

PARISH OF STRADBROKE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held via VIDEO CONFERENCE and Broadcast to the Parish Council's Facebook page on THURSDAY, 29 April 2021 at 7.30PM

In attendance: James Hargrave (Chair – Stradbroke Parish Council), Cllr Julie Flatman (MSDC), Cllr Guy McGregor (SCC) Odile Wladon (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed all who were watching the meeting via the Parish Council's Facebook page.
2. Minutes held on 9th May 2019 were taken as approved
3. Report from Chairman of Stradbroke Parish Council - attached
4. Report from District Councillor Julie Flatman - attached
5. Report from County Councillor Guy McGregor - attached
6. Reports from the following village groups are attached:
 - 6.1 Stradbroke High School
 - 6.2 Stradbroke Monthly
 - 6.3 All Saints Parish Church
 - 6.4 Good Neighbours
 - 6.5 Stradbroke Cricket Club
 - 6.6 Stradbroke Youth Football
 - 6.7 Women's Institute
 - 6.8 Stradbroke Football Club
 - 6.9 Stradbroke Youth Football Club
 - 6.10 SCALT
 - 6.11 Stradbroke Media
7. The Parish Council's annual accounts were available to view online at:
<https://www.stradbrokepc.org/statutory-information>
8. Close of meeting: 8.15pm
9. Reports submitted after the meeting:
 - 9.1 Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre
 - 9.2 Stradbroke Trust

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 29 April 2021

This report covers the last two years from May 2019 through to April 2021 as we did not hold an annual parish meeting last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The global pandemic has affected all aspects of life over the past year and the Council, like many other organisations, had to adapt quickly to a new and very different way of working. Online meetings have become the norm with phrases such as *"I think you are on Mute"* becoming common at Council meetings.

Holding meetings like this has not been without its challenges and I would like to thank all members of the Council and our Clerk Odile for adapting to this way of working. There have also been benefits as broadcasting our meetings on Facebook has meant that many more people than usual have been able to watch our meetings. Hopefully this is something that can continue into the future.

It seems a long time ago now since the neighbourhood plan referendum in January 2019 but implementation of the plan has continued to be a major part of our work in the past two years. We have continued to engage with developers to progress the plan. Two of the sites (Land north of Laxfield Road and Land south of New Street) have outline planning permission. The site south of New Street has submitted a full planning application that is fully policy compliant offering both affordable housing and additional land for the playing fields.

The site south of Mill Lane has submitted an outline planning application that is currently being decided by Mid Suffolk. This site has the potential to enable the Primary School to gain permanent ownership of the playing field – something it does not currently have – as well as provide land to house a brand-new purpose-built nursery.

We have also continued to improve the doctor's surgery building by spending, as we promised, the rent we receive from the doctors on the building. So far we have:

- Upgraded water heaters and taps
- Carried out external works to soffits, windows and doors.
- Undertaken repairs to back door and WCs
- Carried out electrical work
- Pumped flood water out of the car park
- Carried out ditch work and CCTV investigation of drains and surrounding area
- Carried out hard wiring, Fire Risk & Legionella assessments

We are also in the process of agreeing a new lease with the doctors and planning a more extensive programme of refurbishment works.

The global pandemic has seen a lot of Stradbroke families working from home and "home schooling" their children. This has been a struggle for some households due to the unreliability and slow speed of broadband connections in much of the village. The Council is working with County Broadband who

are a specialist internet service provider for rural locations in East Anglia who plan to bring high speed full fibre broadband to Stradbroke and neighbouring villages providing there is sufficient interest. We hope this project can go ahead later this year.

The Council is aware that traffic, especially heavy vehicles, can be a problem in the village. We need to work with our colleagues at Suffolk County Council (who are responsible for highways) and Mid Suffolk District Council (who are responsible for planning) to deal with this. Sadly there can be a tendency for the larger councils to try and push responsibility down to their local parish councils for issues that they are not set up and equipped to deal with. There is no single solution to traffic issues and we will continue or work on this, including challenging our district and county councils to act when necessary.

The Council, in common with other local Councils, has recently declared a climate emergency and is committed to do its part in combating climate change both in delivering services itself and supporting others in the village to move to low carbon solutions. We have just set up a dedicated working party to champion this and will be moving forward over the next few years to play our part in this vital issue.

