

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in The Main Hall,
Leonard Stanley Village Hall on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at 8 p.m.

Those Present: Cllrs Rob Bayliss (Chairman), Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Chris Connett, Stuart Craddock, Graham Davies, Sue Davies, Phil Herbert, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, Dave Camm, Martin Sheppard, Dave Pearson, Dave Longworth, Maureen Kerry, Mike Gadd, Dorothy Clark, Mr D Phillips and Mrs Chris Phillips.

Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Lydon, PCSO Liz Ward, Maggi Mukasa, Steve Watson, Tim Smith, Diane Odell, Jill Hutchings and Jean Edwards.

1. Previous Minutes: The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 were accepted as a true record.

2. Reports on the activities of the Parish Council: The newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council Rob Bayliss introduced himself and thanked Graham Davies for his service as the previous Chairman.

Graham Davies presented an update of the following activities undertaken in the past year:-

- Mankley Field Planning Application - approved by the Planning Inspector. The High Court action by Stroud District Council regrettably failed.
- Pre application presentation was received for the land west of the Grange (Greenstiles). A public meeting will be called if an application is received.
- Village Design Statement - progressing well, currently in the evidence gathering stage. The VDS can't stop development but can influence the number of dwellings and design.
- Police – The Parish Council met with the police of several occasions to discuss concerns and what action could be taken regarding break-ins and inconsiderate parking.
- Gap between the Village Hall and Pavilion – sleepers have installed to make more difficult for vehicles to cross but still accessible for pedestrians.
- Remembrance Sunday – The Parish Council supported a road closure of The Street, to ensure this years' 100 commemoration was not disturbed by traffic.
- The Parish Council received a grant from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council to purchase an external table tennis table for the park.
- Have received confirmation that the Parish Council has been successful in their bid for £5,000 from Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together Grant (which Cllr Steve Lydon supported) - further funds of approx. £20,000 will still need to be raised to completely refurbish the tennis courts.

- The Parish Council have provided grants to: Twinning Association, Stroud Citizen Advice Bureau, The Toddler Group and St Swithuns PCC (for maintaining the churchyard).

Cllr Graham Davies then went on to thank all the Members and the Clerk for their support and thanked Cllr Rob Bayliss for now taking on the Chairmanship and offered his best wishes.

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

- County Cllr Steve Lydon
- District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
- Art Workshop
- Footpath Wardens
- Litterpick
- Mankley Field Action Group
- News sheet
- Police Report
- Twinning Association
- Village Hall Management Committee
- Website
- Welfare Trust and Rishton Education Foundation
- W.I.
- Wine Circle

4. Issued raised by attendees

- a. Public Rights of Way – still awaiting a response from Gloucestershire County Council and Amey regarding issues on the footpaths caused by the Motocross.
- b. Local Plan – The ‘Evidence in Public’ has recommenced following a break as the Inspector was unwell.
- c. Parking in the Village Hall car park, the sleepers have not stopped users of the football club parking in the village hall car park. It was advised that the sleepers were installed to prevent vehicles crossing the gap of the village hall car park and accessing the playing field.
- d. Concern was raised that the barrier to the pavilion car park may not be covered by insurance if left erect and someone was to suffer an injury.
- e. Pavements – lots of pavements around the village are uneven and make life difficult for the less mobile.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

County Cllr Steve Lydon

Thanks, I wish to start by thanking Irena your clerk and you as a Parish Council for all the work you have undertaken this year and for the support you have given me. Parish and Town Councils perform a key role in representing their local communities and I am keen that the County and District Councils give more powers to local councils.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues that I have taken up as a County Cllr. I will cover District matters in conjunction with my District colleague Cllr Nigel Studdert Kennedy.

