

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in The Main Hall, Leonard Stanley Village Hall on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 8 p.m.

Those Present: Cllrs Rob Bayliss (Chairman), Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Chris Connett, Graham Davies, Sue Davies, Phil Herbert, Steve Lydon, John Wace, County Cllr Loraine Patrick, Pamela Fawkes, Christine Fletcher, Sue Frazer, Christine Phillips and Kamilya Le Masurier.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stuart Craddock, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, Andy Roberts and Maggie Mukasa.

1. Previous Minutes: The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 were accepted as a true record.

2. Reports on the activities of the Parish Council:

The Chairman Rob Bayliss presented the following report:-

Leonard Stanley Annual Parish Meeting

7 May 2019

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Financial Year 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

Finances

- Continued careful management of finances throughout 2018-2019 resulted in a surplus of budgeted income over expenditure of £3169. Expected surplus was £1161 but slightly higher income and lower expenditure than predicted gave the larger result.
- Significant additional non-recurring income and expenditure arose during the year as a result of the Council's extensive programme of projects enabled by the receipt of "Section 106" funds from the Mankley Field (Saxon Gate) development.
- Council Tax precept for financial year 2019-2020 has been increased from £30000.00 to £33500.00 to cover slightly increased expected expenditure and maintain a prudent reserve. However, this increase in precept was deliberately limited so that individual households (at the benchmark Band D) would pay no additional Council Tax for the Parish portion of their overall bills.
- Grants given to Toddler Group (£150), Citizens Advice Bureau (£350) and St. Swithun's PCC (200.00) (further £1350 for the PCC in the current financial year).
- Donations were received from two sources towards cleaning the War Memorial.

Community projects

- New picnic area next to play area – completed
- New playing field fencing – completed
- New/replacement play equipment – completed
- Dead trees and scrub clearance on playing field providing additional recreational space and a better appearance – completed

- Tennis courts refurbishment/upgrade – in progress
- Extensive Village Hall refurbishment – in progress
- Pavilion upgrade to reflect huge success of youth football programme and provide appropriate facilities for potential future expansion of adult and youth activities – at fundraising stage
- War memorial cleaning – completed
- New website – completed
- Protection for war memorial triangle against vehicle damage – at planning stage.

Other Council activities

- Monthly Parish Council meetings
- Financial management
- Consideration of planning applications
- Management of village facilities
- Responding to issues from residents
- Continued communication with Barratt Homes to minimise issues
- Attendance at meetings and events with other organisations including:
 - Stroud District Council parish and town council liaison sessions
 - Regular liaison with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department
 - Village Hall Management Committee
 - Leonard Stanley Football Club
 - Village Welfare Committee
 - Stroud Parishes Cycling Promotion Group
 - Police liaison sessions
 - Gloucestershire County Council events
 - Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils training seminars
 - Regular liaison with Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Wardens
 - Representing the Parish Council at church events
- Attendance at Stroud District Council events connected with the revision to the District Local Plan and significant input on behalf of residents to this revision.
- Public meeting called to challenge a housing survey commissioned by a major property developer using a publicly-funded local institution without Parish Council consultation.

Thanks

- Maggi Mukasa for her litter-picking
- Steve Marshall for his village maintenance work
- Andy Beamish our SDC Neighbourhood Warden
- Steve Lydon and Nigel Studdert-Kennedy our District Councillors
- Loraine Patrick our County Councillor
- Irena Litton our Clerk
- Our Parish Councillors for their time and effort given for no financial remuneration
- All our clubs and societies who make the village a vibrant community

3. Reports from Village Organisations: - Reports were received from the following organisations (see Appendix 1):-

- County Cllr Loraine Patrick
- District Cllr Steve Lydon and District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
- Football Club
- Litter-pick
- Newsletter
- Safari Supper
- Village Hall Management Committee
- Welfare Trust and Rishton Education Foundation
- W.I.

4. Issued raised by attendees

- Old telephone kiosk, Seven Waters – has the council decided on its future use?

The Chairman advised that once the volunteers have painted it, the Council will consider its future use.

- Potholes outside the Village Hall and Marsh Lane junction.

The Clerk confirmed that the potholes have been reported and that Highways have stated that they will continue to just temporary repair outside the Village Hall, until the development has been completed.

- Can some of the S.106 monies be used to refurbish the schools toilets.

The Chairman advised the S.106 monies allocated to the Parish Council are for Recreational purposes only; however, the school has also been allocated S.106 funding.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10 pm.

Appendix One

County Cllr Loraine Patrick – Annual Report

- County Council tax increased by 4.99% overall this year – listed on Council tax bill as 2.5% GCC increase and Adult Social Care levy of 2%. We expect Gloucestershire's council tax to be the third lowest of any county council in England (£1.57 pa higher than lowest for Band D), and lower than every neighbouring county.
- Despite keeping tax down, the budget this year increases investment in key areas:
 - £2m extra to protect older people
 - £11m extra for children and young people
 - Year 2 of £150m investment into road resurfacing
 - £45m for Gloucestershire schools (part of our overall £100m commitment)
- Demand continues to grow in key areas.

The level of children in care has increased by 39% since 2014 (478 – 707).
Since 2015, the number of children requiring a Educational Health and Care Plan (what used to be called a statement of special educational need) has increased by 47%.
The level of older people in Gloucestershire has grown by 28% since 2007, with projections showing that the number of older people needing help with an illness or disability will increase by 41% in the next 11 years.
- Research in the Municipal Journal (27 Feb 19) puts Gloucestershire County Council 7th out of 150 English councils in care for older people.
- The recently agreed budget provides the 2nd year of the Conservative £150m investment road resurfacing programme. In its first year, this saw 164 projects carried out across the Gloucestershire, with over 108km of roads resurfaced and 60km surface dressed.
- Since the start of April 2018, the council has repaired almost 50,000 potholes on Gloucestershire roads – with over 99% repaired on time.
- This year's budget also provides every councillor with £25,000 of Highways Local funding to invest in repairing and upgrading roads and footpaths in their division.
- Key route announcement for the A417 Missing Link are expected in March. Total cost of £500m. Work on improving Junction 10 on the M5 (West Cheltenham) to increase capacity and build to a full junction with access/leave both North and South directions continues. GCC will also be bidding for funds to expand Cheltenham's Arle Court Park and Ride.
- The £100m investment into Gloucestershire schools continues this year, with a range of capital projects, including a brand new secondary school for Cheltenham. Extra government help for Gloucestershire schools saw a further £1.35m in funding this year and next year to help cope with demand. The county council and local MPs continue to lobby for the new, fairer, national funding formula to be brought in more quickly.
- Homelessness: Thanks to a £950,000 investment from the Government, the county council is opening two new centres in Cheltenham and Gloucester to support homeless people. As well as help with accommodation, the centres will offer specialist support for mental health and substance abuse.
- Javelin Park – The new incinerator is due to begin testing shortly, and be fully operational from the summer. Although costs did increase as a result of the legal challenge from Stroud District Council, the plant will still save Gloucestershire County Council £100m compared to the situation today. It will also cut CO2 emissions by the equivalent of 20,000 tonnes each year, generate enough electricity for 25,000 homes and stop Gloucestershire's reliance on landfill.
- Cutting our carbon emissions: Even before the effects of Javelin Park, Gloucestershire County Council has reduced its carbon emissions by over 52% since 2008. We achieved the government emission reductions pledge years early, and are on track for our target of a 60% reduction by 2021.
- Fastershire – We are investing a further £1.4m from April into delivering fast broadband right across the county. So far, over 97% of homes and businesses have access and work continues on the hardest to reach areas.
- 5G – The county council allocated £25,000 to ensure that Gloucestershire is ready for 5G mobile internet, helping to support county businesses and protect jobs.

Introduction

Whilst we are members and supporters of different parties and do, of course, have differing opinions and views on certain topics, we continue to endeavour to work together for our local communities. We believe that there is more to be gained by supporting and advocating realistic solutions than petty party political point scoring. All involved in local government face difficult challenges including a shortage of resources to meet ever increasing demands. For example a severe shortage of affordable housing

District News

In terms of changes at Stroud District, David Hagg the long serving Chief Executive retired in Autumn of last year. In his place we now have Kathy O’Leary as a new Chief. Kathy has spent some time with us here in the Stanleys to better understand the local area. Kathy is very keen to build effective working relationships with all Parish and Town Councils and ensure that local services are delivered in a professional way meeting customer expectations.

In relation to customer feedback, SDC undertakes annual surveys of business and residents as one way of measuring effectiveness. These surveys show consistently high satisfaction levels.

On particular services it’s pleasing to note that with the increasing focus on climate change and its effects, one of the council’s five main priorities is to help the community minimise its carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and recycle more.

It is the first carbon neutral council in Europe and is aiming for the whole district to be carbon neutral. Stroud District Council has been shortlisted in the Food Waste Initiative category for its food waste collection, and in the Local Authority Success – Overall Service Change category, for cutting waste to landfill.

Latest Defra figures show that Stroud district residents lead the way in England, putting out an average of just 258.6kg of residual waste per household in 2016/17.

The Defra figures also showed that the council and Ubico (wholly owned subsidiary of local authorities in Gloucestershire) have achieved a 61.2 per cent household recycling rate – up a massive 15.7 per cent on the year before.

On the thorny topic of planning both of us work to monitor and consider planning proposals in the area and flag up problems if conditions are not being met when permissions have been given. We recently met with the legal officers at SDC to look at the whole topic of how and when SDC uses its legal powers to prosecute/ hold to account those who break planning law.

The Local Plan.

This is the key local strategy for planning and development in the District. Stroud faces ever increasing demand for housing reflected by increased targets from government. This problem is being addressed in the current review of the Local Plan with a view to reducing the concentration and impact of new developments to give a more even distribution across the district.

The Stanleys Ward

The Ward has seen much development on recent years, and we are both committed to fight further large scale developments in our villages and are endeavouring to get cross party support for our stance.

Anti-social Behaviour,

This includes litter, noise, dog fouling, parking and speeding. We live in a beautiful part of the world, however many of the complaints etc. that we receive could be avoided by people being more considerate of their neighbours and the environment in which we live.

Thanks

We wish to record our thanks to all the Parish Cllrs and their respective clerks in particular Rob Bayliss as Chair and Irena Litton, Clerk of Leonard Stanley together with Lawrie Hall as Chair and Frances Ashfield, Clerk of Kings Stanley who do much unsung work for and on behalf of our communities. Also we wish to acknowledge and thank our local County Cllrs Steve Robinson and Lorraine Patrick.

Conclusion

We are available to take up issues etc. on behalf of our local communities, please continue to work with us. We can't always promise to resolve matters but will do our best to support you to at least get an answer from the powers that be.

Football Club report by Andy Roberts, Chairman of Leonard Stanley Football Club.

Mens

Despite a turbulent year and struggles on the pitch, the club encountered much changes with a family ethos being at the forefront of these changes. This included being more inclusive when it came to organising events, the personnel within the club and the way approaching a match day. This included organising an end of season presentation day, this allowed family's, friends and guests from the village to enjoy a free BBQ and witness a fun game, bouncy castle, a presentation and games after. This was very positively received from all. A night out at the dogs, this included mainly partners and food, family quiz night and race night to name a few. Also the teams now clean changing rooms they visit and how they conduct themselves on and off the pitch being more scrutinised by the committee.

A bad season on the pitch seen the first team relegated to northern senior division 2, this has been on the cards for some years and the reserves finishing mid-table in Stroud league division 6. We are also very excited on the development of the new building and continue to work with the council to gain the best possible outcome and would like to thank you all for your considerable support and for recognising the need for the facility to improve, which I hope we can all find use out of. #

This year the club has also gained charter standard recognition that recognised and supports the football club with the way it is ran within the committee.

Also the committee have never been so strong with regards to volunteers and also echo the relationship between the club including the tour and the council, which we can't express our gratitude enough.

Youth

The youth continues to grow from strength to strength, the youth now run sides from the minies (under 6s) all the way to under 13s. It is now come apparent if the youth continue to expand, alternative space will need to be sort. The men's have agreed the under 14s to be played on the mens pitch next year, however other places for teams needs to be looked at. With some pitches being used 3 times on a Saturday morning to give an example.

The parking issues all understand and are attempting to work with all parties and thank the village hall for their cooperation.

We currently have 105 children registered on our books and continue to grow naturally, this year we have seen a more tighter line of operation ran by Sarah Bonehill that has toed in line with the FA future policies.

I as chairman of the youth will be stepping down at the end of this season, due to time restraints, however feel now the committee is strong enough to continue to grow from strength to strength and continue a close strong bond with the men's.

Regards

Andrew Roberts (chairman of LSFC).

Litter Picking 2019 – Report by Maggi Mukasa

This is my 7th year of litter picking and despite regular trips around the village there is always more litter next time I visit.

Annoyingly I can clear a good chunk of the village then go out later during the day only to find someone has dropped something where I have just cleared.

I still average 6 to 8 sacks a month. The roads most strewn with litter are the two roads coming into the village from Stonehouse. I can only imagine it is easy to throw car contents easily without being seen.

There has been the usual consumable items but annoyingly there can be domestic rubbish also.

I try and recycle as much as I can before I consign the rest to the rubbish bin.

I 'm afraid I didn't organise an Annual Spring Pick this year as I have had such a poor turn out the last two times I organised it.

I have been lucky enough to have a young person in the village taking part in her Duke of Edinburgh good award and this has really helped me to keep more on top of the rubbish. I am also just about to take on another person shortly which will be a great help. This really is as good as an annual pick so I am grateful for the help.

My thanks also to Stroud District Council who keep me supplied with large, sturdy black plastic bags which are strong and suited for the job.

I genuinely believe the vast majority of the villagers are respectful of our environment and help towards keeping the village clean and litter free so my thanks to them also.

Newsletter Report by Maggi Mukasa

Our fortnightly newsletter continues despite our digitalised world.

We have 500 copies printed every fortnight and there are very few left over by the time they have been delivered. It is available online but lots of people choose to have a paper copy to refer to .

The price of the newsletter continues to be the £3.50 per year . The only expense of the newsletter is the printing as all the other work is done by volunteers.

The following people are part of the group that keeps the newsletter running

Editor Sarah Shaw Maslin

Deliverers

Jill Hutchins

Carole Maguire

Sue Cole

Mary Herbert

Glynnis Cook

Dave Camm

Nicola Hillary

Audrey Webb

Irene Litton

Mary Nash

Judy Turner
Maggi Mukasa
Neil Utting
Tony Cawston
Alice
Brenda Hallet
Ali Hubble

Without these people there would not be a newsletter so a huge Thankyou to them

Safari Supper 2019 Report by Maggi Mukasa

This year was our 11th Safari Supper and we estimated that we will have sent at least £18000 to charity during that time.

We always make sure that various aspects of the Village get a share of the money raised but we send some to other charities both national and international also.

Eating and drinking whilst socialising is such a pleasant way to raise money and even more fun is had during the auction at the end of the evening.

Last year we asked for a donation of a tin for the food bank and we had an astonishing amount of donations.

What a pleasure it was to see the Food Bank in operation in Brinscombe . My car was absolutely full and I had three people helping me to unload at the Centre.

This year we donated our money to WI Christmas boxes, Debra , Medicines Des Frontieres, Sara, Air Ambulance, Village Hall, David and Eloise Newton (for Radford)and Meningitis.

As usual we had great fun this year. A full hall, lots to eat and some fantastic auction prizes.

