

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 2018 IN THE DAY CENTRE, 72 CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chairman of the Parish Council) and 13 other Parish Councillors  
Ruth Clifford - Clerk to the Council  
Trevor Lloyd - Assistant Clerk, Emma Philbrick - Admin Assistant  
District Cllr Alan Dean, County Cllr Ray Gooding  
42 parishioners

The Chairman, Cllr Maureen Caton, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised everyone of the fire exits. Cllr Caton then notified those present that a member of the audience would be making an audio recording of the proceedings.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Dist Cllr T Farthing and Mrs K Jones. County Cllr Ray Gooding had apologised as he would be arriving late.

**2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2017 were approved.

**3 CLLR VIC RANGER - PCSO'S**

The Chairman introduced Cllr Vic Ranger who is the Cabinet member for Communities and Partnerships at Uttlesford District Council. Cllr Ranger explained the advantages for PCSO's in the District as it grows larger, and as part of the Local Plan there may be 3 new garden communities. He congratulated Stansted Parish Council on being the first along with Elsenham and Henham to apply for the joint funding with neighbouring Parishes for PCSO's. He also explained that Insp. Colin Cox had reorganised staff which has resulted in more staff being available. There are 15 police recruits in Braintree and Uttlesford. Cllr Ranger then took questions:

- Cllr D Wallace Jarvis asked what benefits a PCSO would bring?

PCSO's have the same powers as citizens and they can hold a suspect but cannot charge. What they do bring though is a visibility presence and can gather information about people they are talking to. They are the link between the Community and the Police.

- Dist Cllr A Dean advised that he had seen the Ageing Well booklet and think the public should be made aware of where they can get a copy.

Cllr Ranger advised the booklet contained a host of information including useful contacts. He advised that they will be made available in Libraries, on the UDC website and in Day Centres.

- Mr Alcock advised that he thought PCSO's were a waste of money - Are they given a car? How will they cover the area of Stansted, Henham and Elsenham?

Yes they are given a car and they are tasked to go and look at problems reported and involve themselves in the community to show a presence. They are paid members of staff

- Cllr G Sell advised that he is one member of the Parish Council who has been supporting the application for a PCSO and believes it will be an achievement to gain one. Stansted Parish Council has a history of employing PCSO's and the last one Stuart was very effective. They are a valuable resource and Bishop's Stortford has 9 of them policing the town as Hertfordshire believe in them. The right person employed will be an asset.
- Jonathan Fox advised that in his opinion PCSO's have always had a very important role in bridging the gap between the community and police and commends the efforts of the Parish Council in obtaining one.

#### **4 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

Cllr Jones confirmed a letter has been received from the auditors confirming they have finished their review and the accounts for the year have been signed off.

Turning to his report published in The Link, Cllr Jones explained that the surplus for last year was bigger than expected. This is due to factors including that the Clinic did not move out as soon as we were expecting, the District Council continued to pay a Grant for Youth Services and unfortunately funeral services were higher than predicted.

A surplus of £12,000 is expected for this year. We will lose the Grant from the District Council, the Clinic will no longer be paying after serving their 6 months' notice and we have lost the rent we were getting from the Library last year. We have agreed to pay £5,000 toward a PCSO with District Cllrs also making a contribution too. We are also hoping that there will be lower burial fees.

Looking ahead there will be no contribution from Crafton Green House. If anyone has any ideas for the use of the building once we move into the new building then suggestions will be welcomed. We don't want an empty building and it also has a financial cost. There is a one- off set up fee for the Twinning with Rungis of £1,500 but yearly cost will greatly reduce after that. Work on the new building should recommence on 9th April 2018.

Over £100,000 was paid in delay and legal fees for the new build, contract prices rose from the estimated costs. £133,000 was paid to the third party and also £40,000 as a 50% share of the third party's legal fees. Eliminating the third party's rights means the value of Crafton Green has increased. This provides value to parishioners. Parishioners were invited to ask any questions on the above:

