

PARISH OF STRADBROKE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

28th April 2022, 7.30pm start

Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre – Main Hall

In attendance: James Hargrave (Chair – Stradbroke Parish Council), Cllr Peter Gould (Suffolk County Council), Odile Wladon (Clerk to Stradbroke Parish Council) and 14 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted the following apologies for absence: Cllr Julie Flatman (Mid Suffolk District Council) and Rev Susan Loxton.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2021 were approved.
3. There were no matters of Report from the Minutes.
4. Report from Chairman of Stradbroke Parish Council:

This year we began to emerge out of the restrictions due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We are now meeting face to face every month but this has only happened regularly since February 2022. Our first face to face meetings were held in the Church – which provides a lot of space and ventilation – a big thank you to Rev Susan for facilitating this. We have now returned to meeting at the Court House.

We said goodbye this year to Jeremy Fox and Debbie Cotton-Soares. We welcomed Helen Ball and Helen Long as new councillors. We have a vacancy for a new councillor.

We are expecting the first of the four neighbourhood plan sites to begin to be built this year on New Street. This will provide much needed housing for younger families and we have already started to receive the first payments from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for this site.

As we have a neighbourhood plan we receive a full 25% of CIL money directly to the Parish Council. This still means that Mid Suffolk District Council retains 75% of the money and we are looking where possible to work with them to ensure as much of this money as possible is spent on projects in Stradbroke.

The Parish Council has already agreed to fund new cricket practice nets and improvements to the Bowl's Club pavilion at Wilby Road from CIL. We are also working on CIL projects for highway safety improvements and redevelopment of the Chapel at the Cemetery.

With Suffolk County Council, All Saints Schools Trust (who run Stradbroke Primary School) and Mid Suffolk District Council we are working on a project for a brand new nursery behind the Primary School. We are also working with the Community Centre and sports clubs on a proposal for a new sports pavilion and upgrades to the Community Centre.

This year we have undertaken the following work on the Health Centre:

 - Annual fire risk assessment and legionella and air con service
 - Repairs and maintenance to electrics, drains and back door
 - The fascias were updated alongside painting of the window and door frame.
 - A new phone interface was unit was required for the alarm.
 - New lease is almost complete and ready to be signed – rent review completed.

Next year our priorities for the Health Centre are:

- Energy efficiency
- Interior redecoration
- Dealing with flooding issue in the car park

During the year there was a proposal to turn the Ivy House into a dwelling house. The Council reacted to this by registering the pub as an "Asset of Community Value" and strongly opposing the planning application. We were pleased that the pub was in the end sold as a going concern and has now re-opened.

The Parish Council has engaged with the new Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Local Plan that is used to determine planning applications. Unfortunately this process has taken a number of years but thankfully Stradbroke has its own neighbourhood plan that is the most up to date document used to determine planning applications in the village.

We have submitted evidence to Suffolk County Council regarding the review of lorry routes in the County. We are also closely monitoring the recent temporary lorry ban in Eye to ensure this does not make things worse in Stradbroke.

We have asked to be included in the rota for the new community ANPR (number plate recognition) speed cameras being operated by Suffolk County Council.

Tree works in the cemetery have taken place throughout the year. Work on registering the Parish Council owned land with Land Registry continues. The Community Centre has confirmed they do not wish to take on the land obtained by the PC in a swap with the County Council, therefore the Parish Council will continue to maintain the area as they have done since 1972.

The Parish Council Climate Change working group will be working on an energy project in the village.

Members of the Council have been working with Radio Stradbroke and the Community Centre to arrange a Jubilee "Big Lunch" with the Radio Stradbroke Road Show and Music Quiz. This is a free event on Sunday 5th June from 11am at the Playing Fields in Stradbroke. We have also been working with the Community Centre to plant new trees as part of the Jubilee Queen's Green Canopy.

A big thank you to our Clerk, Odile, for her continued hard work to support the Council and the Village. In particular she has attended a significant number of planning hearings at Mid Suffolk District Council to ensure that decisions continue to be made in line with the policies the Village approved as part of the neighbourhood plan.

I'd also like to thank all members of the Council for their work. Parish Councillors don't get paid and all give their time freely to try and make Stradbroke a better place to live.

Thanks to everyone for their work this year and we look forward to the coming year!

5. Report from District Councillor Julie Flatman:

An infographics report was submitted and a copy was made available on the Parish Council website.

In addition the following was submitted:

The administration/cabinet have put aside 5 million pounds to spend improving and delivery of projects in our communities.

These areas are Communities, Health and Well-being, Housing, Environmental and Economy.

Some of these projects will involve working with our partners and also where possible we endeavour to secure other funding from main government to deliver our ambitions.

Hopefully clubs and groups are now beginning to meet up regularly and getting back to normal. If any community group needs a community grant, please let me know. I am now taking applications for this year. It may be for equipment, Platinum Jubilee celebrations etc. The council also have grant offices who will advise on larger projects.

6. Report from County Councillor Peter Gould:

It has been a year since he was elected to the County Council. He has appreciated working both with the Chair and Clerk, and Stradbroke has a very active Parish Council which is good and bad, in that it keeps him busy. The work of the Parish Council is positive and he stated he appreciated the work done by the Clerk in stating the issue very clearly and providing reasoned argument and often evidence behind what she is requesting on behalf of the Council. When elected his priority was to focus on all the seemingly unresolved issues there appeared to be, in particular highways issues. He has worked to understand what the issues are and what can be done about it – and some progress is being made. Stradbroke is one of a number of parishes that have requested the ANPR, this project will run for 2 years and there are 200 requests in. It will be placed up to a week in each location starting in June.

He continues to work with the Parish Council to look at road safety in Stradbroke, this could include a variety of schemes such as 20mph zone, gateways into the village, signage (roundels) – this will be looked at with assessments made and how this could be funded. He endorses the sentiment that as much of Stradbroke CIL money collected should stay in Stradbroke and support the infrastructure improvements needed with the development planned.

The flooding in Queens Street is ongoing, an update was given – earlier in the year it was deemed a medium priority but no time was given for the works. The current update states that one of the culverts that passes

under the road has been irretrievably compromised by the new water main installation, design work is underway and Suffolk Highways drainage engineers will provide a new pipe route to replace that. However, there are concerns that this alone will not resolve the flooding in the surrounding watercourses outside the highway boundary and lead eventually to the Waveney, appear to have some issues and there are planned developments in the area which may have an impact. The team are returning to site next month to investigate further. Cllr Gould noted that no timeline was specified for the work and he expressed concern that the problem/solution was becoming so big and complicated that there was a risk that the answer would be nothing can be done. He will be chasing what can be done soonest which is still in keeping with a larger more comprehensive solution but that will alleviate the problems in the short term.

HGV – there will be an experimental traffic regulation order to restrict vehicles over 7.5t entering Eye from the South and the East. This is currently experimental as there needs to be an assessment of the impact that this order would have on surrounding settlements and also on businesses. If the experimental TRO goes ahead, it could be lifted before the end of the 18 month period should major issues be caused as a result. The results of the comprehensive review in to HGV lorry route are expected to be published this Spring. Locality funds from County Council are available.

7. Report from Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Total recorded investigations for Stradbroke addresses between 01/03/21 & 22/04/22 – 34, consisting of;

18 x Violence & Sexual Offences

3 x Anti-Social Behaviour

3 x Public Order

1 x Theft

3 x Criminal Damage & Arson

4 x Burglary

2 x Other Crime

Crime trends in the Halesworth policing locality most recently have seen an increase in theft offences where items which have seen their value escalate in recent weeks have become especially attractive to criminals. These include the theft of domestic heating oil, catalytic converters and scrap metal. Heating oil theft in particular is an offence which usually occurs at the beginning of the winter season when oil tanks are full. With the increase in the cost of heating oil, it is now worth the time of criminals to steal smaller quantities. The lighter evenings are now seeing an increase in ASB and the Halesworth policing locality has launched an internal operation in an attempt to curb increases before the summer months when ASB traditionally reaches its peak. We are trying to ensure ASB incidents are dealt with speedily and their investigation incorporates all means at Police and partner agency disposal to deal with them.

This compares with the same period in 2020 /2021 when there were 25 recorded investigations for Stradbroke, an increase of 36%. The preceding twelve month period was during much more stringent Covid lock-down restrictions when crime reduced nationally.

8. Reports from village groups:

Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre

Another strange year – looking back the Pandemic seems a lifetime away - but the joy of our Community Centre beginning to return to being an active part of our Community is uplifting.

Stradbroke Cinema returned in May 2021, under the government restrictions, these being lifted for our September screening, but with measures to make Cinemagoers feel secure. Although numbers have not yet returned to those pre-pandemic, confidence is growing.

Our AGM in June 2021 saw 5 long serving Trustees retire (two of whom moved away) and we later had a presentation afternoon tea to thank them for all their support. At the AGM a draft Constitution was presented for the SSCC to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was approved and despite written objections, from two organisations, was sent to the Charity Commission for their approval. This has been given and we are currently waiting for confirmation from the Charity Commission for their scheme to transfer our assets across to the new CIO.

From August 2021 bookings began to increase and now the Community Centre has welcomed back all of our regular users and classes, along with several 18th birthday parties and many children's parties. New weekly Art and Dance classes are proving popular and Table Tennis has returned too.