1. AMEY and highways , this has been a constant source of complaint, it was the no. 1 issue when I was elected and remains so. Basic processes still need putting in place ie acknowledging and recording of complaints, completion and checking that work has been undertaken to a suitable standard. I will continue to raise and press on these issues. I question whether AMEY are able to deliver the service they said they could for the contract they bid for.
2. NHS , key issues which I have raised in my capacity as the County Health scrutiny committee chair include getting the health bodies to work better together after the Xmas A and E crisis, endeavouring to get the ambulance service meet its targets for emergency call outs particularly in rural areas. I have also questioned how effective the contracting out of key services will effect patient care, including out of hours GP service, non-urgent patient transport and hospital pharmacy services.
3. Public Transport - I have supported calls for greater consultation on fares and timetables, for both buses and trains and greater. The recent bus survey consultation time was extended following my intervention. I am keen to keep pushing for greater integration between bus and train services, ensuring that the greatest advantage comes to the area of the new First Great Western franchise eg more services.
4. Incinerator- sadly despite huge opposition from a wide range of groups, other than a successful legal challenge from Stroud DC it is now very likely it will be built.
5. Living Wage- following pressure from myself and other cllrs, agreement was reached to pay all council staff the Living wage. However, the majority of council services are out placed to contractors eg in the area of adult social care where many of the care workers are on zero hours contracts, are not paid for travel , receive little training with some not even being paid the minimum wage . Yet the more elderly people we can keep at home by proper care. The less pressure and cost savings there are in hospital and residential care. I am pressing for the Living wage to be paid to staff who work in contracted out services.
6. Car Parking- another problem is the shortage of parking in our area. For residents and employees, there are problems. In key areas such as Cam and Dursley station, some extra spaces have been gained. However, am keen to work with local councils to achieve more spaces.
7. Local funds - highways, active together and youth fund. Each county Cllr has local funds to support projects/organisations. A number of local bodies have received support incl. Dursley brownies, All Sorts, Dursley girls football team, Dursley rugby club, St Josephs school Nymphsfield, Frocester cricket Club, The Vibe and World Jungle. In terms of highways work has still to be started on projects in Coaley and Dursley.

Future issues:-

All the above, plus the future shape of local government in Gloucestershire, who and how it will be delivered, how do you wish to see it organised in the future?

Finance - local government has borne the brunt of austerity measures, what services are vital to you? Are you supportive of raising council tax?

District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

As you are all aware by far the greatest concern over the last twelve months has been housing development. At present while the appeal against the development of Mankley Field was not successful there remains the possibility of its not being developed due to a change of status.

The contract for the Mankley Road re-development, which has been delayed for so long, has now been signed and the contractor takes possession of the site on 1st June.

Since your last annual meeting the District Council has:-

1. Agreed to proceed with the Local Plan and an agreed the inclusion of West of Stonehouse.
2. Agreed to have a shared Audit and Risk Management service with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council subject to final agreements.
3. Agreed to enter a contract with Ubico Ltd to provide Refuse and Re-cycling, Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Building Cleaning. This service will commence in 2016. Under this contract the Council purchases the equipment and leases it to Ubico to be used in the delivery of the service. This gives the Council greater control.

There has been a review of Ward Boundaries during the year. The Stanleys' Ward remains unchanged as does the total number of District Councillors. However the system for electing District Councillors has been changed from election by thirds to elections for all the seats every four years. This new cycle starts in May 2016.

I am pleased to report that Councils finances are in a healthy state and once again the external auditors have given a satisfactory report.

I congratulate all those who have worked so hard to try to protect the village from unwanted development. Your efforts are to be admired.

In conclusion I should like to record my thanks to my fellow District Councillor, Cllr Steve Lydon, for his willing co-operation in matters relating to the Stanleys Ward.

Art Workshop by Jean Edwards

Since the last Parish Meeting the Art Workshop has gone from strength to strength and we now have 20 members on the books. Many of our members have taken sessions of the workshop and so we have enjoyed a great variety of styles and practical mornings when we have been encouraged to let our imaginations roam (fairly wildly in some cases!) and have

had really enjoyable meetings. One meeting I remember was being given two paintings – in my case it was an Andy Warhol picture and ‘The Girl with Pearl Earring’ by Vermeer. Trying to translate Warhol’s portrait of Marilyn Monroe into the ‘The Girl with the Pearl Earring’ was quite a challenge! Dianne talked about her favourite artist and what she found fascinating about his work; Sarah suggested we gave our own interpretation of her favourite artist. Bailey demonstrated mono-printing which we all thoroughly enjoyed and got quite messy with it. Gerard gave us hints and tips on basis drawing techniques and Sarah and June brought along their very well behaved dogs for a ‘life drawing’ session (and yes, I did ask permission beforehand!). Barbara and Keith brought along some scraperboard materials and we all had a go at that with some really stunning results. We also went very small and tried our hand at 3”x3” miniatures.