The Council has registered the Ivy House pub as an “asset of community value” and is strongly opposing plans to convert it to a residential house whilst at the same time strongly supporting efforts to ensure it continues as a public house. With increased development coming to Stradbroke over the coming years we believe this could be a thriving business serving people of all ages in the community.

We have said goodbye to a number of councillors over the past two years including some that have been members of the Council for a long time. I would like to thank everyone who has served on the Council for their work on behalf of the village.

When I wrote my report to the annual parish meeting in 2019 I noted that I was the youngest member of the Council. I am pleased to be able to say that this isn't the case any longer. In fact there are a number of councillors now that are younger than me. Sadly, however, I am even closer to 50 now than I was then!

It has been really encouraging to be able to welcome new councillors during this difficult time and we are all looking forward to being able to meet face to face as well as online.

As councillors we couldn't do our work without the support, advice and hard work of Odile our Clerk. I would like to thank her particularly for adapting so quickly to new ways of working. It is remarkable how much of our work has been able to continue given the circumstances of the past year.

I would like to end with a thank you to all of the members of the Council for the time and work they have put in. Parish councillors are quite rightly unpaid volunteers, and we are also quite rightly open to public comment and sometimes criticism. I know that everyone on the Council is there because we want to make Stradbroke an even better place to live. The coming year is an uncertain one but we will all continue to work together to ensure the wellbeing and success of Stradbroke and all its inhabitants!

James Hargrave
Chairman
Stradbroke Parish Council

District Councillor Julie Flatman

What a year we have all had and how well we have supported each other. I think local businesses have been absolutely marvellous staying open where possible to provide essential services. Volunteer groups have rallied to deliver medicines, provisions and vital transport. Radio Stradbroke have entertained and informed. The post office a lifeline for banking, books, the greeting card and the friendly face. Life slowed down for some, you had time to actually speak to one another in the queues. Some of us got fit and some of us spent far too much time in front of a screen working.

Some communities slowed down and didn't do a lot to warrant a locality grant. I'm pleased to say this did not happen with my wards. I spent every penny.

Sancroft churches local food bank £300.00

Stradbroke Parish Council on behalf of the Stradbroke Archive and Records group £400.00

Stradbroke Parish Council Youth group to be set up £500.00

The Court House towards re-vamp of Children's area £1,194.40

Obviously not all projects have started due to lock down, but I look forward to seeing the finished or started projects. The food bank was definitely used immediately.

Covid-19 and Grants - how council adopted over-night work-from-home and distributed grants as soon as they came through from Government.

Many businesses received grants and yes, they did come from central Government, but it was left to the district council to administer which was time consuming to say the least.

The housing team worked around the clock to get all the homeless off the streets and into accommodation we worked closely with hotels that were shut.

Mid Suffolk Communities team worked closely with the County Council to provide The Home but not alone line. Offices dealt with many complex cases that really were more suited to qualified health specialists.

We also deployed staff from other departments to help with the volume of calls.

Hot of the press.

Mid Suffolk District Council awarded community grants close to a 1 million in the 2020/21 financial year – supporting the district's Covid response and enabling improvements to local community venues and sports and leisure facilities.

During the year, council officers have worked with clubs and organisations in the district to identify need and ensure that vital grant funding has made a real difference to Mid Suffolk's communities.

The council has also acknowledged the key role of community groups, along with town and parish councils, in easing the challenges faced by residents during coronavirus, and a new dedicated Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant opened last May to help the district through the peak of the pandemic. More than 60 organisations benefitted from over £100,000 in funding, including good neighbour schemes, foodbanks and community outreach projects.

A new Covid-19 Recovery Grant, set to be launched next month, will allow this crucial support to continue and enable communities to safely return to normality following the further easing of restrictions.

The pandemic also highlighted the importance of securing bright and healthy futures for Mid Suffolk residents, with grant funding approved for walking routes, leisure equipment and local sports clubs over the past twelve months.

This includes over £50,000 in Section 106 funding – collected from developers when they build new homes in the district – towards new play areas in Badwell Ash and Elmswell, along with capital grants of £36,500 for Mid Suffolk tennis clubs and a £2,000 discretionary grant to establish a new ParkRun at Chilton Fields.

Elmswell also benefitted from Section 106 funding of £76,585 to facilitate the extension of the village's Blackbourne Centre – providing five different spaces for community use to accommodate a wide range of needs.

Numerous other community venues across Mid Suffolk received funding for much-needed improvement works, with £28,000 in capital grants approved for Haughley's Ron Crasall Pavilion – forming a key part of the project to regenerate and revitalise King George's Field.

The Museum of East Anglian Life – Suffolk's largest independent museum, set in 75 acres of beautiful Stowmarket countryside – also received a capital grant of £18,400 towards various improvement works to support its community-focused initiatives, whilst the town's community centre secured £17,340 in Section 106 grants to fund accessibility improvements.

In addition to grants to improve facilities, the council allocated over £229,000 in revenue funding to support charities serving Mid Suffolk residents, including Community Action Suffolk, Homestart, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice, Rural Coffee Caravan and Lighthouse Womens Aid, among others.

We have seen growth through lock down The Regal theatre being re-built, our leisure centres being re-furbished, Needham Lake visitor centre hopefully commencing shortly we know that steel will be a wait.

Delivery of the joint local plan. Neighbourhood plans coming through, I alone have had Wilby and Laxfield.

Local Planning Applications – not everyone's favourite topic but Stradbroke continues to grow and deliver their fair share of new housing of all shapes and sizes hopefully creating homes for all. Mid Suffolk have worked closely with the parish council and individuals to create a Land Trust which is to be commended.

CIFCO Completion - we reached full investment (£50mln each) by end of year - secure, diverse, long-term income stream from outside the district now coming into the district.

I acknowledge some find investing with cheap borrowed money from main Government controversial, but we truly believe it is a real legacy for the future. This enables us to spend in our district without putting up council tax significantly. Surely good business sense.

Climate emergency / Biodiversity - cross-party work continues with 'proper' money to back it up. We are the first council to change their refuse fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Should roll out Summer 21.

Council Finances - remain strong despite Covid-19. Generous government assistance and now money put aside for future rebuilding of the district.

Suffolk County Cllr McGregor

Thanks to Julie for the hard work she does for the Parish.

Past year dominated by the issuing of coping with the crisis. Local Government has come out well.

Suffolk County Council took over track and trace and it is now an improved service. Work done by Maureen John and the team at the Court House who run an excellent library, post office and café. Also on offer is an excellent health centre and playing fields – this all combines to make Stradbroke an attractive place to live.

Over development can cause a problem with additional HGVs coming through the parish and neighbouring villages and this must be monitored. Hopefully this will also be addressed in the Jt Local Plan.

Maintenance to the Highways continues to be an issue with SCC in the bottom 10% for delivery. In contrast, young people's services were rated really well. Improvement has been

see in local education over the years. SCC have offered support for getting young people from Stradbroke to Hartismere with a daily bus service which widens their educational choices.

Thanks to the Parish Council for the way Cllr McGregor has been received at meetings and the help in finding information for him to be able to ensure that the Council carries out its duties particularly in terms of highways and strategic planning.

Final matter – flooding and flooding prevention, it is important to get funding into this area.

Stradbroke & Laxfield Annual Police Report

For Period 19th of April 2020 to 19th April 2021.

Suffolk Constabulary has recorded a total of 26 investigations for Stradbroke for this period which compares with 36 for the same period for the preceding twelve months. This represents a reduction in recorded investigations of 27.3%.

Although the data shows most crimes in Stradbroke for this period to be Violence / Sexual Offences, most of these are minor assaults between people known to each other & do not pose a risk to the greater community. Also included in this category are domestic incidents and those involving threats of violence not carried out.