- Ray Woodcock stated that he has worked out that it has cost every parishioner including children £40 each towards the delays and costs. He urged the Parish Council to open up about the issue. He believes that the third party could have identified the issue a lot earlier and saved the community a lot of time and money.
- Janet Hollis advised that in her opinion the third party has everyone over a barrel and he will do this again.  
Cllr Jones advised that the purchase of rights has been made so the third party has no other rights. A mistake has been made somewhere. The Parish Council purchased the land from the District Council. There was never a query over the land and no one thought there was an issue. We employed project managers who also gave no indication we should have looked for rights. We have been the owners of the land for over 35 years and had no reason to think there would be any rights owned by a third party. Our knowledge only came to light in September 2016.
- Mr Snow spoke to advise that in his recollection, the third party had purchased the rights 50 years ago and that the Parish Council should have had deeds from then.
- Cllr D Wallace-Jarvis asked if there was an income from the Library now that they were based in Crafton Green House.  
Cllr Jones confirmed that they were not paying as we put them in the mobile library which wasn't pleasant for them so we offered them the use of the rooms downstairs until the new library is ready.
- Christine Holroyd asked what the future of Crafton Green House would be once the Parish moved into the new build and what would happen to the Day Centre.  
Cllr Jones confirmed that the Day Centre would remain but we don't know about Crafton Green House yet and we are looking for ideas. The Car Park will be staying and shortly a footpath will be opening going through to Cambridge Road. The District is also looking at increasing parking in Lower Street and Crafton Green.

## **5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Caton's report had also been circulated, via The Link, to all households so was not read out to the meeting. Cllr Caton reported the following:

- The crossing in Cambridge Road is not yet completed and the Lower Street crossing has been out for consultation and we are awaiting a decision.

- The Business Forum are helping to pay towards the Twinning with Rungis. There will be a Ceremony taking place in France in June and the English Ceremony will be taking place in July.
- Elsenham and Henham have both agreed to join us in a jointly funded PCSO
- The Neighbourhood Plan continues but our planning co-ordinator has stepped down so we are currently looking for a replacement.
- The work on Crafton Green should begin again on 9th April 2018
- Manchester Airport Group has submitted an application to increase passenger numbers. Parish Council representatives are attending a briefing on Monday.

## **7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Cllr Trundle presented her report on the work undertaken by the village NhW group. She appealed for more volunteers to get involved with Neighbourhood Watch.

## **8 TWINNING - RUNGIS**

A short video from Rungis was played where the Mayor spoke about this excitement of Twinning with Stansted and how similar both villages were.

## **9 OPEN FORUM**

- Ray Rogers asked when the footbridge from Jordon Close to Walson Way would be done - As Chair of Highways sub-committee, Cllr C Dean advised that this would be done in the next financial year.
- Ray Woodcock spoke regarding Stansted Pharmacy and their licence application appeal being turned down. He advised that they were dispensing prescriptions through their London Pharmacy but this does mean they cannot complete any urgent prescriptions. Mr Woodcock also advised that he was a member of the Speedwatch team and have support from the Police and also use equipment from the Parish Council. They do not have enough members and feels that Parishioners need to either help and do something about it or shut up and accept it!
- Norman Riddell of St John's Road advised that work on the Magna Carta school is going well and is on schedule. For residents it has been challenging with the volume of traffic delivering materials. The school has no provision for dropping off and picking up children though. The damage that has already been caused to the road needs to be repaired and paid for by residents. As County Cllr and Cabinet Member of Education, Ray Gooding who had arrived at the meeting stated he agreed with the views of Mr Riddell and has already asked officers at the County to investigate issues and he would be happy to meet outside of the meeting to discuss all issues.
- Christine Holroyd raised the issue of the speed of traffic on High Lane being extremely dangerous and that she believes traffic calming measures need to be put into place. Cllr C Dean advised that she would take this to the next Highways meeting.

- Richard Shervington pointed out that Church Road was one of the most dangerous roads he had known and that traffic calming measures had been in place there for a long time. He also stated that Magna Carta school was originally only meant to be 1 storey but was now being built as a two storey school. Cllr Gooding advised that this was probably being done to maximise space.
- Tony Wellings asked if the Magna Carta School was providing parking for staff as Bentfield School do not have enough and daily they are getting 20+ members of staff parking on local surrounding roads.
- Janet Hollis pointed out that in the Rungis video the Mayor referred to Stansted as a town and not a village. She believes that it is important that we are referred as a village. She also asked if parking restrictions had been relaxed at Linden House as it had been noted that more and more vehicles are parking there. Chairman Cllr Caton advised that she had told Rungis that we are a village but will remind them again. Also as far as she was aware, that there had been no official relaxation of the parking restrictions at Linden House so will keep an eye on this.
- Doug Alcock congratulated the Parish Council along with 91 residents for helping to stop the Nursery taking over the Old Police Station.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to join members for refreshments.  
The meeting closed at 9.55pm