We have also had two visiting artists to the Workshop – Roger Jones, who held a demonstration followed by a workshop on watercolour painting and Mark Kelland who demonstrated using acrylic paint with the use of palette knives and we are looking forward to Kevin Line coming to join us for a session on the use of charcoal in portrait painting.

So far this year the Workshop has enjoyed a great variety of demonstrations in very different media and the members have had a really enjoyable and positive time.

Something I really must mention is our book. Iris suggested some time ago that we could perhaps produce a book of our work, similar to a booklet she picked up while on holiday. This came to fruition earlier this year with paintings submitted by many of our members. Gerard very kindly spent a lot of his time photographing the paintings, printing them and finally binding them in a ring-binder book form – small but very, very impressive.

Every member of the Art Workshop contributes to the success of the group and it now only leaves me to thank each and every one of the members for their help. Thank you all very much.

Footpath Warden Report by Dave and Heather Longworth

We are fortunate to have had many new kissing gates installed over previous years which have enabled us all to have easier access to the parish footpaths. Most of us now take these for granted and have forgotten negotiating difficult stiles.

However, the last year has been a bad year for improvements and maintenance to our public footpaths. Outsourcing of most of the Gloucester Council Public Rights of Way Department has resulted in a deterioration of footpath maintenance. They no longer seem interested in local footpaths and do not respond to communications. Footpaths crossing the Frocester Hill motocross circuit, just outside our parish, have been damaged and signs removed. The PROW department make no acknowledgement or response to our concerns.

We are pleased to report that the public footpaths over Mankley Field are now well established again and highlight the high usage of this public area.

As always, we would like to encourage everyone in the village to continue to make use of and enjoy the footpaths network. It is a pleasant way of keeping fit and healthy.

Litter Pick Report by Maggi Mukasa

This is my fourth year as the Village Litter Picker and it continues to be amazing, interesting and frustrating.

Amazing is the range of items I find strewn on the roadside. The majority has been thrown out of vehicles and in addition to the normal consumable packaging I have found a full black plastic sack of perfume bottles, a carcass, microwave and a box of kitchen equipment! I continue to average collecting three to four sacks a fortnight and the majority is found on the main road through to Kings Stanley and the outlying roads. Many of the small inner village roads are very clean and I know that lots of people pick up rubbish as they walk around the village.

This year I have had two assistants which has been wonderful. Jake Herbert and Pippa Spyvee are both doing their Duke of Edinburgh award and they have elected to litter pick as part of the voluntary work they have to carry out. I thank them for their commitment and reliability.

I am very grateful to the friends in the village who allow me to leave full bags of rubbish as I fill them. The bags are inclined to be very heavy and was it not for their kindness I would have to leave the full bags by the side of the road and collect them in a vehicle.

We had a very good turn-out for our Annual Litter Pick this year and together we managed to do a clean sweep of the entire village in two hours.

We are lucky enough to live in a lively village where people do care about their surroundings. I aim to continue with this task for some time to come.

Mankley Field Action Group (Village Green update) by Irena Litton

The Planning Application for Mankley Field was approved by the Planning Inspectorate. This judgement was challenged in the High Court by Stroud District Council but sadly this action failed to overturn the ruling. The situation is that Mankley Field has outlining planning permission for 150 dwellings. However, the Mankley Field Action Group is still pursuing the Village Green application, which if successful will ensure that it remains a field for general recreation and the farmer will still be able to use the land for grazing.

Last July the Mankley Field Action Group met with Chris Maile a Village Green adviser. In that meeting Chris made the group aware of an error in our application and advised the group to write to the Registration Authority (Gloucestershire County Council) to request an amendment. We duly wrote a few days later and were expecting that this was just a small formality which would be rectified without delay.

Gloucestershire County Council considered our request and after seeking legal advice refused the amendment which related to the first wheat crop. In the meantime we secured the services of a good barrister and legal rep, who are of the opinion that our request is fair and reasonable and that we should be allowed to include the other section (which relates to the wheat planting). Rowena Meager (which happened to be the barrister that GCC sought advice from) was appointed the Inspector and we were allowed to put our argument forward again, but unfortunately she could not make a ruling at the pre-inquiry (which only took place

in January this year), so the Inquiry was set for April, with the knowledge that this issue was still outstanding.

Early March, the Inspector made her decision to turn down our request. Our barrister Cain Ormondroyd advised us that he still thinks that the Inspector is incorrect in her ruling and that he would be happy to represent us on a No Win No fee basis if we decided to challenge her decision by way of Judicial Review. If we wished to go down this route then despite his kind offer we would still need some funding and we would also need to find a solicitor. Our guardian angel then came to our rescue again by the way of our Legal Rep Emma Montlake from the charity ELF who put us in touch with an excellent solicitor Adrienne Copithorne, who agrees with Cain's findings and would also agree to represent us on a No Win No fee basis.

The group agreed that we would like to proceed along the Judicial Review route and the High Court papers have been issued. We only received confirmation that the Inquiry was to be postponed about 10 days before it was due to commence. We now wait for the high court hearing and then we expect to be able to set another date for the Inquiry shortly after. We are extremely lucky to be represented by a top class legal team who are all going above and beyond for us; Emma, Cain and Adrienne – who we can't praise highly enough.

The group are extremely grateful to everyone who has taken the time to complete a questionnaire and or a witness statement. We also wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated funds in which has enabled us to continue the process, especially when we are up against the likes of Gladmans. We would also like to say thank you to those involved in the fund raising efforts; but especially Sue O'Driscoll who made all the gifts for the Easter Egg Hunt, Hayley Holland who made the wonderful chocolate cake, WI who provided the refreshments plus Maureen Kerry, Dave Kerry and Glenys Cook who helped out on the day.

Now I would like to make a few personal thanks you's; to Nicola Hilary who is our chief fund raising organiser and who put together the Easter Egg Hunt as well as making us a fabulous replica of Mankley Field for the Find the Scarecrow competition, Graham Davies and Diane Odell who have both worked tirelessly for the cause and who have probably not had a decent night's sleep since this all began 2 years ago and finally Sue Davies who is all of our go to person when we need something done or someone to bounce ideas off – it has been a privilege to be part of the team working with these inspirational individuals.

News Letter by Dorothy Clark

The Leonard Stanley News is still very popular in the Village, and is thriving with a healthy circulation. Our relationship with Zeta Printers is excellent and, as there was no change in cost to us this year, we have been able to keep the subscription the same as last year. We are a non-profit organisation, and all the time given for the production, sorting and distribution is voluntary. We are pleased to report that a donation of £100 was given to the Village Hall Fund.

Police Report by PCSO Liz Ward:-

Since January we have had reported to the police

3x Antisocial behaviour

2x Burglary non dwelling

3x Burglary Dwelling

1 x Criminal damage.

As from the 23rd of July the force is having a restructure so there will be The Response Team, Investigation Team & The Neighbourhood Team.

The PCSOs will be starting at 7am covering up till 12am.

Twinning Association by Michael Gadd

We have had another good year with our Twinning with our usual fundraising events. The quizzes especially are very good evenings with the cost of joining in the quiz and enjoying a good meal included in the ticket price.

When our friends from Dozule visit like Easter 2014 we try to think of things we have not done with them before. As they arrived late on Friday evening we decided to our welcome on the Saturday morning, doing bacon and sausage baps, which went down a real treat and thoroughly enjoyed by all. As usual Dolores and Mike Merrett went over taking all our crafts to have stall at the Christmas Market and it was very profitable, with homemade marmalade and our Christmas decorations that had been knitted and crocheted.

This year is our 45th Anniversary and a party of 15 went to Dozule to enjoy another great weekend at Easter. Well we did a car Treasure Hunt very interesting when you speak very little French and you have to find information to complete the answers. Great fun and areas we have never been before but would like to go again, as it is a special year our friends will be visiting us in Leonard Stanley in October so we are preparing a good itinerary for the weekend.

It has been a very sad time for us a Twinning this year, in the last six months we have long three long serving members, Janet Ptiman, Edna Ellis and Leon Green, who has done so much for the Association and will be very much missed. We are in the process of enquiring whether we can provide a commemorate bench in memory of all our past members as we think they deserve to be remembered.

Village Hall Management Committee by Maureen Kerry

The Village Hall Management Committee continue to be dedicated to the success and usability of the hall for all who wish to use it within the village and surrounding areas. We are constantly updating and maintaining the hall to improve its general appearance and to provide the users of the hall with a safe and pleasant space.

Rental income is down on again on last year because of losing some regular bookings, but as a result of donations and fundraising our total income has stayed roughly the same. We are extremely grateful to those who have supported the hall through donations including the Safari Supper, the Monday Club, the newsletter, David Camm, B Cook and Dave Kerry. We are also pleased that the Toddler group has reopened and thank those running it for their support to parents within the local villages.

Groups still using the hall are Yoga, Line Dancing, Art Workshop, W.I. Toddlers, Wine Circle, Parish Council, School of Canine, Referees and between October to March Boot Camp.

Fundraising continues to be important as presently we are updating the lighting in the hall. The aim is to provide a better source and type of lighting within the hall, whilst also potentially reducing electricity costs and improving the safety aspects of replacing the bulbs. Fundraising events have included a quiz and rummage sale.

Lastly I would like to thank the committee who work hard and remain committed to ensuring the future of the village hall.

Website by Steve Watson

Steve Watson manages the web site on behalf of the village. The cost of hosting with 1&1 (around £100 per year) is met by the Parish Council.

The website aims to be an electronic focus for Leonard Stanley by:

- Providing information on the history and geography of the village
- Providing news, reviews and information
- Offering a web presence to village organisations so they may advertise, inform and entertain
- Publishing Parish Council documents
- Publishing the fortnightly “Leonard Stanley News” (Thanks to Dorothy Clark and her team)

The use of the website is increasing, in line with general internet usage, with around 5,000 hits per year i.e. around 420 individuals viewing the site every month. The Leonard Stanley Website hit counter is currently at 50,635.

The Leonard Stanley website is unique in having the website address displayed on the road signs at the village entrances giving visitors the opportunity to read about the village’s history, activities and organisations as well as news – courtesy of the Leonard Stanley News Sheet. The website relies on information provided by local people and everyone is asked to review and update the information on their organisations. The website is viewed by people from around the UK as well as keen readers from Canada, Australia and South Africa. The plan for the website in 2015 is to change the design to make it more “friendly” to view on mobile devices.

Welfare Trust & Rishton Education Foundation by Dave Camm

The Welfare Trust during 2014 has been able to continue to let all the land it has in trust, all the non allotment fields are let on a 11 month grass keep agreements. And we now have 107 plots with the exception of two occupied by 80 allotment holders, and there is no waiting list.

The trust was able to make various grants in 2014 totalling £800 for 4 youngsters entering tertiary education, and in addition a further £390 shared between the PCC, VHMC and Toddlers to assist in the spiritual and social needs of the Village.

The trusts are administered by 5 trustees (2 Church appointees 2 Parish Council appointees and one co-opted allotment holder) They were Mr. Nick Roberts chair Mr. Reg Helson both for the church, Mrs Sue Davies and Mr. Chris Connett for the Parish Council and myself to represent the allotment holders. Mr Roberts and Mr Helson have been replaced by Mr. John Hanvey, better known as Paddy, and the Reverend Peggy Ludlow

Should anyone living in Leonard Stanley or King's Stanley like an allotment I can add their names to the list, similarly if any youngster residing in Leonard Stanley and is about to enter tertiary education or an apprenticeship this year and would like to apply for some financial assistance please let me have their details in a sealed envelope and I will present them to the allocations meeting in September so that the trustees can decide on its merits for financial help.

Women's Institute by Maureen Kerry

This has been a happy and successful year for the W.I. in our village. Our membership remains pretty steady at 35 and meetings are well attended.