April 2020 – 1 x violence or Sexual offences (Barley Green)

May 2020 – 1 x Violence or sexual offence

June 2020 – 5 x Anti-Social Behaviour

July 2020 – 2 x Violence or Sexual Offences, 1 x ASB

August 2020 – 1 x Violence or Sexual Offence

September 2020 – 0

October 2020 – 1 x Violence or Sexual Offence

November 2020 – 3 x Violence or Sexual Offences, 1 x Criminal Damage / Arson, 1 x Theft

December 2020 – 1 x ASB, 1 x Theft, 1 x Violence or Sexual Offence

January 2021 – 3 x Violence or Sexual Offence

February 2021 – 0

March 2021 – 3 x Criminal Damage

April 2021 – 0

Total = 26 Investigations

Please can I also draw attention to the Suffolk Constabulary crime reduction resource which can be found on the 'First Principle' page of the Constabulary website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>



An 11-16 Academy

Wilby Road, Stradbroke, Eye, Suffolk,
IP21 5JN

Tel: 01379 384387 Fax: 01379 88270

E-mail: office@shs.set.education

Website: www.stradbrokehigh.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Karen Millar

April 2021

The last year has certainly been a challenging one for us all. School is more than just about academic learning, and the impact of the missed social aspects of school is harder felt and also harder to rectify for young people.

The school has tried to maintain as much normality as possible for the students, whilst also being mindful of the impact the pandemic has had on them. Overall, the students' engagement with online learning and virtual registration was fantastic, and for so many of them they have continued to make excellent progress.

The time in school has been valued, and to see their smiling faces when we returned from both the first and second closure has been heart-warming. As I said in a letter to parents, a "school without its students has lost its soul".

The students have adapted, as they always do, to the new challenges and routines and I have been so proud of their positivity about the future. We are slowly reintroducing extracurricular activities like the Duke of Edinburgh Award and sports activities, as the guidance allows, and are hopeful that we will all be able to come together on the school field for sports day and welcome year 6 for their taster day.

Despite all the challenges and negative press about "lost learning" the future looks bright for our students and, as always, we strive to provide our students with as many opportunities as we can to prepare them for life after Stradbroke.

Mrs Karen Millar
Headteacher



The Stradbroke Monthly has had an interesting year.

The COVID 19 pandemic has clearly impacted everyone in Stradbroke and beyond, and for some, including The Stradbroke Monthly, it has been a time to really step up as an important community information resource.

During the first lockdown The Monthly was unable to be delivered as quite rightly following the rules, the delivery team were not in a position to go door to door, so we went online only and created a slim version for readers to print out and share with any neighbours who were unable to view the newsletter on the internet.

The Stradbroke Monthly was able to share important Public Health messages as well as signpost villagers to practical local support such as Waveney Foodbank, Good Neighbours and the 'Home but not Alone' SCC initiative. The lack of submissions – as there was nothing really happening – was a bit of a challenge at times, but we have always been able to find important information from local councils and support services to share.

We decided at this point that as we were not physically printing the newsletter that we would suspend advertising costs and extend the advertising 'year' to compensate advertisers for the lack of physical distribution. Whilst an advert in the Stradbroke Monthly continues to be an inexpensive endeavour, we felt it was very important to extend this support to local businesses at a time when everything was so uncertain and many were facing their own challenges with trading.

Once we were back printing and delivering, it was very much business as new normal – the team meet over video conferencing now rather than over a cup of tea and cake, and the submitters are still subject to the national guidelines and rules for activities together. We are very hopeful that it will not be long before old normal service resumes in this respect.

As of April 2021 we are beginning to see a handful of local clubs and groups beginning to start up again and it is wonderful to be able to share their news and information. Please do support our village clubs and societies as a year of no activity will have been as frustrating for them as it has for us not being able to share their news and announcements!!

A big thank you as always goes to the delivery team, headed up by Jane Gemmill, the editors (Marianne and Claire) and the advertising coordinator (Odile) who have really worked hard to ensure the Monthly survives the pandemic and continues to be a reliable and consistent form of communicating information and news to the village. The Governance Board have been on hand at all times to support the production team and the newsletter continues to be a source of pride to all involved.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Monthly and you are interested in joining in, please do get in touch editors@stradbrokemonthly.co.uk

The Governance Board, Editors and Delivery Team of the Stradbroke Monthly



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Like every other Sports Club, Stradbroke Cricket Club has faced a challenging year because of Covid. Not being allowed to play the game we love proved difficult in another hot Summer. Fortunately we were able to complete eight friendlies later in the season. Experienced cricketers play from memory, able to overcome such setbacks, but the plight of Juniors is of more concern. The whole of the coaching programme throughout five local Primary Schools, was cancelled, as was 'All Stars Cricket' & the new initiative 'Dynamos Cricket' at the Club, meaning that a whole generation of prospective cricketers were not exposed to the game, and may be lost forever. The knock on effect can be a Club withering on the vine and ceasing to exist down the line.

The problems go beyond playing. Facilities need to be maintained whether they are used or not, and the Club needs to be insured. This costs money. With no match income, or fund raising, finances are tight. We even lost our sponsor last year. Thankfully, the Cricket Board, in association with the Government, made funds available in the form of Covid hardship grants. Stradbroke were fortunate to get an application in just before the scheme was suspended due to lack of funds, which has saved the Club, at a time when we have had to make structural repairs to the scoreboard/shed caused by the roots of the Poplar trees, as well as fixing damage caused by vandals, an ongoing problem!

It is not all bad news. The hardship grant has allowed us to restore the youth coaching, members have gone the extra mile, some even joining the Committee to share the delights of Zoom meetings, but perhaps the most heartening thing is the number of villagers who have enquired about the health of the Club, and even turned up at the field to watch some cricket. Feeling wanted during the months of isolation cannot be underestimated, convincing us that there is room in Stradbroke for a flourishing Cricket Club. We thank you.

Michael Hugman (Chairman)

All Saints Parish Church

We are pleased to report that the new heating has been installed in the Church. Services are taking place on a monthly basis, and the Church is now open every day.
Rev Loxton

Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbour Scheme is continuing, although obviously we haven't been as busy as usual for sometime, except for collecting prescriptions and doing some shopping with the help of some extra volunteers.

However, we are now also beginning to take people to appointments as things start to open up again.

We would like to thank all the drivers for their work.

Jane Gemmill

GN Committee

STRADBROKE WI - PRESIDENT – Linda Webb

Stradbroke Women's Institute (WI) has been operating in this village for almost 100 years, no mean feat in itself. Centenary celebrations will be planned in 3 years' time. However we need to attract a wider age range of Ladies who can help us shape & meet the educational & social needs of our diverse Community. We are so much more than Jam & Jerusalem; we fundraise supporting nominated charities & even get involved in voting on national resolutions, which could be anything from issues to do with Climate Change, Breast Cancer awareness & many more matters that affect us & our world.

It's an opportunity to meet new people, make new friends.....even during these challenging times, we have kept in touch with Newsletters, Quizzes & a Christmas visit.

Did you know that the organisation encourages any female not in fulltime education from 16 yrs. to 100+ to become a Member & there are many groups out there, that are thriving as a consequence.

So if we are to future proof Stradbroke WI, we need to know what the Ladies in our Community feel would bring them out of an evening - OR if this is not a suitable time, then we are open to suggestions providing there are sufficient numbers to make it viable.

Our Event Programme for the year 2021 can be located on the Village website & WI link. We currently (pre Pandemic) meet in the Community Centre on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.30pm. However, we do hope to be able to resume meetings in July.

Once we have dealt with any business matters, notices & correspondence, we settle down to be entertained/enlightened by our Guest Speaker for the evening & we have had some fantastic people from all over Norfolk/Suffolk. Examples include Bob and Nickie Wilden who in October 2019, came to tell us of the benefits of wool as a duvet and pillow filling. Their dog Jake helped a lot. Also in March 2020, Charlie Haylock gave an entertaining and humorous talk on the English Language and regional dialects.

After refreshments, birthdays are celebrated with flowers & our monthly raffle usually tempts us with wine, chocolates & much more.

Annual events such as our Summer Supper laid on by the Committee are not to be missed & the Christmas Dinner & entertainment is superb, & a wonderful excuse to dust off the posh frocks & bring along your husband, partner or friend.

We also have a number of clubs encompassing Books, Scrabble, Lunches out to name but a few. Our annual outing usually encompasses a Stately Home, Gardens & Afternoon tea, but new ideas are always welcome.

Organisations such as the WI are key in rural Communities such as ours, in providing a connection, a sense of belonging, friendship & support to others in a world that can sometimes make us feel isolated.