Maggi Mukasa

Village Hall Management Committee – Report by Lisa Walters

We have had a very busy year which has seen us be able to achieve the completion of the toilets with the support of the Parish Council and the 106-building money, and we thank everyone who has contributed to this being achieved. This project was something we have been trying to achieve for several years so it is brilliant to finally have them finished. We are exceptionally pleased with the toilets and hope that everyone who uses them have seen the benefit. Kerry's Maintenance, who completed the building works, worked well with us and to our timescales.

We have also had new windows fitted in the hall, once again working closely with the Parish Council to achieve this. The external stonework is due to be repaired, and the inner secondary glazing will be removed improving the appearance of the hall and accessibility of the now opening windows. We have many other projects in the pipeline that will continue to improve the hall for its users including the removal of the bar area, this being our next big project.

We thank our hall users for their support during the building works which was understandably difficult at times to maintain their regular slots. Presently our regular users include Yoga, Toddlers, Art Workshop, Wine Circle, W.I., Women's Fellowship, Parish Council, Dog Training, Bingo, School of Canine and between October and March Boot Camp and of course the Social Club. We are very grateful to all those groups who regularly use the hall as these provide our core funding and enable us to keep the hall maintained. We are extremely grateful to the groups and individuals who have supported the hall through donations including the Safari Supper, and their support is invaluable to us.

Fundraising events have included regular monthly coffee mornings where we also have a book sale. We have also started our cinema club and this has been a huge success and has been running for almost a full year. Membership numbers are high, the films have been well received, and we look forward to having an even more successful year next year. Huge thanks to everyone who has supported this venture and to those who work so hard to make the event run smoothly.

Car parking issues have improved this year with increasing cooperation between village hall and football club although there have been issues for one particular regular hall hirer and so we need to keep this issue open and address the problems with the football club.

We warmly welcome Kamilya Le Masurier into the new role of hall manager, which combines the bookings secretary along with all aspects of hall management. We thank Maureen Kerry for her support to the VHMC as bookings secretary for several years.

Finally, we would like to thank the committee who continue to work hard and remain committed to ensuring the future of the village hall. We look forward to the following year and the updates to the hall that this will bring.

Village Hall Management Committee

Welfare Trust Report by Cllr Chris Connett

- New car park.
- Fenced off paddock between allotments and the field.
- Several allotments have been taken up by new residents to the area.
- There are only 2 plots currently available.

LEONARD STANLEY WI - REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Chris Phillips, Secretary to LS W.I.

Unfortunately, this will be the last report from myself representing Leonard Stanley WI as we have made the decision to finish at the end of this year. After running for over 60 years this has not been an easy decision but with no one willing to take over as President, Secretary or Treasurer or serve on the committee there is no other option.

We had hoped that newcomers to the village might have joined and taken over, but this has not happened. The average age of our WI is in late 70's and a lot have already served on the committee over the years and don't want to do it again. The WI has been involved with the village for many years, providing teas, cakes etc for lots of occasions and also fund raising. However, the good news is that we are hoping to run a Social club for men and women on the 2nd Monday afternoon of the month which will work out a lot cheaper, (WI membership is £42 pa) with the occasional speaker, various activities and of course a welcome cup of tea and hopefully will be well supported. Also some of us will join either Frocester or Stonehouse WI's. We will still continue to raise money for charities. Despite everything we have a full programme for this year with some interesting speakers. Our monthly lunch outing is always well supported and our Christmas Tea Party a resounding success.

We held a Lent Lunch raising money for the Willow Trust and helped with the Plant Stall on 4th May and will be running a Macmillan coffee morning in September. We also were heavily involved with knitting ourselves and getting the village as well to knit poppies in remembrance of the First World War. We decorated two large and one small cross which were erected on the village green by the War Memorial and what was left over went towards the cascade of poppies from the Church Tower. We aim to finish the year with a special Christmas Party and as they say 'go out with a bang'!

We have made a lot of friends through WI over the years and I am sure most of us will still keep in touch.