In November 2021 we had our second Public Consultation for an extension to the Centre. Four options were presented and following an online Public Consultation too, Option 1 was the most favoured. At a cost of over 1 million pounds, although not unachievable, this would have been a challenge and it was agreed that the second most popular Option 4 may be the best design to go for. However, due to a limited response from Stradbroke as a whole and the Parish Council being unable to confirm any funding from future CIL money at present, the Trustees have decided to put the project on hold for the time being.

In 1972 in a mismanaged land swap with Suffolk County Council, land belonging to the Village Hall, now known as SSCC was lost. In 2020 the Parish Council asked if the SSCC would like to take ownership of the Stradbroke Tennis Courts as recompense. However, the Parish Council decided they would retain ownership of a diagonal section of the Courts plus a strip of Tennis Court land closest to the car park "to protect the Tennis Courts" making the proposal unviable. In April 2022 we declined the offer.

I would like to thank the SSCC Trustees for all their support during the past two years and in particular David Merritt for helping to keep our Community Centre Covid secure. Looking forward to 2022, this will be the year that confidence grows, more bookings are taken and the SSCC flourishes after two hard years of the Pandemic

W.I.

During the past two years the number of members and those attending meetings has reduced mainly through the pandemic with the fear of catching covid through socialising at meetings in enclosed places. However where possible we have met at the community centre and thank the committee and staff for their care in constructively helping us work through the restrictions. In addition, on a sunny day, held a garden party, visited Columbine Hall and attend Wilby WI's centenary celebration.

The Women's Institutes current main project is the education of women to recognise the early symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, a resolution passed last year.

Ipswich Hospital's Blossom Appeal was supported a few years ago with a fundraising luncheon and this year benefited from the winning bids from a silent auction, I understand that they have nearly reached their target.

Committee meetings have been held in a variety of garden buildings and at the White Hart.

We meet each month on the second Thursday, have a speaker and vary the subjects throughout the year, some meeting are open meetings when we think the subject would be of interest to both gender.

All women are welcome to our monthly meetings.

All Saints Church

We are very grateful to all those who responded to our heating problem with gifts of money. We now have under pew heaters, they warm your body whilst sitting in a pew.

There is a lot of maintenance work needed on the church, we are grateful to FOASS for raising money towards this. FOASS have decided to close but if you want to give donations to the church you can do that either directly to our treasurer or get in touch with me. Although we do not have to get planning permission to work on the church building we do have to get faculties and the pandemic has slowed this process down, which is very frustrating.

However, we are hopeful that some work will begin soon, but of course we only have money to do a small proportion of what needs to be done.

However, the Christian faith is all about hope and so we are hopeful that more funds may be found and the work can continue.

We have two services a month in the church; 1st sundays 10.30am a cafe style church starting with coffee and a lead discussion.

On 3rd Sundays at 8.30am we have a service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer - an ancient service that lasts for 30 minutes. And of course we are here to help you celebrate the birth of children, marriages and the life of a loved one who has died.

Revd Canon Susan Loxton on behalf of the church.

Stradbroke Monthly

It has been a year of recovery as the COVID19 pandemic continues to play out, and the Stradbroke Monthly Newsletter has continued to be the village 'go to' media to share news and forthcoming events. The May 2022 issue has been the first issue since early 2020 where we have had more content than we can include in the space available! This is a reassuring sign that the social and sporting life of the village is recovering and we are all perhaps feeling more confident to be out and about again.

The Stradbroke Monthly is quietly and diligently produced for the village 10 months a year, by the editors, and delivered in the same fashion by the delivery team who, rain or shine, ensure you receive your Monthly as soon as it is printed. The Governance Board maintains an important umbrella of wisdom and advice to the whole operation. We are grateful for their continued commitment to continuing the tradition of our village newsletter, produced by volunteers and free to all.

Thank you for your continued support!

Stradbroke Media

Stradbroke Village Website

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 yet again this year.

Radio Stradbroke

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 for at least three hours providing news and entertainment for the village. We have also formed a partnership with the Breakfast Show "Harleston Breakfast" who we re-broadcast every weekday morning from 7am to 10am

Events

This coming year we are pleased that outside events are resuming again after a break of two years.

On Sunday 5th June from 11am Radio Stradbroke is taking part in the village Jubilee Big Lunch with our roadshow starting at 11am and Music Quiz from 1pm

Music Day returns this year on Saturday 9th July with an ABBA tribute band topping the bill. We are hoping that festival-goers will wear appropriate sparkly clothing!

Cricket Club

Along with most Village organisations, Stradbroke Cricket Club has been affected by the pandemic. However, we must not hide behind it as an excuse. We have remained solvent, thanks to a hardship grant from the ECB, which goes some way to offsetting our insurance, which still had to be renewed even when no cricket was being played.

