

PARISH OF STRADBROKE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING **held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, STRADBROKE on** **THURSDAY, 28TH APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM**

Present: 28 members of the public, including 10 members of the Parish Council

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

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Stuart Gemmill, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from George Chaplin, Ellie Wharton, Ollie Coles, Gillian Rennie-Dunkerley
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2015 were unanimously approved and signed.
3. There were no matters of report arising from the Minutes.
4. The Chairman presented his Annual Report for 2015/16 as follows: The session started with an election, and a new Council rose from the ashes with many of the existing members returned.

Early in the new session we were unlucky to lose our Clerk of many years, Carol Smy, and the search began to find a new one. After interviewing three candidates we were delighted to be able to offer the position of Parish Clerk to Odile Wladon, and we are really grateful to her for the way in which she has got stuck in.

Mid way through the year we were sorry to receive the resignation of Richard Pierce-Saunderson but we were pleased to receive three candidates prepared to take up the casual vacancy. Following a ballot by the council we were delighted to appoint Jo Baber to our fold.

During the year we have seen the completion of the upgrade and adoption of the street lights by the County Council and for which we have just authorised the final payment having waited for a long time for the invoice.

We are very pleased with the way the Library and the new award winning Post Office are working together and a huge amount of credit is due to Maureen John and her team for that. We are also pleased that with the help of the editors we have been able to set up an independent Governance Board for the Stradbroke Monthly which now has it's own bank account.

The speed watch scheme has been suspended for the time being due to concerns for the safety of the operators. The sensor is now at Laxfield, but we may continue in the future depending on volunteers. At Grove Farm there has been continuing discussions over the Section 106 agreement, which I believe has just concluded, and will make funds available for projects within the village. We have recently signed up to a replacement Speed Sensor which with financial help from our County Councillor, Guy McGregor, will be set up in three different locations coming in to the village.

Finally, I hope that everyone has noticed our newly painted village sign and thanks are due to Don Darling for his research and for making the arrangements. Thanks are also due to all our councillors and to our clerk for their forbearance through the year.

5. District Councillor, Julie Flatman presented a report: Firstly I would like to say it has been a pleasure to represent Stradbroke, Laxfield and Wilby this year and hope that I can continue to help the community with any issues or problems they may have.

I am your contact and if I can't give you the information you need, I will try my utmost to find the right person to help you.

Committee's I am appointed to development control, communities, Regulatory and tonight at MSDC full council I was appointed Portfolio Holder for Community Capacity Building & Engagement.

MID SUFFOLK – Highlights and Achievements for 2015/16

Financial/Organisational

* The Council's Joint Strategic Plan is being refreshed following the election in May last year as the two new administrations wanted to review and update the strategies of the two Councils, in light of key local, regional and national factors that have changed since the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) was developed in 2013/14. It will set out how the Councils aim to provide services to deliver positive, sustainable change in our individual and business communities over the next five years. A focused management review has been undertaken to ensure that we make the best use of our resources and direct them to the activities and interventions needed to secure delivery of our new Strategic Plan.

* Capital Investment Strategy – In July, both Councils approved a plan to invest the Councils' cash and capital resources to generate revenue income, achieve an increase in capital value in the longer term and stimulate local economic growth.

Growth/Business

* CIL - In January both councils voted to adopt CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) charging in the districts. Charging will start on 11th April meaning that any planning permission granted on or after this date may be liable to pay CIL. The Infrastructure Team will be providing further information over the coming months and at Parish Liaison meetings with further details on what CIL charging means for communities and how you can take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

* Neighbourhood Plan - 15 parishes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have expressed interest in developing neighbourhood plans.

Stradbroke being one of the first to successfully complete this mammoth task and I would like to thank everyone who worked so relentlessly to produce the questionnaire. I would also ask that every household please take this opportunity to have a say in what you want for the future of your village and community.

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* Schools Project - Mid Suffolk has provided funding for a Schools Project, which is aimed at adding value to the existing career programmes and work experience opportunities in our schools. The project will engage with year 8 (age 12) and provide support and evaluation through to work experience in year 10 (age 15).

Planning - The Development Management team has changed and now forms three officer teams to serve specific areas within both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The teams will over time establish improved local connections with the areas they cover with the support of their dedicated officers. A new fourth start up team has also been formed to ensure much faster registering and validation of applications and enquiries. This is the first step of a number of planned improvements for Development Management in the next year to ensure clear routes of communication for consultees, members, parish councils, residents and developers.