So what have you got to lose, give us a try, tell us how we can meet your needs & we look forward to welcoming new & returning members.

Email; seaglimpse & uwclub.net for more information or suggestions.

Stradbroke Football Club

Equipment and funds are available for anyone who wishes to revive senior football in Stradbroke.

Stradbroke Youth Football Club

As for all clubs/teams this season has unfortunately been a very difficult one due to Covid-19. When allowed, training has taken place with strict guidelines and some matches have been played.

Currently, we only have an Under 9s and Under 13s team, one playing in Sunday League and other on Saturday. We are keen to expand on this however we lack adult to allow this. Therefore, if there is anyone out there, that would like to help with training on Thursday evenings and matches at the weekends, please contact me to discuss further.

We are very grateful for the Parish Council allowing us to have the continued use of the shed and Playing Fields and greatly appreciate our donation we received from them. Plus, a big thank you to the Cricket Club who keep the playing fields to a great standard.

We asked permission prior to Covid to do some work on the dugouts, we are hoping to look into this during the Summer.

Thanks to all from all Stradbroke Youth Football Committee

Sharon Muttock
Stradbroke Youth Football Club Secretary
sycsecretary@outlook.com

SCALT

Unfortunately we had to close the Courthouse Café in March 2020 for obvious reasons. We plan to re-open again at the end of June if all goes well with coming out of lockdown. Our volunteers and customers have really missed the café.

The Post Office remained open all throughout 2020 with its full opening hours and the Stradbroke community really appreciated it. Christmas was particularly busy this year with lots of people with family and relatives living a long way away having to post all their presents, just before Christmas. Somehow we managed the queues and the social distancing required, by using the Café space. We were the only library that remained open in Suffolk and our borrowers could take out books from our shelves throughout all the lockdowns.

We hope to refurbish the library at some point in the next 6 months if it is possible and hope that slowly things will get back to normal.

Maureen John, chair of SCALT



Stradbroke Media Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Stradbroke Village Website

<https://www.stradbroke.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/stradbrokeweb>

Providing information online has never been more important and our village Facebook page with over a thousand likes has worked hard this year to keep Stradbroke informed and entertained. From passing on the latest Covid information through to missing pets, missing keys and photos we have seen record engagement on our site this year.

Radio Stradbroke

<https://www.radiostradbroke.co.uk/>

Prior to the pandemic Radio Stradbroke broadcast regularly each week on a Sunday and also on special occasions. On 25th March 2020 we started the “Home Service” and have broadcast every single day during the pandemic for at least three hours providing news and entertainment for the village. We moved swiftly to enable our DJs to broadcast from home and have not missed a single day in more than a year. This is a huge achievement, and we would like to thank the whole Radio Stradbroke team – DJs, and tech and web staff for keeping everything going.

Events

Sadly, we had to cancel the Radio Stradbroke Music Day planned for 2020. We hope to hold this event again as soon as possible and will make an announcement as soon as we can. Whilst most of our outside events had to be cancelled this year we did help the VE Day celebrations with our Station Manager Marty memorably broadcasting to the whole of Westhall from his front garden and also live streamed the socially distanced remembrance day ceremony so everyone could join in from home.

Stradbroke Village Archive

<https://pandemic.stradbrokearchive.org.uk/>

This year we worked with the Stradbroke Village Archive to launch a new digital archive called *Life in Stradbroke: COVID-19 Pandemic*. This archive has been set up to try and capture what life is like in lockdown for the residents of Stradbroke. It is hoped that by collecting our social history of this global event in real time, that generations to come will have a real window into our village experience in 2020 and 2021. The next project with the archive is to create a digital archive of the Stradbroke monthly dating back to its first edition in the 1980s. Funding has been received for this project from Mid Suffolk District Council’s locality fund.

James Hargrave
Secretary
Stradbroke Media CIC

Not read at the meeting but submitted after:

Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre

What an extraordinary year we have had. Little did we know that when the SSCC was closed in March 2020, because of Coronavirus, we would not be 'going back to normal' in a few weeks.

