

Stockton on Teme Parish Meeting
St Andrews Church Thursday 23 April 2015
7.30 pm

Apologies:

Joe and Coral Gaunt, Susan Dufton, Jo and Jamie Probert, Sally and Bill Webb

Attendees:

Vanessa Snape, Brian Marsh, Kate Fitzpatrick, Ursula Bancroft, Paul Danby, Terry May, Sioux Breeze-Derrigan (parish clerk), Margaret Danby (chair)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes from the last meeting (September 25th 2014)
3. Matters arising
4. Local policing issues – CSO Ness Snape
5. Chairman's report
6. Financial Report (Parish Clerk)
7. Lengthman's report (Paul Danby)
8. Village marquee replacement
9. Broadband update
10. Fund raising events for the church
11. Election of Chairman and Parish Clerk
12. A.O.B.

1. Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising

The chair opened the meeting and read apologies.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 25 September 2014 were agreed. Minutes accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Local policing issues – CSO Ness Snape

There were no crimes to report or criminal damage relating to Stockton on Teme. There are, however, instances of theft and damage taking place in other areas of the

Parish. In particular theft of quad bikes and many shed break-ins where tools and equipment such as chainsaws are being stolen.

Also theft of vehicles in particular Land Rovers and Audi's.

Dogs are also being taken; CSO Snape reminded those present not to leave windows wide open when dogs are left unattended in cars as they can be easily removed by thieves. Traveller type people have been reported approaching residents within the Parish asking about their dogs, although no particular breed appears to have been targeted.

Rural watch (old farm watch) is being re-introduced. The police are working with DEFRA and the NFU to encourage businesses to sign up to the scheme. This is being achieved through individual site visits as well as holding 'surgeries'. The scheme will operate along the same lines as Neighbourhood Watch where 'alerts' are transmitted through National networks.

The West Mercia website has been updated, now with much more information on it. All contact details are listed as well as news and information and twitter feeds which highlight up to the moment traffic information.

The Chair thanked CSO Snape for the update.

5. Chairman's report

The Chair talked through the information listed on the hand-outs issued at the meeting which highlighted the activities that had taken place over the year. The Chair explained that many consultation requests were not relevant to us due to the size/profile of the Parish (i.e. South Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy).

The Chair/Clerk had attended 3 Parish conferences. The Chair explained that the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) once approved later this year will govern all development for the next 16 years. The Examiner had stated that the plan should cater for an extra five thousand houses on top of those outlined in the plan.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – a requirement of the SWDP is that District Authorities have to produce an assessment to identify potential building land for homes. Further details are available at http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=10530.

Stockton on Teme has been categorised by planners as a category 4B village, meaning that it has very few services and further new developments will not be sanctioned.

The footpath at Lower Crundle End, by the chicken farm, had placed a notice stating walkers needed to phone before accessing the path. This has been questioned and

found to be a disincentive to those wishing to use the right of way. It is perfectly o.k. to use footpath long as you keep to the path.

No one has registered interest in taking on the volunteer role of Parish Path Warden.

Helping Hands – Dementia. Booklet of guidance on people with the condition was made available to those present at the meeting, with several copies left for those whose visit the church.

Land drainage (from Lower House Farm northwards towards the bridge) - because there is only anecdotal evidence that a ditch originally existed in this area, action to have them re-established cannot progress at this stage. The Highways department has now been made aware and we await a decision.

Water by Stockton House down to substation - land drainage officer visited the site and has stated that the water could come from springs and therefore it is not within his jurisdiction so it has now been passed to Highways.

Hedge by substation is very overgrown and now a flood risk – Western Power Distribution have stated it is not their responsibility but Highways say it is. No progress has been made to date.

Brian Marsh asked if we could increase the width of the road up Stockton Bank to allow a safe space for pedestrians to walk. General discussion indicated that there may be up to two feet of earth that could be removed from the highway. The Chair agreed to progress this on behalf of those present.

Lengthman's Scheme Plus. This allows us to apply for extra work. The chair stated that she had requested that large vegetation be removed and broken black and white marker posts be reinstated.. No response at present. The chair agreed to progress.

Enquiries have been made about vehicle activated speed signs, which are shared around local villages. We could join the scheme and have the sign in place 3 times a year at a cost of £30 a time, plus a contribution of £40 towards the cost of new batteries when needed. We would need to raise the precept if we want to join this scheme.

The Chair will also contact the Safer Roads Partnership to see if a speed camera van could be sited in the lay-by at the bottom of Stockton Bank.

6. Financial Report (Parish Clerk)

The Parish Clerk reported that in the 2014/2015 financial year total receipts were £2683 (precept, income and council grant for the lengthmans scheme). Expenditure was £2246 (lengthmans scheme payments and insurance). Current bank balance as 31st March is £437. Insurance for 2015/2016 is likely to be in the region of £300.

Annual audit return for the 'Local Councils of England' has been completed, return date 30th June 2015.

A discussion about purchasing a litter bin for the lay-by resulted in the Chair agreeing to contact the local councillors once the elections were over to see if we might be able to access any community funding to support this idea.

7. Lengthman's report – Paul Danby

No major issues to report. However, the cost of replacing the pot holes on the corner by the sub-station will eventually out weigh the cost of having a ditch dug on the right hand side of the road. Questions were raised as to the cost of digging a ditch.

8. Village marquee replacement

Sandra Jabbett has asked for this item to be put on the agenda as the marquee now leaks very badly.

The chair had contacted Sally Webb who had confirmed that there was £505.70 in the marquee fund. Questions were raised as to who sat on the marquee committee and if there was a record of those who had hired it. Sally had confirmed that she was happy to release funding if there was a consensus that a new marquee be purchased.

Those present expressed the opinion that hiring charges should apply to all whether they were a village resident or not in order to maximise revenue. A charge of £20 was considered proportionate. Also that clear instructions about storage after use and assembly needed to be in place. The meeting also queried whether there was sufficient demand to justify purchasing a new marquee. The chair agreed to progress this with Sally Webb.

9. Broadband update

Notes issued at meeting. Worcestershire County Council is undecided as to when we are likely to receive an update on our current broadband service. Another option that can be progressed is to use Air Band. If you can see Woodbury Hill with a clear line of sight you are likely to be able to receive this service. Air Band will deliver a 5 mega bits service (double what we currently have) at £99 for device installation and £17 month thereafter.

10. Fund raising events for the church

Kate Fitzpatrick outlined that the Church needs money spent on it to keep it safe and watertight. A number of fund raising events have taken place to raise funds. Many of these events have been marketed to raise funds for specific projects (i.e. heating or plasterwork) so everyone is aware how the money will be spent.

Concerts (music and drama), Bazaar's, Sausage Supper's, Nativity Plays and the Stockton Supper (taking place in May) have all helped to raise funds. To date £1,200

had been raised. Race nights and Quizzes (off site) are currently being considered as a way of generating further money.

A section of perimeter wall of the Church has fallen into someone's garden and our current insurance policy doesn't cover this. It has been estimated it will cost £1600 to rebuild, this on top of the £7,000 of essential repairs that have already been identified as needing to take place.

Kate briefly outlined the introduction of a project called 'Germinate'. That it was focused specifically at supporting rural communities. It was seeking to overcome some of the specific challenges faced by clergy who minister to parishioners who live in small and often remote communities.

11. Election of Chair and Parish Clerk

The re-election of the Chair and Parish Clerk was proposed by Paul Danby, seconded by Kate Fitzpatrick and endorsed by all those present

12. A.O.B

Stockton webspace – URL has changed so if saved it previously as a link it won't work. The new one is <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish>.

The Chair thanked all those for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm