the cost of the each advert increased by £2pa, a small increase which will help the Stradbroke Monthly continue to be self-financing. When an independent bank account was established for the Monthly in 2016 there were no funds transferred into it from the Parish Council. The Governance Board decided that it was important to build up reserves to secure the future of the Monthly; a target reserve figure was set at one year's worth of printing which is currently £3,250 per year. The reserves are currently predicted to be £2,400 by March 2020. (a copy of the accounts are available to view at the end of the meeting).

The Governance Board are very grateful for the many voluntary hours that the Editors contribute to the production of each edition, particularly given that they have full time jobs as well.

**Stradbroke Monthly Governance Board**

Stradbroke Cricket Club marked 275 years of existence, by still surviving. Sadly, recreational sport in Villages is dying, so it is almost cause for celebration that we are still in existence. Thanks go to some loyal cricketers, hard working Committee, plus support from the Parish Council, providing a ground to play at, & our sponsors 'Skinners', for underpinning our efforts to maintain a Club, particularly through coaching in four local Primary Schools, introducing the game to around 250 children. Sadly, by their teenage years, most stop playing, a damning indictment on modern society. But we are trying, so keep supporting your local Cricket Club, & help us reverse the trend.

Thank you

Michael Hugman  
Chairman

## All Saints' Parish Church Stradbroke report for parish council

As you probably know, All Saints' parish church in Stradbroke is part of the Sancroft Benefice group of churches along with Fressingfield, Metfield, Mendham, Weybread and Withersdale. As you can imagine with 6 parishes in my care there is not enough hours in the day for me to personally make many pastoral visits. However, some of our church members do visit people who would benefit from one and I try to go to the court house café on a Thursday to meet and chat with people in the village. Also, a prayer group meets in the rectory every week to pray for people in the community, our school and anyone we know who is ill or suffering in any way. We also collect food regularly for the foodbank and the rector has vouchers and access to food for anyone who finds themselves needing some help for whatever reason.

Your parish church is here to celebrate with you all the special occasions in life both happy and sad: we love to celebrate with you by holding your marriage here in church, enjoy christening your babies and we see it as a privilege to hold your services of thanksgiving for the death of a loved one.

A big thank you to all who help us keep the church in good repair and well maintained, whether it be by cleaning the church, arranging flowers, ringing hand bells, attending fund raising events or giving money regularly – no matter how small the amount it all helps pay the general running costs. Without your help we would not be able to look after the church so well.

The church has three services every month, times and types of services can be found in the Stradbroke magazine and on the church noticeboard. We worship with our friends in the Baptist chapel bi-monthly. We also have an Open the Book team that goes into our school telling the children bible stories, I go into school to take assemblies and am also a school governor. I also am chaplain to the high school and go in on a lunch time when I can.

Our church family also tries to take part in village life, supporting local events and we also run a few events ourselves, which are usually well supported – thank you.

It takes a lot of money and time to keep the church well looked after, so if anyone would like to help in any way please speak to me, the rector.

God bless,

Rev'd Canon Susan Loxton

## The Friends of All Saints, Stradbroke (FOASS) report for the Annual Parish Meeting,

9th. May, 2019

FOASS began the year with a reduced Committee of 5 and funds amounting to £48,417.70. We had not been successful in our application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

One of our fund-raisers, Food with Friends, has come to a natural end; the annual plant sale did still bring in some further funding. The membership remains at 62. We are not daunted!

It was decided that we would go forward with renewed vigour with FOASS becoming the umbrella for a new name - 'Saving All Saints' (SAS). The project is to undertake urgent structural repairs to the South Aisle and Chapel Roof - in other words to initially make the building watertight and only then progress to internal improvements. Gill Rennie-Dunkerley (Project Manager), Carol Darling and Jane Merritt have taken on this task of raising funds from many sources.

To this aim SAS has applied to many Charities and has been successful in acquiring a further £5,000. Historic England visited the Church and following their extensive survey agreed that All Saints should be placed on their 'At Risk Register'.

The application placed with the Taylor Review Pilot Project has been successful. The work needed amounting to £12,317, the award was £8,978 and the shortfall will be made up from our existing FOASS funds. This work will start in October.

Our enthusiasm to obtain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has not diminished and with the help of Peter Gregson, who has experience of applying for funding, we are now waiting to see if our application will be initially accepted by the HLF, as their criteria has altered this year. We have every hope that this time we will be successful. Suffolk

Historic Churches Trust has also said that should we be successful in receiving a grant from the HLF, they will donate up to £10,000 towards our aim.

Margaret Streeter, Chairman for FOASS

## **Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre**

### **Report to Annual Parish Meeting – May 9th 2019**

The Community Centre has enjoyed yet another very successful year with an increase in bookings. Once again, we have had some repair bills to pay and there will of course be more expense as the building ages. It is encouraging to see a wide range of different groups and activities increase their use of the Community Centre helping it to grow and, with the 'profit share' scheme for Clubs using the Bar, increasing our turnover. The diary is still not completely full and we look forward to continued growth in 2019.

We encourage clients to use our online booking system to view the site and check availability before contacting our Bookings Manager. Online booking and invoicing make the system efficient and with over 30 different clubs and societies regularly using the Centre, this makes the role of the Bookings Manager easier. We have still had to turn away some requests through lack of space, continuing to emphasise the need for expansion in the future

The improvement works in 2018, including the heating, sound and vision have been completed and the Entrance Lobby, Main Hall and Webb Room have been decorated – not without controversy in the beginning by our choice of colour schemes but it has turned out to be a good decision in the end! The floor in the Main Hall has been resealed – all by volunteers. We have added a ceiling heating panel in the Main Kitchen and recognize that another one is needed. Also in the Main Kitchen we have installed a new industrial Oven and Warming Cupboard and, with additional crockery, are now able to serve up to 120 people – a huge improvement for catering in the Community Centre. Our aim is to definitely install an industrial Dishwasher next when funds allow. New notice boards give you plenty of room to advertise your events held in the Community Centre

Earlier this year we took the decision to underwrite the cost of running the village website - [stradbrokeonline.org.uk](http://stradbrokeonline.org.uk). It is a Community website and its 'raison d'être' is completely consistent with the aims and ambitions of the Community Centre. We support its aim of providing an up to date source of information for both residents and visitors to our village. The site has recently been re-designed making it easier and quicker to find information. Please use it and if there is anything you would like to see on the site just let the editors know by sending an email to [admin@stradbrokeonline.org.uk](mailto:admin@stradbrokeonline.org.uk).

Stradbroke Cinema continues its popularity with one of our best audiences for the year being 80 for Bohemian Rhapsody – played at a greater volume than usual with an amazing effect! We have recently introduced an electronic voting system 3 times a year, where all our Cinemagoers can choose the following season's films, no matter when they attend the screenings. During the year we have also screened live Football and Rugby matches.

In July an enjoyable 'Fun Sports Day' was held on the Playing Field at Westhall – lots of silly games and laughter and something we will repeat. We held a very successful 'Pie and Mash' in November with locally sourced pies and potatoes. The traditional Christmas Walk to Battlesea Hall was held in December with the Lawson Family being our hosts. The Community Centre also helped at the Triathlon in May and the OVO Women's Cycle race.

I'd now like to record my thanks to everyone on the Committee, without whose support, the Community Centre could not succeed. The amount of time the Committee members freely give, often at the drop of a hat, is phenomenal and I am very grateful for this. As always, a very special Vote of Thanks must go to David Merritt, who continues to give an enormous amount of his time to keep the Community Centre running so smoothly.

Finally, our AGM is here on May 14th at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

Jane Merritt - Chairman



## Good Neighbours Report for Annual Parish Meeting

May 2019

We currently have twenty drivers, who continue to serve Stradbroke and surrounding villages by taking clients to doctors, hospitals, dentists, opticians etc. as well as delivering prescriptions and other tasks. On average there are just over ten bookings a week and our client list currently stands at ninety eight.

We continue to be supported by donations from the Village Lottery.

Mid Suffolk District Council have appointed a Coordinator for Good Neighbour schemes in this part of the County and have recognised that there is a real need for more schemes in rural areas such as ours.

Neighbouring villages, such as Fressingfield, have been approached, but to date there are no plans to set up more groups around Stradbroke.

We would like to thank all our dedicated drivers; their willingness and support is very much appreciated by the Committee and our clients.

Thank you.

Carol Darling

*Stradbroke W.I. Report.*

*Stradbroke W.I. continues to thrive and at present has 40 members, but we are always ready to welcome more.*

*Our monthly speakers as diverse as ever, remain of a very high standard and have informed and entertained us throughout this past year. We remain active in the community and are always ready to help, when asked.*

*Our social side is of great importance to us and we have enjoyed a visit to Glemham Hall, a superb summer buffet, and an amazing Christmas Dinner with an equally unforgettable entertainer in Iestyn Edwards.*

*Our main focus this year has been to support the Ipswich Hospital Charities 'Blossom Appeal' whose objective is to raise £2.5 million in order to build a State-of-the- Art Breast Care Centre in Ipswich.*

*On April 6<sup>th</sup> we held a Soup and Cake Lunch, and with the support of local businesses and the sheer generosity of the residents of Stradbroke we were able to present the ' Blossom Appeal' with a cheque for £1,106.00. May I say a huge thank you to you all.*

*Stradbroke W.I. is a great group of happy, lively, ladies, who meet on the second Thursday of the month, who have the interest of their community at heart, and who certainly know how to enjoy themselves., So ladies why not come along to a meeting and see for yourselves what a welcoming and happy bunch we are.*

*Gill Bird.  
President Stradbroke W.I.*

## Annual Parish Meeting May 2019

### The Stradbroke Trust

The Stradbroke Trust has had a particularly stressful year culminating in the loss of the Stradbroke Surgery on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

At long last, following agreement by the Parish Council, we were able to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and can close the old Stradbroke Charitable Trust and continue as The Stradbroke Trust. This will enable us, like an individual, to own land and enter into contracts in our own name.

Unfortunately both the Surrender of the Lease and the conversion to a CIO has cost us dearly – in excess of £10,000 – unnecessary expenditure in legal fees – and this has meant that we have been unable to start any new projects in 2018/19 and now, with no income from the NHS, we will be unable to fulfil the Objectives of our Trust Deed of maintaining the Stradbroke Surgery and spending surplus funds on health related causes within the Parishes served by the Surgery. These Objectives will now have to change.

However, despite these huge legal fees we were able to install a new secure door to the back of the Surgery and improve the outside lighting. Fencing between the Surgery and adjacent bungalow was replaced. The Trustees themselves maintained the Surgery on a day to day basis, saving considerable expenditure. Insurance for the Community Store and Village Gardens has all been paid for another year.

The Allotments continue to thrive with most plots being occupied. We are consulting with the Stradbroke Allotments and Gardener's Association – SAGA – to review the wording of the Agreement and how we move forward in the new financial climate. New gates will shortly be installed at the entrance to the Allotments to help improve security following the spate of vandalism last year. We have agreed to donate £500 towards these and continue to maintain the boundary hedges.

Once more I thank all the Trustees all for the huge amount of time they give to The Stradbroke Trust and although we are all devastated by the loss of the Surgery we will endeavour to continue keeping the ethos of the Stradbroke Trust to the best of our ability

**Peter Smith**

**Chairman for The Stradbroke Trust**

## Stradbroke Village Archive

In 2013 the history group came to an end after 14 amazing years of collecting and understanding the history of this village. In 1999 we put out a call for images which we would copy and return to the donor. The response was overwhelming and very quickly an archive was being formed.

In 2013 at the final meeting of the history group it was agreed that the donated original material would be deposited at the Suffolk Records Office, all other physical donations would find a home in the village and the digital archive would be made available to everyone.

At that point The Stradbroke Village Archive began. It took about 18 months to get much of this set up and we did this with the help of Bridget Handley at SRO who gave advice on cataloguing and ARA (National Archives) who help us with archiving information.

A web page was designed and after uploading about a 1000 images the Geoffrey Smith collection of photographs covering the 1950-1970s became available and through the generosity of Mike and Linda, Geoffrey's children, we have been able to upload to the digital archive a further 3000 images.

Since launching the archive the extra welcome challenge that comes with managing a digital archive is that we are contacted by village descendants for information. We do our best to help. We also write a short piece in the Stradbroke monthly.

I asked for the analytics before I came here this evening for the past year:

The Stradbroke Archive: 19600 page views, 2000 users, 2,900 sessions.

The Geoffrey smith archive: 6900 page views, 174 users, 268 sessions

Considering the input over the past has been static, for various reasons, these are very encouraging numbers.

Next year, SARA hopes to start sorting out the physical archive.