Immense credit must go to our Committee, and those volunteers who continue to help the Club behind the scenes. Sadly, playing numbers continue to dwindle, notably among juniors, despite coaching programmes in six local Primary Schools, and sessions at the Club. We will continue to offer these services, and with the assistance of a Suffolk Community Coach, encouraged by a new PE Teacher, are offering cricket at Stradbroke High School, hopefully rejoining links with SHS.

The Suffolk Cricket Board are sympathetic with our plight, and that of other rural Clubs. They have no magic wand, but initiatives to arrest the decline are being looked at, which may bear some fruit in the longer term.

We are also grateful to Stradbroke Parish Council, for not only use of the ground, but for funding the renewal of our practice nets, this Summer, upgrading the facility for the use of the Club, SHS, and the Community.

Timing is everything in life. The reopening of the Ivy House recently, presented the perfect opportunity for the proprietor to sponsor the Cricket Club, in return for our patronage. We wish the partnership a long a fruitful association.

Hopefully, this will all breathe new life into the Club, but the simple solution in the short term, is a few more players, of any age, to ensure that we are competitive in our matches, and that fielding 11 players is not the ceiling of our ambition.

Stradbroke Youth Football Club

The club has run this season with 2 teams (under 10s and under 14s) playing in the Suffolk league. Although covid has been present most fixtures have taken place. Home games are played on the playing field on Sundays (under 10's) and Saturdays (under 14's). Training has taken place at the High School Astro Turf during winter and now on the playing field again until Autumn. We have been really pleased to get back to playing games / training as normal after a turbulent couple of years.

We have a new coach for the Under 10s team, Ellie Wigby who has completed her FA Coaching training at the end of 2021.

We have a new Club Secretary, Vicky Collins who took over from Sharon Muttock in October 2021 and a new Vice-Chair, Michelle Mills who took over from Vanessa Chapman in April 2022.

We are very grateful for the Parish Council allowing us to have the continued use of the shed and playing fields. Plus, a big thank you to the Cricket Club who keep the playing fields to a great standard.

Thanks as usual to all from all who contribute and are part of Stradbroke Youth Football Club Committee.

Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbour Scheme continued through lockdown with an extra 41 volunteer drivers helping with shopping, prescriptions, phone support etc. Thanks to them all. We now have 22 registered drivers and are back to journeys to hospitals, dentists, opticians etc with an average of 20 journeys a month.

SCALT

The Library & Post Office were open throughout all the lockdowns and we re-opened the Courthouse Café in July 2021.

Suffolk Libraries Day was an enormous success and we raised over £1,000. Our customers sponsored us by having their photos taken (or not) posing on our Magistrate's Throne, this was an original, historical artefact that we found boarded up in a cupboard upstairs. It was a Moules earth closet, complete with sawdust, where the Magistrate's sought relief after their lengthy Courthouse sessions, lovingly restored by SCALT Trustee Allan Hampson. It was all great fun and everyone had a good time 'posing'!

Recently we have been making 'The Stradbroke Tapestry' at the Courthouse. Suffolk Libraries have funded a 'the project with Suffolk Artlink, using funding from the Arts Council's 'Let's Get Creative' grant funding. We ran 5 workshop sessions from 10am to 1pm on Sunday mornings in the Courthouse and have an official launch on Sunday May 1st, when we will be unveiling our work of art to an appreciative audience. Two innovative textile artists Shelly O'Brien and Felicity Brown ran the workshops, along with Charlie Meyer from Suffolk Artlink. It is now finished and it is awesome! Come along and see it after May 1st, hanging in the Courthouse café.

In June we have planned a refurbishment of the Library, making a whole new space for the children's library and moving things around to accommodate this. We will also be buying new shelving and furniture and re-carpeting and re-decorating the library. To accomplish this we will be closing the Library/Post office at 5pm on Tuesday 14th June and re-opening at 2pm on Monday 27th June.

SARA (received but missed at the meeting)

The Stradbroke Archive continues to update and run 3 x online Archives in Stradbroke - The Stradbroke Village Archive, The Geoffrey Smith Archive and the Pandemic Archive.

We are pleased to be working with Jon Wilson Photography to commission a project capturing the social, sporting and business life of Stradbroke at the time of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We invite all Stradbroke based groups/teams/businesses to apply for a short photo shoot of your group/team/staff at your usual place of meeting/playing/working! This is free, and each photo will be added to the Stradbroke Village Archive at www.Stradbrokearchive.org.uk - we will also give you a digital copy of the photograph chosen for the archive for free.

We aim to be flexible and work with you as to what arrangement is best for you, so please email jonwilsonphotography@hotmail.com to book a date and time for your photo. We are aiming to capture the vibrant social, sporting and business life of Stradbroke in 2022, and we hope everyone will join in!

9. There were no matters arising from any of the reports.
10. The Parish Council's annual accounts and alongside accounts for village groups were available to review.
11. There was no other business
12. Meeting closed at: 8.15pm

Signed: _____

Date: