

DRAFT Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH** meeting of Staverton Parish Council held on Monday 15 May 2023 at 6.30 pm at Staverton Village Hall.

CHAIR Nick Woodall READ OUT THE EMERGENCY FIRE DRILL

The meeting started at 6.35 pm.

52. PRESENT: Chair Nick Woodall, Vice Chair Jeff Gibson, Cllr Richard Blueitt, Cllr Claire Braham, Cllr Mark Frati, Cllr Kevin Lamb, Cllr Ray Symonds (arrived at 6.55 pm) and Parish Clerk June Jones

Attending: Wiltshire Cllr Trevor Carbin, Dr Celia Bennett, Nic F Puntis for Wilts Council with Portfolio for Flooding in Wiltshire, Cllr Ernie Clarke (non resident), George Braham, Val Chambers, Brad Cole, and Andy Borresen (Residents)

53. APOLOGIES: Cllr Jeff Gibson (arrived at 6.45 pm) and Primary School Headteacher Mr Ed Powe

54. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 16th May 2022. This was held to be a true record.

55. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III AND QUEEN CAMILLA

Chair Nick Woodall congratulated the King and Queen on behalf of Staverton Parish Council.

56. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT – Cllr Nick Woodall

It has been a year of change both in terms of the Head of State, leadership of the country and leadership of this Council. There is continued efforts with regards the large, proposed development bordering us and Hilperton Parish Council, and I thank Dr Celia Beckett for her ongoing efforts in liaising with us. The village hall has received numerous upgrades due to wear and tear throughout the year. This has put a strain on our resources financially but hopefully that is the last expense for a while.

We also remember our former long standing Vice chair Paul Nye who passed away last year. He served with humour and wisdom.

I would like to thank all our Councillors for their hard work and time, but above all I would like to thank, June our clerk, without whom we could not do this.

57. FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT – End of Year Accounts – June Jones Parish Clerk

It has been a roller coaster year for the Parish Council. We have rejoiced at the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla but sadly 3 Councillors have resigned over the last financial year, Cllrs Alison Godfrey, Kevin Perrett and Simon Richardson, all for personal reasons. Simon Richardson was Chair of the Parish Council for nearly 10 years and served the Council and the community exceptionally well. We wish them all well for the future.

NEW COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUEITT

In January we welcomed Richard Blueitt to the Parish Council. He is an old friend of the Parish Council who owned Superior and generously supported the newsletter and the Superior Community Fund for many years. Cllr Blueitt has already provided much needed hands-on support to the community by removing graffiti and litter around the village.

NEW CHAIR and VICE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Nick Woodall has now been adopted as the Chair of the Parish Council and has nearly 10 years of experience as a councillor. We welcome Cllr Woodall and look forward to working with him. Cllr Jeff Gibson will be supporting him as Vice Chair and will continue to provide much needed help with field and hall duties.

STAVERTON VILLAGE HALL

Staverton Parish Council manages and maintains its own Village Hall and this is unusual as most Village Halls are run by Charitable Trusts and Committees. Therefore the Precept is used to maintain and repair the facility and there are additional administration costs as there is no Committee to manage it. For this reason the Village Hall has incurred urgent repair and renewal costs of nearly £6,150 on new floor covering for the main room, new replacement front doors, light fittings and a replacement motor for the patio window. Overheads including energy costs and annual service of equipment was £3,899. Total income was £3,349 leaving a deficit of £6,700 to come out of the Precept.

MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY AREA IN SCHOOL LANE

The 3 year contract was awarded to White Horse Property Services but unfortunately they withdrew from the contract and then it was awarded to IDVERDE. The Parish Council donated £3,838 from the Precept towards the maintenance of the field.

STAVERTON NEWSLETTER

Unfortunately the very generous annual donation of £1,000 for the Superior Community Fund has now ceased and the Parish Council has to pay the full cost of printing the newsletter. The cost of printing has risen from £1,000 per annum to £1,420 and the number of pages has halved. Editor Natasha Webster has handled this reduced size very well and our grateful thanks go to her efforts and those of the volunteers who distribute the newsletter every quarter.

Unfortunately Natasha is moving away and will no longer continue as editor. The summer edition will be her last issue and the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone interested as soon as possible. This is a good opportunity for students to get experience and who wish to have a career in journalism.

PRECEPT 2023-24

It was recognised earlier on in the year that the Precept for 2023-24 would have to increase to cover the additional repairs and renewals at the village hall and therefore it was agreed that it would increase by 2% or 78p per annum for every tax payer in Staverton. **The Precept for 2023-24 will be £27,055.70.**

ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The operating income for 2022/23 was £103,895, but £65,000 of this was temporarily held cash for reinvestment in Cambridge and Counties Bank. The running costs were £92,790 (including £50,000 which was reinvested) with a movement in funds of £11,104. The bank account reserves at the end of 2021/22 were **£24,590** against **£26,366** for 2022/23. Reserves for 2023/24 are **£37,471** but this includes a temporary sum of £15,000 to be reinvested with Cambridge and Counties Bank leaving reserves of **£22,471.**

INTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23

The Internal Auditor was satisfied that there were no significant issues identified and has signed off the accounts.

58. HILPERTON AND STAVERTON ACTION GROUP

Dr Bennett said that the application for the proposed development of 2,500 houses will go to planning on 3rd July 2023 and then on to the full Wiltshire Council meeting on 18th July 2023. There will then be a Consultation in September which will be the time for formal suggestions which will then go to the Secretary of State in April 2024. However there has been a recent change to the planning framework as many councils have said that the targets for new housing are too high and the Government is expected to come up with a new framework. Instead of housing numbers, the new framework is expected to include other issues such as traffic, flooding, environmental problems and sustainability.

Nic Puntis, Wiltshire Council's operational representative for flooding in Wiltshire, said that the 5-year housing land supply report was dictating the numbers of housing and now this is changing and causing delays. There needs to be more consultation. He said that there was now more awareness of the problems caused to areas surrounding the new developments by flooding but there also needed to be a robust response from local councils where flooding occurs, such as providing an up to date Emergency Flooding Plan as this would bring together all the other emergency authorities.

Both Dr Bennett and Nic Puntis were thanked for updating everyone.

59. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR TREVOR CARBIN

Cllr Carbin said that he has not heard any more information regarding the repairs and resurfacing of the B3105, however a new litter bin has now been installed at the end of School Lane.

Unauthorised camping at The Slipway Car Park. The caravan was given until Weds 3rd to move or face legal action, however it was still there today. Meanwhile another campervan which had also moved onto the car park has now moved on.

Fly-tipping (tyres etc on Slipway car park). He said that Wiltshire Council initially stated that this was not their land but eventually they agreed that it was and it is hoped that the fly tipping will be removed very soon.

Possible House of Multiple Occupation. The property referred to is not on the HMO list. More evidence needed of illegal occupation.

Wall by Staverton Farm. Wiltshire Council have said that 'it's not dangerous but they'll monitor it'.

A request to list the Old Vicarage was denied.

Cllr Carbin was asked to look into permission for installing solar speed displays on the B3105 and to investigate again the possibility of getting a Weight Restriction imposed on the River Avon bridge. **Action: Cllr Carbin to look into these issues.**

60. POLICE MATTERS – Report by Wiltshire Police

Staverton is one of our busier Parishes, recording an average of 130 crimes and incidents per year. This year shows a steady level, with 127 recorded matters. Overall the types of crimes are rarely serious and seldom affect the wider community at large. It is one of the more affluent Parishes: the modern development means that there is a good degree of natural surveillance, which comes from having a good number of homes close together. There is also reasonably good coverage from privately owned and operated CCTV systems and a Parish Council who are noticeably proactive in maintaining the street scene. Last year we recorded 9 instances of anti social behaviour, 3 burglaries, 5 drug offences and 35 offences of violence against another person. 9 offences related to public order and 6 thefts from insecure vehicles. There had been 4 road traffic collisions.

61. COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENTS FORUM

a. **Repairs & resurfacing of B3105:** A resident reported Wiltshire Council's responses to her complaint regarding the poor state of the B3105 and a request to know if the section of road in question will be repaired and resurfaced as part of the expected work programme originally planned for summer 2023 and now expected to be carried out during spring 2024. She was on the whole very disappointed with the poor response to her questions and still awaits a definitive answer.

b. **1ST Hilperton Scouts & Equinox Scout Group FETE to be held on SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2023: George Braham – Equinox Scouts:** Mr Braham discussed all the plans and expected stall holders for the fete to be held at Staverton Playing Field. There is expected to be a licensed bar, a stage for music, steam railway, Ice cream van, Fire Pit - BBQ, WI cake stall, etc and it is expected to be an enjoyable event for all.

c. **Donation for Equinox Scout Group:** It was explained to Mr Braham that due to repairs and renewals at the village hall reserves were very low this year and it was agreed that the Parish Council would not charge a fee for the hire of the field or the village hall to enable the group to fund raise at the event. (Cllr Claire Braham abstained from this decision as she declared an interest).

62. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10 PM.