As it became more and more apparent we would remain closed for some months, our Bookings Managers contacted clients and groups cancelling their booked events and we closed the Stradbroke Cinema. We also had to Furlough our Caretaker, David Merritt. However, hopeful of a swift return we continued to keep the building maintained, keeping all the checks up to date.

On August 3rd 2020, following 2 weeks of an extensive deep clean of the whole building, we made the building Covid19 Secure. Without doing this we would not have been able to open. Slowly we welcomed groups back into the SSCC and the Cinema restarted in September - even 'Learn:' managed to hold one of their Matinees. Online booking and payment for the Cinema, as well as using card payment in the Bar, has proved very successful although we will not refuse any cash payments. David Merritt came off Furlough. We had a major flood in the Bar when one of the tanks in the loft leaked and thanks must go to Roger Turkington for repairing this leak and preventing severe damage.

Not daunted by the restrictions we held a Covid19 Secure Public Consultation in October 2020 and with the guidance from our Architect, Sean Jeffries, were able to showcase the proposed Extension to the SSCC. This is a long-term project and we are looking ahead to meet the needs of the community over the next 10-15 years. The Consultation was well received, with a majority of Villagers attending opting for the 2-storey extension with many positive comments and offers of help. We will be holding another Public Consultation in July to enable others to see these proposals. The SSCC Trustees agreed for a phased approach to the Extension and we have already received positive Pre-Planning advice. Jane Croxford has offered to help with the fundraising, in particular Crowdfunding, and we welcome her support.

Once again the second lockdown in November prohibited use of the SSCC and David was Furloughed for a second time. We were able to show a further film in December before the third lockdown on December 26th, with David being Furloughed for a third time.

For some time we have been looking at how we hold our meetings and it has become apparent that our Constitution, from 1965, is outdated and need a revision. We are in the process of converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which will bring our Constitution into the 21st Century and better protect the Trustees against liabilities. Since December 2020 we have held Zoom Committee Meetings which have proved a challenge at times! These will cease after May 17th when we can meet in the SSCC again.

The SSCC was able to open on April 12th, with certain groups allowed to use the Centre, but as there were no bookings, we decided to remain closed until May 17th, welcoming back all Users and Groups, still in a Covid19 Secure building. Hopefully on June 21st restrictions will lift but we want to reassure all our Users that we will endeavour to continue to keep you safe. Each day more bookings are being made, with even a twice postponed Wedding Reception in December!

In 2019 the Parish Council discovered that the Tennis Court land which was assumed to be owned by the PC proved to be wrong, with the land possibly belonging to the SSCC following a 'muddled' land swap in 1972. We contacted the Charity Commission for advice but have not received a response and will now discuss the best way to resolve this ownership.

The Village Website - www.stradbrokeonline.org.uk – has throughout 2020 continued to keep the Village up to date with all the current local news and Government changes in the bi-monthly newsletter issued by email.

Once again I would like to record my thanks to everyone on the Committee, without whose support, the Community Centre could not succeed. There have been some tumultuous times, which everyone has adapted to and again, often at the drop of a hat, have helped to keep our Community Centre a safe place to meet and I am very grateful for this. I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Richard and Barbara our Bookings Managers, who have had the mammoth task of sorting out bookings and invoices which were on and then off and also David Merritt, who continues to give an enormous amount of his time to keep the Community Centre running so smoothly - when he has not been on Furlough!

Jane Merritt
Chairman

Stradbroke Trust

A positive year for the Trust despite the pandemic.

We have been able to work with Rattlerow Farms to help create 2 new permissive footpaths - Merritt Way and Tyralla Way - which start in the corner of the Village Gardens. The two paths are proving very popular and together with the existing network create a circular route around the village of approximately 3.5 miles in length. Associated with this project, we have recently planted another 40 metres of hawthorn hedging and done some light pruning in the orchard as well as the usual maintenance around the site.

The allotments are more popular than ever with no vacant plots. Special thanks to the efforts of Mary Thompson and her new group of helpers at the Allotment Association who have created a very positive and welcoming atmosphere on site.

Thanks to all Trustees for continuing their support through the year. As lockdown restrictions are lifted The Trust hopes to be able to engage in more beneficial projects and recruit a few new and younger Trustees.

Roger Turkington
Chairman