Environment & Environmental Health

* The Open for Business project (OfB) will improve the experience of businesses working with the Councils' regulatory services by changing organisational culture; putting business customers' experiences at the heart of our ways of working and; ensuring businesses understand what their responsibilities are. A business account manager pilot has established a single point of contact to a business enquiry.

* Healthier Catering Award - The Suffolk Healthier Catering Award 'Eat Out Eat Well (EOEW)' was launched. Catering businesses can apply for three levels of award, gold, silver and bronze. The gold award will generally require a member of the catering business staff to have a formal qualification in nutrition; training that the Food and Safety team at BMSDC are now offering. The motivation behind initiating this award in Suffolk is twofold. With obesity a significant problem, there was a mandate from the Health and Wellbeing Board with the public health driver clear. The award also gives catering food businesses an opportunity to differentiate themselves and potentially create a recognised

additional ethical selling point whether to employees in the case of staff canteens or to the public if a café or restaurant.

Communities

* Capital Grants are provided to the community to support village halls, community centres, sports clubs, community shops and events. In 2015/16 £141,224 was allocated across Mid Suffolk. Against a total project cost of £1,178,811, our support of 12% grant allocation levered in a further 88% funding for our communities.

I was able to give the Parish a MSDC locality award of £2,800 which will go towards new play equipment.

6. County Councillor Guy McGregor – read a report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.
7. There was not report from the local police.
8. Neighbourhood Planning - the report from the Chair (Gillian Rennie-Dunkerley) of the Neighbourhood Planning committee was read out:

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee have been actively working on the most crucial part of the project during the last 6 months in producing a fully comprehensive set of questionnaires.

The 3 questionnaires comprise of:

- * the individual one which is for every household
- * the business one which focuses more on the needs and constraints felt by businesses in Stradbroke
- * the Youth one which allows for 11-16 year olds to be able to voice their opinions.

A team of volunteers have now delivered the household questionnaire to every house in Stradbroke. This has involved knocking on every door and giving an explanation and guidance. Where there was no reply a second visit took place. During this week, a similar exercise has taken place with all businesses during working hours. On Wednesday, GRD gave an assembly to all students at the High School after which the Youth questionnaire was completed by all students in the school. Those students who attend the school but do not live in Stradbroke have been identified so that we can consider those separately. Simultaneously, there has been a campaign of persuasion within the village both visual and oral.

Once all the questionnaires are in and collated the next stage is to analyse the data effectively and thoroughly in order to be able to tease out the key issues and produce the evidence. For this, we have the guidance of MSDC advisers who will be working with us on the way forward. We shall then be able to draft a first plan that will be submitted to an independent consultant at the local authority. At this point, there will be checks that all appropriate conditions are met and that supporting material is included. Following this there will be an independent examination by a suitably qualified person appointed by the PC and local authority. Needless to say, this will take some time for the process to be completed but we intend to keep the community 'warm' by stealth release of tasty snippets of data throughout that period. If all is found to be satisfactory, we should be able to hold the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan in the Autumn.

2 questions were asked:

- when is the completion deadline date? Answered: 9th May
- who owns the data collected from questionnaire? Answered: All data is owned by Parish Council and can only be used for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan

9. REPORTS:

- 9.1 The Head of Stradbroke High School, Andrew Bloom, thanked all that have attended the school and supported the various activities on offer, such as a drama productions, Duke of Edinburgh and sporting events. Various grants towards the infrastructure of the school have also been obtained. The highest quality of teaching has helped the progress of year 11 be amongst the top 100 schools in the Country. The

school were very proud to have received a letter from Nick Gibb congratulating them, Mr Bloom noted that there high hopes for the current cohort too.

9.2 Mr Andrew Smith, Chair of Governors of Stradbroke High School, reported that Mr Smith had indicated a wish to retire at the end of the academic year. The Governors decided not to recruit a replacement and in view of current government proposals that all schools should become academies, they decided to appoint an Executive Head to lead the school's strategic plan. Mr Smith was pleased to announce that Mr Bloom had accepted this role on a part time basis. The current deputy head, Mr John Axtell, will be the new Head of School reported to Mr Bloom.

9.3 Mr James Hargrave, Chair of Governors reported: Stradbroke Primary School celebrated its 150th anniversary last year and we were very pleased to welcome many people from the village and also past pupils to share our celebration in the Summer when we held an open event. Those of you who came will have heard the children perform to a really high standard singing, acting and reading. We also had may pole dancing. I'm sure you like me thought that the children are a real asset to Stradbroke and something we can be proud of. For many this had been the first time they had been back to the school in decades and it seemed to bring back memories - mostly happy! Some former teacher's names were mentioned more than others! The children buried a time capsule in the school grounds to be discovered at some time in the future -perhaps when the school celebrates its 200th birthday! The start of this school year in September 2015 saw the creation of the All Saints Church Schools Federation between Stradbroke Primary School and All Saints Laxfield Primary School. Already both these schools have shared an Executive Headteacher - Melanie Barrow and from the start of this school year we also have a single governing body. Sharing staff and governors enables us to give a better education to the children across both our schools with more opportunities for staff to work together and for the children to enjoy a wider range of trips, events and other opportunities. This arrangement puts the school in a strong place to cope with the major changes in the educational landscape brought in by the Government with the expectation that all schools will become academies by 2020/22. We are also waiting to hear how the changes to school funding affect us and other small rural schools. At the end of the 2015 we said goodbye to our Head of School Linda Walsh who retired. We appointed Hannah LeGood to replace her. You may remember that Hannah won the Suffolk County Council "Raising the Bar" award last year for excellence in teaching.

9.4 Stradbroke Charitable Trust – the report is appended to the minutes

9.5 Stradbroke Courthouse and Library Trust, Peter Smith – the report is appended to the minutes

9.6 Stradbroke Good Neighbours, Jane Gemmill – the report is appended to the minutes

9.7 Stradbroke Media – James Hargrave reported that Stradbroke Radio regularly broadcasts on a weekly basis from a house. The radio hopes to work with SCALT to build studios at the top of the courthouse.

9.8 Stradbroke Monthly – The new governance board has been established. A new bank account is in process of being opened and new policies and procedures will be produced throughout the year.

9.9 Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre – The Chairman, Roger Turkington, reported that: The Centre has enjoyed another very successful year with an increase in bookings and revenue. Overall we made a surplus of £7593, however, we have some very substantial repair bills to pay and as the building ages there will of course be more expense. That said it has been encouraging to see the use of the Centre grow with a wide range of diverse groups and activities and the new 'profit share' scheme with clubs using the bar has helped to increase turnover. The film nights continue to be popular with one of our best audiences ever last week when 108 watched The Lady in the Van. Unfortunately just before the showing the projector failed, thanks to Horham CC who came to the rescue with a loan of their machine the show went on but we now face an unexpected bill of circa £1500 for a replacement. In April last year we re-structured our hire fees to create a more equitable and easier system to administer. With over 30 different clubs and societies regularly using the Centre it was always going to be difficult to please everyone but I'm glad to say we seem to have got it right and not lost anyone and only had one complaint. Although the Centre is not running at full capacity we have had to turn away a number of possible long-term regular bookings and these would have provided yet more activities for everyone in the village. With the prospect of a very substantial windfall from the forthcoming Grove Farm development we have already surveyed all users to help us identify areas for improvement and we are now eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan which will provide a good insight into the type of activities that we need to cater for and factor into our development plans.

I'd just like to record my thanks to everyone on the Committee and all the other volunteers that have helped throughout the year without their support the Centre could not succeed and just a special mention David & Claudene Merritt who both give an enormous amount of time to keep the Centre running.

Finally, our AGM is on Tuesday the 17th May at 7.30 here. All are welcome to attend.

9.10 Footpath Warden, Gerald Jenkins, reported: Stradbroke still has 12 miles of footpaths as it has done for many years. Some are tracks and roadways and most of the grass paths remain in very good condition in spite of some very wet periods this year. There are many more dog-walkers, runners and joggers in the village than there used to be and that helps to keep them in good condition. Strong support from the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council means that virtually all Stradbroke footpaths are cut twice or three times a year. This generates a benevolent spiral: the cutting encourages more usage and that usage helps to keep the paths clear. There was a pre-Christmas evening walk to Battlesea Green in the dark for mince pies and mulled wine on December 22nd and 35 people came. It was a mild and cloudy evening and was dry except for one sharp shower, fortunately short-lived. New Year's day was dry and sunny and the traditional walk on that date attracted 13 people. There will be several evening guided walks later in the summer and they will be advertised in the Magazine and also on the website. In addition, on Sunday July 31st there will be a longer guided linear walk of 20 miles from the Community Centre to the Source of the River Waveney on Redgrave Fen. There will be a minibus for the return at a cost of £2. Funding for Footpaths for next year has already been granted and so they will be maintained and cut for 2016. I hope that you will choose to make good use of our delightful network. Please let me know if you come across any problems.

9.11 PCC, The Rev Susan Loxton sent in the following report which was read on her behalf: Your Parish Church continues to endeavour to serve the community here in Stradbroke, we are a small congregation but we are doing our best with the resources we have. We now share a service with our Baptist brothers and sisters once a month when we can worship together in each other's church.

We are here to celebrate the birth of children with services of Thanksgiving and Baptism, we are pleased to be here to prepare people for marriage and celebrate with them and their families on their wedding day. We are also here to support those who have lost a loved one through death, perhaps with a service here in church or at a crematorium.

We welcome the primary school coming into church to celebrate the festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as their leavers service and we are pleased to support the school by taking an interest in the life of the school, by supplying governors, some help to finance various events; and taking assemblies; either the clergy or the Open the Book team, which is a group of local people who go into school to tell and act out bible stories. We are also pleased to support the high school in any way we can; they come into church for their Carol Service and myself and Rev Cathy Bladen our curate, take turns to go into school every Monday lunchtime as chaplains, as chaplains we are not there to convert anyone, but we are there to support pupils and staff, to listen and encourage them, and pray for them all regularly, asking for God's blessing upon the school and all who work or learn there.

We are very grateful to the many people from the village who are involved in helping clean the church and producing lovely flower displays, especially at the main festivals of Harvest, Easter and Christmas. We are thankful too for any financial support that comes from people in the village and visitors. Our church building is a listed building and costs a lot to maintain and this is borne on the whole by church members, so other help is very much appreciated. The Friends of the church are looking at ways to help maintain the church and possibly using part of the building as a museum paying tribute to J.C. Ryle who was significant in the Church of England, was rector here in Stradbroke, cared about education for all and whose wife helped in setting up the school. He was the first bishop of Liverpool and many people are still interested in him today.

Although Stradbroke is one of six parishes in the benefice, which means that I don't personally get time to be at more events in the village, I try to be available for anyone who wants to talk about things spiritual or otherwise. I am grateful for my fellow ministers' lay and ordained who work alongside me.

We are going to try a new initiative very soon; Tea and Toast a drop in once a month on a Tuesday morning 9.15am-10.30am, aimed at parents and toddlers who drop their older children off at school, but anyone will be welcome - watch out for more information.

We have a regular prayer time every Monday morning in the rectory at 9.30am - 10.00am to pray for people who we are aware of that need God's comfort and peace. As the parish church we are committed to be an active part of the community, helping where resources allow, and praying for God's blessing on all the people and businesses in the village.

- 9.12 SAGA – short report from a member of the public to say that all the allotment holders were coping well despite the wet weather.
- 9.13 Table Tennis Club: despite a drop in numbers the table tennis club which started 9 years ago has managed to continue this year. A request was made that the club was mentioned to as many villagers as possible to try and increase the numbers to save it from folding during the coming year.
- 9.14 Women's Institute, Carol Darling reported that: Our WI is a very active and well supported organisation, which is at the heart of the community of Stradbroke. We currently have thirty nine paid up members, all but four of whom live in the village.. The average number enjoying our monthly meetings is around twenty five. When we have a speaker with a really wide appeal, the meeting is open to all, which can boost numbers to forty or more. There are various clubs associated with our WI, dancing, book club, Scrabble and a luncheon club, all of which meet regularly and are well supported. As well as our regular meetings, we support the local community with an annual litter pick,(this year "Clean for the Queen!"), donations from members to the local food bank and providing refreshments for the two days of the Stradbroke Festival. Some of our members also enthusiastically enter for various competitions at the Suffolk Show. This year, our WI is in a position to be able to promote Stradbroke more widely, as we are hosting the two annual group meetings, where the six local WIs within our group join us, and the funding enables us to have a more expensive speaker. This month we were treated to a talk by Amanda Richmond from Ipswich, who completed an epic journey to the summit of Mount Everest; that sits well with the WI's motto "Inspiring Women"
- 9.15 Youth football, Don Darling – the report is appended to the minutes.
10. The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 were available for review .
11. There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40 and refreshments were served..

Signed:

Chairman, Stradbroke Parish Council

2017