We have enjoyed an interesting range of subjects from our speakers, including talks by Mark Cummings from BBC Radio Gloucestershire, a demonstration of Autoharps (an instrument totally unknown to most of us before then), a talk about the Walled Garden Project in Stratford Park and another about the Great Flood of 1607. A member of the Yeomen of the Guard told us about the history of the guard and their current duties and we were able to handle some of his very heavy uniform and admire his hat (£400!) and ruff. Three of our own members took a hands-on session of different crafts in January, and this was much enjoyed. We were able to visit Corsica and Russia from our own chairs when we had talks about these two very different destinations. Additionally we had our annual Ploughman's lunch in August and a Christmas Party, with entertainment in December. We would have enjoyed the party even more if the hall had not been so cold.

At our meetings we aim to have a social time, and sometimes we have a good book stall or Bring and Buy stall, and sometimes we have a display on a theme. This year we have had displays of holiday photos, of pretty or amusing Christmas cards and photos on the theme of water. It is always interesting to hear what members have to say about their contribution. Several good outings have been enjoyed, aided by the lovely weather last summer. First off was a trip to Tredegar House, then a boat trip on the Sharpness Canal. Finally in the autumn a visit to Ross Labels proved popular.

Aside from the monthly meetings we go out for a pub lunch once a month, and hold regular craft sessions. A DVD afternoon to see a film about old Stroud was a hit, the card and Scrabble players enjoyed an afternoon of not-too-serious games, and a lovely July afternoon saw us trying our hand at croquet and lawn bowls. Our quiz enthusiasts are taking part in the county quiz, but also in a various local fund-raising quiz evenings.

Members are very supportive of charity events. 32 shoe boxes were sent off to Operation Christmas child, some of them generously provided by non-members. Our penny collection each month accumulated over £83 for the Crack Cancer campaign. Stalls at the Plant Sale enabled a donation of £220 to go to the Air Ambulance, and the Lent lunch raised £214 for the Willow Trust. Members were happy to provide a good selection of cakes for the Easter Egg Trail.

This year marks the centenary of the W.I. movement, and in March the centenary baton arrived in Leonard Stanley on board a well decorated trailer featuring items connected with the woollen industry since we are part of the Weavers' Group of W.I.s. After a few lean years

the W.I. nationally is growing again with many new (and rather trendy!) W.I.s being formed. We cannot claim to be trendy but we do provide a friendly meeting point for our members and the opportunity to belong to a movement which was at the forefront of speaking up for women's role in society.

Wine Circle by Chris Phillips

The Wine Circle continues to flourish and we have a very healthy membership with the monthly meetings being well attended despite the cold weather in the winter, both inside and outside the hall.

There have been a few changes to the committee with Tim Smith stepping up into the role of Chairman and myself Chris Phillips as Secretary due to Nick Roberts planning to leave the area. Bob Britton as Vice Chairman and Tim Vale continuing as Treasurer.

As usual we have had a varied and interesting programme, ranging from our own Noel Baker giving an inspiring talk on his life, Life and work on large sailing ships, Experience of a Stunt Artist, Life of an Auctioneer – making us all want to search our attics etc for hidden treasures and Micro Farming by local Vernon Gibberd, and this month something for the ladies a talk on Japanese Embroidery, plus others. Members enjoyed a trip to Bristol Harbour with an excellent meal, the annual Garden Party at The Grange and a Christmas Dinner in the village hall where we were entertained by Stroud Uke who had us all singing and feet tapping. In January we again enjoyed a Burns Supper which Pat Britton and her ladies cooked, with the ladies providing delicious puddings and Bob Britton did his usual excellent 'addressing the Haggis'.

This year our annual outing is to Westons Cider at Ledbury with a meal afterwards and this is proving very popular. The programme for 2016 has mostly been confirmed and last but not least we have our own website within the Village website designed by Noel Baker.

Beside our monthly meeting which is held the last Wednesday of every month, we also entered a team in the St George's Church Quiz and did well. We are a happy crowd who meet socially and enjoy a good speaker, a glass of wine and always an appetizing supper supplied by members.