

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE STANTON ST. QUINTIN
PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 11th JULY 2017**

Present: Mr Nick Greene (Chairman)
Mr Adrian Andrews
Mrs Gabrielle Horton
Mr Peter Murton
Mr Howard Greenman (Wiltshire Councillor)

1 member of the public

Apologies: Mr John Seale; Mrs Ros Whiting

Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 19th July 2016 were taken as read and signed as being a true record.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman, Nick Greene, presented his annual report on the activities of Stanton St Quintin Parish Council for the year 2016/17

Local Council Elections

At the local council elections held on 4th May, Nick Greene, together with Mr John Eley, Mr Peter Murton and Mrs Ros Whiting were elected unopposed onto the Parish Council. This followed the decision of Anita Druce and Ian Plummer not to stand for re-election. Our thanks go to them both for all their hard work on the Council over many years.

Since the election Mr John Eley has offered his resignation and notices to fill that vacancy have been displayed. Mrs Gabrielle Horton, Mr Adrian Andrews and Mr John Seale MBE have been co-opted to fill the remaining spaces on the Council and are already getting involved in Council business. The Chairman thanked them for their support & in particular Margaret Carey, the clerk, for all her hard work & dedication.

Parish Hall

The major achievement during the past year has been the completion of the Parish Hall following donations of a new kitchen and toilets and now land to create more car parking has been acquired. The hall is well used and further youth groups are about to start using it regularly. This transformation is very much due to the Hall Committee receiving grants from the Parish Council, the Area Board, the Landfill Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Jack Lane Trust & interest free loans from villagers keen to support the renewed life given to our community asset.

Congratulations go to their Chair, Cara Voelcker, Project Manager, Peter Boggis and all the other members of the Parish Hall Committee for making all this possible.

Highways

The Parish Council continues to pursue highway issues with Wiltshire Council, backed up by input from Cllr Howard Greenman. Three new litter bins have

been ordered to be placed by the garage which will hopefully help with reducing the litter problems there.

The Parish Steward scheme recently came back into existence and the Steward visits regularly to carry out routine highway maintenance work.

Planning

Several planning applications have been considered throughout the year and comments forwarded to Wiltshire Council who has the final say on all planning matters. The main issues still on-going are the proposals for the new development on the airfield and the proposed development by Junction 17.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from the previous item, Cllr Howard Greenman advised the Council to start the process for drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan. To that end the Chairman had initiated & chaired 2 very well attended meetings here in the Hall in January & February of this year. We had excellent presentations from representatives of both Christian Malford & Hullavington Neighbourhood Development Plan Committees outlining their experiences to date & giving good advice on pitfalls to avoid. From these meetings was born the Stanton St Quintin Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

New Councillor John Seale MBE has been appointed Chair and is progressing this and in his absence a short report was read out on the progress so far

Emergency Plan

The Parish Council is also developing an Emergency Plan which could be used for the benefit of the whole community in the event of an emergency or disaster. Again John Seale had taken this on board and a short report was read out

Ownership of the Village Green

An issue arose during the year re the ownership of the Village Green. The Parish Council is currently taking advice from a local solicitor regarding whether an application could be made to apply for this to become a Village Green. He is currently going to visit the site and will report back further after that time but he feels that the Council would have to demonstrate that a significant number of local people have used the land for lawful sports and pastimes as or right for at least 20 years and it may be that the prospect of success would be low and the costs would outweigh the benefit.

The Parish council look after the grass cutting on the Green & following a site visit with tree surgeon, Paul Marshall we have agreed a quote from him to now look after the trees there. He is due to start work in early September.

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 which I set up some years ago & our 3 Notice Boards, we are very grateful to all the work that Anita Druce continues to do circulating information via "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 the better.

Report by County Councillor

Mr Howard Greenman, County Councillor gave his report. He stated that it had been a pleasure working with the Parish Council during the past year which had been a year of both change and challenge.

The planning application for The Range had been dismissed and more recently the planning appeal of Robert Hitchins for the Barrow Farm planning application at Langley Burrell had also failed, although this is now the subject of further inquiry. There are further challenges with the Rawlings Green development proposals, the advent of the St Mowdens' planning application for Junction 17 and the substantial purchase of Hullavington Airfield by Dysons'. A Growth Bid for £34m had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the redevelopment of Chippenham Railway Station and it is expected that a planning application for this site will be submitted in the Autumn.

This will all have a huge impact on the village and further emphasises the need for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Work will commence shortly on the remaining dualling of the A350 and Junction 17 is due to traffic lighted later this year.

Cllr Greenman continued to Chair the Rural Parish Forum and now also chaired the Chippenham Area Board. These had been well supported by the Parish Council.

There had been significant pressure on the Wiltshire Council budget which resulted in an increase in Council Tax by 1.99% and a further increase of 3% in Social Care levy.

Wiltshire Council's Capital Budget of almost £1b sees continued investment in the future infrastructure of the County and there were also further planned investments in Economy and Transport; Broadband; Campuses and Community Hubs; Housing and road and bridge maintenance. The budget also safeguarded the commitment to Military/Civil integration and protecting and creating jobs across the county.

Questions arising from the reports and items of report: Nil

Chairman