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Subject: EGM Minutes June 24
Date: 24 April 2025 at 13:21
To: Alexandra Taylor lexie.rose68@gmail.com

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Stockton on Teme Parish EGM
Held on Monday 24th June 2024 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church

Attendees

Kate Oakley – Chair
Lexie Taylor – Clerk
Michael Oakley
Pete Taylor
Margaret Danby
Bill Webb
Susan Dufton
Alison Tidmarsh

Apologies

Paul Danby
Sally Webb
Sandra Jabbett
Dave

Guests

Christine Clarke (Licensed Lay Minister/Chairs Friends of St Andrew's)
Peter Clarke (Hon. Treasurer Teme Valley North Parochial Church Council)

1. **Apologies & welcome:** the Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed those attending and gave apologies on behalf of those unable to attend. The Chair introduced Christine and Peter Clarke. Christine introduced herself as our licensed Lay Minister for St Andrew's Church. She is pleased to serve as part of our parish community, issued her own welcome and thanked everyone for their contributions.
2. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting:** it was unanimously agreed that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 22nd April 2024 were a true reflection of matters discussed. Proposed by Susan Dufton and seconded by Pete Taylor. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair Kate Oakley, Susan and Pete. The signed minutes will be uploaded on the My Parish website for Stockton:
<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish>
3. **Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24 Form 2:** Parish Clerk, Lexie, advised that the AGAR has been completed and independently checked and verified by Bill Webb. The full 6 page report will be uploaded to the My Parish website as detailed in point 2 above. Page 3 of the report which is the Certificate of Exemption along with the statement of variance will be sent to the appointed auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP. This must be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25000 in the year ended 31st March 2024, and who wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The Certificate of Exemption and accompanying statement will also be circulated to the parish email list along with these minutes. On 25th June the Clerk will also be uploading to the My Parish Website the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Exempt Authority) – Accounts for year ended 31st March 2024.

'Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person

interested. For the year ended 31 March 2024, these documents will be available on reasonable notice from 26th June 2024 to 6th August 2024, by application to: lexie.rose68@gmail.com

Lexie advised the following figures:

Total annual gross income for the authority (parish) 2023/24 was £1519

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority (parish) 2023/24 was £2595

Lexie also read out a statement pertaining to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24.

The Chair asked if those in attendance were in agreement for the AGAR to be approved and signed. Those able to vote unanimously agreed. The AGAR and statement were duly signed by Kate and Lexie.

- 4. Roads and pathways:** the Chair summarised concerns raised by our lengthsman Chris Bunn, parishoners and our on-going traffic concerns. Kate has telephoned Worcestershire County Council Highways Dept to report three problems :
- an overgrown footpath: Kate has forwarded the resident's email with details of the location and photographs of the problem. Alison Tidmarsh has been reporting footpath concerns and she has also raised this. Kate will also send the latest images onto Alison to follow up, Alison being our Public Rights of Way Warden (PROW).
 - The finger post to Bromyard and Shelsley opposite Stockton Court Farm has snapped off and the post is leaning. Had previously been reported but still not yet been resolved; Kate will follow up.
 - The village name sign on the A443, on the left as you drive down Stockton Bank, was completely obscured by vegetation, and which is the council's responsibility to keep clear, because our Lengthsman is not allowed to work on an A road. The chair expressed concern raised by a resident that the overgrowth might be Japanese Knotweed, and this was passed to the relevant Environmental experts, in case it was JKW and would need specialist treatment. The overgrowth has now been removed.
 - As an aside Alison advised that she had collected four bags of rubbish from along Stockton Bank..... thank you Alison.

Two additional concerns were raised by our lengthsman:

- a. Verge cutting on the A443:** he raised a concern that the contractor had left all the mown grass on the footpath, which he felt was dangerous, and has now cleared for us. The chair passed this on to Tanya Crake at WCC Highways, and she has asked the "Green Team" to raise this with the contractor.
 - b. Fly tipping on the Stanford Lane:** The chair was planning to report this to Malvern Hills District Council on Monday. However, someone beat her to it and the rubbish has now been removed
- Kate has also been in touch with our traffic officer, Robert Haynes, to raise the concerns of a parishioner, anxious about speeding traffic and a general increase in traffic volume on the road from Pensax to the newly reopened Bell pub. He has passed our concerns on to the local policing team at Tenbury and we await a response.

- Ongoing concerns remain about the speed of traffic through the village and school children walking on the road to the bus stop. Following the collision last year the Chair did ask the driver of the lorry what would prompt him to adjust his speed in a residential area and he indicated the red road markings and rumble strips. Enquiries have previously been made about these and we have been advised that the red raised road markings are no longer used.

5. Parish Fete June 30th 2pm Stockton House: The Parish Fete is this Sunday at 2pm, please do come and tell all of your friends. If you are able to donate any toys or Tombola prizes these can be left in the church before Saturday; baking contributions can be taken on the day. Thank you to all those who have bought and sold raffle tickets. Please can the counterfoils and cash be returned to Lexie at The Old Rectory by Saturday (I can collect from you if you email me on lexie.rose69@gmail.com). Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase on the day.

6. Any Other Business (AOB):

- 1.1. The chair did receive an email from a resident suggesting that it would be helpful if we avoid acronyms (eg AGAR report) in future, because some parishioners may not know what they stand for. Point noted and acronyms will be avoided in the future.
- 1.2. Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) have received a complaint from a Stockton resident regarding the overflowing bins in the A443 lay-by near Menithwood. The complaint is that bins encourage more littering and should be removed to make people take their rubbish home with them. James Marshall, Administration and Amenities Manager at MHDC has replied to the resident advising that:
 'the bins were installed and are the responsibility of the Parish Council' they have also advised that 'MHDC are responsible for the emptying of these bins on the parish's behalf'
 It was mentioned by a resident in attendance that, so far as we are aware, the only Stockton bins we have requested and that are our responsibility are the one in the lay-by in the dip where the old phone box used to be, and the one attached to the post on the opposite side of the road. The clerk will investigate further to check if the bin near Menithwood comes within our boundary; and also email MHDC to request that all bins are emptied on the weekly run. If anyone notices the bins are over-flowing please can they contact the Clerk at lexie.rose68@gmail.com who will arrange for them to be emptied.

No other points were raised and the Chair brought the meeting to a close.

Minutes proposed by Chris Wilson
 Seconded by J. Duffin
 Approved by Parish Chair Katherine F. Oakley
 Date 22nd April 2025