

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE STANTON ST. QUINTIN  
PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 19th JULY 2016**

**Present:** Mr Nick Greene (Chairman)  
Mrs Anita Druce  
Mr Ben King  
Mr Peter Murton  
Mr Ian Plummer  
Mrs Ros Whiting

Mr Howard Greenman (Wiltshire Councillor)

6 members of the public

**Apologies:** Mr John Eley

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 were taken as read and signed as being a true record.

The Chairman, Nick Greene, reported the changes to the Parish Council. John Eley had been co-opted in July 2015 and Ben King had been co-opted in January 2016 to replace the vacancy left by the resignation of Emma Walker

Mr Greene thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their contribution over the past year.

### **Parish Hall**

During the year the Council had received regular updates from the Parish Hall Committee. Several fund raising events had been held. Following the release of £7000 to the Parish Hall Committee there was still £28000 ring fenced in the Council's reserves. A donation of a new kitchen and toilets had been received and there was another regular user of the hall.

### **Defibrillators**

The second defibrillator had been installed on Chapel House in the lower village.

### **Highways**

There were now new signs at the entrances to the village and the junction at Kington Lane had been restored to its original design. However, despite continued liaison with Wiltshire Council Highways there were still several outstanding issues including reinstatement of a litter bin; reinstatement of double yellow lines at the Murco Garage; improvements to signage throughout the village and clearing of drains. Councillor Howard Greenman was aware of these issues and was trying to help get them dealt with.

### **Planning**

Several planning applications had been considered throughout the year and comments forwarded to Wiltshire Council who has the final say on all planning matters.

## **Parish Forum, Area Board and CATG**

The Parish Council is aware that it is important to keep up to date with all local matters and one or more Councillors regularly attends the meetings of the Parish Forum, Area Board and Chippenham Area Transport Group to make sure that the feelings from Stanton St Quintin are voiced.

## **Communications**

As well as the Parish Council sponsored website [www.stantonstquintin.co.uk](http://www.stantonstquintin.co.uk) & our 3 Notice Boards, we are very grateful to all the work that our Vice Chair, Anita puts into "The Chatter". This is an excellent & immediate way of communicating with the village via email and the more people we can encourage to sign up at [sstqpc@gmail.com](mailto:sstqpc@gmail.com) the better.

## **Report from Wiltshire Councillor**

Councillor Howard Greenman thanked the Parish Council and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with them. He thanked the Council for the continued support of the Rural Parish Forum which he chairs. He had recently been appointed as Chairman of the Chippenham Area Board.

Wiltshire Council continued to make financial savings of £30m in 2015/16 and this will continue in the coming year with a saving requirement of £25m. Wiltshire Council had asked Central Government for a four year forecast of central grant in order to maintain some kind of stability.

There was continued pressure on the budget with 23.4% of Wiltshire residents now of retirement age, rising to 27.1% in ten years time.

The Council tax had been increased by 1.99% following a nil increase over the last four years.

Ringway had been appointed as the new Term Maintenance Contractor and the Parish Steward scheme will be reintroduced shortly.

He will sit on a task group of the Scrutiny Committee to look at the issues raised with the mywiltshireapp.

Four Neighbourhood Plans had been agreed with 39 more in the pipeline. There continued to be 31 libraries in operation, thanks mainly to volunteers.

Superfast Broadband continued to be a priority and the Council was working with Highways England to deliver improvements to the M4 junction 17 and with Network Rail and First Great Western to progress major improvements at Chippenham railway station.

## **Questions from members of the public**

It was asked whether the Parish Council would reinstate the edge of the Village Green and put up posts to prevent this being further eroded. Mr Greene stated that Wiltshire Council had looked at this and did not consider this to be an issue. It was agreed to bring the question of wooden posts back onto a future Agenda.

It was asked if more publicity could be given for the Annual Parish Meetings and it was agreed to put the dates of future meetings on the notice boards, website and in the Chatter.

**Chairman**