

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in The Main Hall, Leonard Stanley Village Hall on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 8 p.m.

Those Present: Cllrs Rob Bayliss (Chairman), Graham Davies, Sue Davies, Phil Herbert, Steve Lydon, County Cllr Loraine Patrick, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, Pamela Fawkes, Christine Phillips, Maureen Kerry, Dave Camm, Pat Hearne, Wendy Hanvey, John Hanvey and Maggie Mukasa.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Chris Connett and Stuart Craddock, Carol Maguire, Rosemary Reeves, Tim Smith, Caroline Holmes and Tim Merrett.

1. Previous Minutes: The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 were accepted as a true record.

2. Reports on the activities of the Parish Council:

The Chairman Rob Bayliss reported in detail on the following:-

1. Finances

- Small excess of current account expenditure over income of £373.21 out of a total spend of £29311.15 (excluding VAT) in financial year 2017-2018 which reflects careful financial planning.
- Overall Council Tax precept for financial year 2018-2019 increased to £30000.00 to cover slightly increased expected expenditure and maintain reserves but this has been possible with no increase in the amount paid by residents at Band D owing to the increased number of occupied properties in the Parish.
- Future precepts will be helped by further additional households.
- Grants given to Toddler Group (£150), Citizens Advice Bureau (£350) and St. Swithun's PCC (200.00).
- "Section 106" funds from the Mankley Field development for community capital projects now coming on-stream.
- Regularly seeking funding / grants from a variety of sources.

2. Community projects

- New picnic area next to play area
- New playing field fencing
- New/replacement play equipment
- Dead trees and scrub clearance on playing field providing additional junior football space
- Tennis courts refurbishment/upgrade
- Extensive Village Hall refurbishment
- Substantial Pavilion upgrade to reflect huge success of youth football programme and provide appropriate facilities for potential future expansion of adult and youth activities
- War memorial cleaning

- Protection for war memorial triangle against vehicle damage
- Seven Waters phone box purchase and change of use
- New website
- Defibrillator - training on 23 May 2018

3. Regular work

- 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 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

4. Other work

- Attendance at Stroud District Council local plan review presentation event
- Input to the local plan review
- Representing the Parish Council at church events

5. Thanks

- Dave and Heather Longworth our footpath wardens
- 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):-

- District Cllr Steve Lydon
- District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
- County Cllr Loraine Patrick
- Litter-pick
- Newsletter
- Safari Supper

- Toddler Group
- Twinning Association
- Village Hall Management Committee
- Welfare Trust and Rishton Education Foundation
- W.I.
- Wine Circle
- Yoga

4. To consider 'How long wreaths should be left at the War Memorial'.

It was agreed to continue with the current protocol; where the poppy wreaths will remain until approximately September each year (when they look tired and worn). The Council will investigate a suitable fixture to enable this.

The W.I. agreed that their knitted poppies will be erected to coincide with the British Legion launching of their annual Poppy Appeal (last week in October).

5. To request suggestions for how best to utilize the newly adopted telephone kiosk at Seven Waters.

The Chairman listed the ideas already received:

- Library / book swap.
- Defibrillator.
- Tourist / Information Centre.

A suggestion made at the meeting was for a Community Fridge; where residents going on holiday could leave their left over goods.

Another suggestion put forward was for the kiosk to be moved to a more central village location; there were mixed reviews as to whether this was good idea.

6. To 'launch' a new village website.

The Council thanked Steve Watson for ably managing the old village website; which will now be replaced by the Council's own website.

The Clerk gave the attendees present a demonstration and invited groups / business to create a page on the site and advertise their events.

7. Issued raised by attendees

- Mr Hanvey raised the issues of cars going too fast along Church Road. It was confirmed that a 20mph zone had been explored (for Bath Road past the school) with Gloucestershire Highways but were informed that this was unlikely.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Appendix 1.

LSPC ANNUAL REPORT by District Cllr Steve Lydon

Local Government Finance

The pressure on local Govt finance is growing year on year. Locally Gloucester City Council have dropped from over 300 staff to 180. Nationally we have seen Northamptonshire County Council being declared technically bankrupt with their external auditors reportedly not signing off their budgets. This will happen more and more, as demands particularly for social care and children services rise and Govt funding is further reduced in the name of austerity. Next financial year SDC is due to payback £549k to Govt.

On Thursday February 22 Stroud District Council set its Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. Council Tax is split between the county council, Gloucestershire Constabulary, the six district and borough councils in the county and the dozens of smaller town and parish councils. I set out below the council tax bills in Gloucestershire

If you live in Gloucester, your council tax bill for 2018/19, in a Band D property, will be £1,655.03.

The bill for a Band D home in Cheltenham Borough will be £1,661.71 , excluding parishes.

In Stroud, a Band D property will pay £1,660.20 , excluding parishes.

Forest of Dean will charge a Band D home there will pay £1,632.53 , excluding parishes.

In the Cotswolds a Band D household will be billed £1,585.10 , excluding parishes.

In Tewkesbury, the average Band D home will be paying £1,573.06, excluding parishes.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

The February 22 SDC full council also approved the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan following a local referendum. More and more of the District is now covered by NDPs. These have tended to be the larger Towns ie Stroud, Dursley and Stonehouse. I have raised again that for small parishes to be able to produce one they need greater resourcing from Govt. The plans though are supposed to set out where a local community wants development not where they don't want it.

Central Garage Kings Stanley

Some good news on the planning front to this this ongoing saga, ie of the houses built not following the agreed permission. Despite technically addressing the reasons to show they should get retrospective permission, painting the adjoining party wall white, opening of windows inwardly and concrete capping a part of the back garden which is contaminated the committee turned down the retrospective application. It will now go to a further appeal in June. We are still waiting on the County Council to determine whether the whole pavement can be designated as a public right of way which would further strengthen our case against the current buildings.

Housing and Road Chaos

Primarily because of the new developments at Woodside Lane and Mankley Field, we have had a number of road closures and continuing repairs. These have tested all of our patience and tolerance to the extreme. Not helped by the lateness of notification and confusion over dates. Also a point of concern is that the recent changes to Woodside Lane took place without any consultation with local residents and the parish council. I do of course welcome new residents at the new developments to the area and trust they will enjoy village life and be made as welcome as I and my family were when we moved here in 2003. In terms of future

developments, the current SDC Local Plan is being reviewed, Nigel and I will certainly continue to argue that the Stanleys have taken more than their fair share of large scale developments. Of course we still face a desperate shortage of affordable homes throughout the District.

Good News

The recent visit by HRH Prince Charles to formally celebrate the opening and completion of Phase 1 a of the canal project was a great day. The canal project has benefitted Stroud in many ways, an example being the increasing numbers of people walking and cycling along the tow path. It's a great credit to the countless hours of work that the volunteers have undertaken. A bid has been submitted to the heritage lottery fund to support the linking up of the canal to the national network at Saul, it would be great if this was to happen.

Thanks

I wish to record my personal thanks for all his hard work and counsel to my fellow District Cllr Nigel Studdert Kennedy. Also to Rob the Chair and to Irena the clerk for all the work they undertake on behalf of the Parish.

ANNUAL REPORT TO LEONARD STANLEY by District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

As you are all aware by far the greatest concern over the last twelve months has continued to be housing development. The works carried out on the roads in and out of the Stanleys over the past year have caused considerable disruption which was compounded by private utility works. There has been a noticeable increase in road traffic.

The government call for more house building could raise the numbers required in the Stroud District. The process is still ongoing and numbers will not be known for some time. It is perhaps worth making the point that Councils do not build houses but are held to account for delivery. This situation now appears on the point of being acknowledged and addressed by government as suggested by recent criticism of land banking. Those of you who follow the BBC's Country File may have noticed a few weeks ago that Gladmans activities in the property market did not receive any plaudits neither were they prepared to be interviewed. However Housing is still a requirement. The new developments have at least one single parent family for whom the system has worked. There are at least two more hoping to live locally on the Mankley Field development

It might be worth pointing out that whilst local objections and /or support are regarded as justifiable there are rules which apply and have to be followed. Two examples come to mind.

Firstly a development site has permission to convert four buildings to housing but a fifth on the same site is refused permission. At first this appears illogical but there is a reason. The fifth has a certificate of lawful use as a car repair shop and a change of use would effectively close down a business. One way to convert it is to apply for a change of use after the other conversions have been completed on the grounds that it is now in the middle of housing and therefore unsuitable in a domestic area. It may also be possible to make this argument in advance.

The second is vacant building credit. This applies on a site where a vacant building on a development site exceeds the minimum sq footage of an affordable dwelling (90 square metres). Separate affordable housing is not required because of the use of the vacant building for housing.

Further afield the Canal received further Royal approval with the recent visit of H.R.H. Prince Charles. The visit was very supportive and bodes well for future endeavours in this regard. A public announcement is due this week on the latest application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for work to connect the Stroud Water Canal to the Gloucester Sharpness Canal. The benefits to date of the canal project far exceed the original hopes of 10 years ago as the table below shows.

TARGET (2006 baseline)	Achieved 2006 – 14 (June 2015 S&R)	Current total (up to April 2017)
To lever £64 million of private investment in and around the area benefited by the Project.	£100,953,145	£115,000,000
To recycle 21 hectares of brownfield land as part of the Project including the 15 hectares of the canal itself	24.57	62.75
To create 14,000 sq m of new workspace in and around the area benefited by the Project.	21495	26162
To enable 31 new businesses to start up in and around the area benefited by the Project.	57	59
To create 220 new jobs (gross) and to assist 24 people to get a job and to assist 124 people with skills development in and around the area benefited by the Project.	687	772
To support the provision of 286 housing units in and around the area benefited by the Project	503	559

Plans are underway for a major redevelopment of Merrywalks Shopping Centre. Subject to Planning permission; when these are completed a much wider offer for shoppers will be available. Together with possible housing development above some of the shops the project offers solid progress for Stroud and District. In addition Stroud may soon have both Aldi and Lidl stores added to its shopping offer.

Finance.

As mentioned by my fellow Ward Councillor, Stephen Lydon, the District Council has to make savings like all others. Some of its spending plans have had to be curtailed and further restrictions may have to be used to balance the budget through to 2021. While the Council, unlike some others, is able to call upon its reserves, these are not inexhaustible and would also need to be rebuilt over time.

Borrowing, albeit at reasonable rates, only adds to the debt and the current government ceiling for council housing projects has already been reached. This particular element may be reviewed by government in the light of recent changes to the National Planning Policy. Nevertheless careful management is required.

I would like to record my thanks to my fellow Ward Councillor, Stephen Lydon, for his help and cooperation.

Nigel Studdert-Kennedy.
1/5/2018

Annual Report by County Councillor Loraine Patrick

County Council tax increase was 4.49% this year - listed on Council Tax bills as 2.5% GCC increase and ASC levy of 2%. Whilst it's one of the lowest increases of shire councils in the whole country - it's still more than we would like to increase.

* However, 2% of the increase is ring-fenced for Adult Social Care where demand is rising 4 - 5% a year. Good success in providing services to allow more people to remain their own homes, reducing the number in care homes.

* There is also increasing demand and costs of protecting vulnerable children. The number of Children in Care has risen about a third in the last two years to nearly 700. Children's Services are budgeted to cost £16 million a year more.

- * Two weeks ago, GCC started its spend of £150 million to give our highways network a once in a generation upgrade. Across the county you will see extensive resurfacing - to cut down future potholes, as well as more white lining; more footway schemes and more road drainage schemes.
- * This has been the worst Winter for Gloucestershire since 2009. We've already undertaken more than twice as many gritting runs as last year. It's also been a long winter so potholes have taken longer to repair. For potholes repairs to be successful long term the temperature needs to be above 5 degrees C.
- * Strategic Roads Network. Government has committed to funding the "missing link" on the A417. Total cost of £500m. It's also agreed to undertake an appraisal for Junction 10 on the M5 (West Cheltenham) to increase capacity and build in to a full junction (so join/leave both in North and South directions).
- * Public Rights of Way (PROW) officers brought back under GCC control.
- * Each county councillor has a budget of £20,000 to spend on local highways at their discretion, together with a £30,000 pot over three years for wider community support - which can be highways, youth activities or other community needs.
- * £50 million capital budgets approved towards new school (Cheltenham South East) and school improvements across the county - primary and secondary.
- * Plans now in place for 97% of Gloucestershire residents/businesses to have access to faster broadband. Percentage is rising all the time as we work out solutions for smaller settlements and more remote properties.
- * Council playing important role in providing 5000 apprenticeships across the county.
- * Welcome substantial additional national funding of £40 million for Gloucestershire Royal and Cheltenham General Hospitals.
- * Countywide spend on Mental Health services up. Take up on Flu vaccinations also higher.
- * All GCC libraries protected with enhanced services at many.
- * Road Safety Community Hub has been relaunched for residents and parish councils to log online their road safety concerns which are dealt with by a team comprising police, GCC Highways and Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue.
- * We are planning a roll out of a number of Electric Vehicle charging points across Gloucestershire.

Litter pick report by Maggi Mukasa

This will be my 7th year picking up litter around the village.

The volume continues to grow especially in the outlying roads of the village.

This year I have been lucky enough to have the help of Pippa Spyvee on a Wednesday afternoon. It has been part of her enrichment studies at Stroud High School. I just hope her experience with me has been enriching.

The new system of the Council collecting the rubbish is working well. I have been encouraged to recycle as much as possible and this has been very successful.

The variety of rubbish continues. Mostly consumables with fast food packaging, drink containers, and always a hub cap!!

I am aware there are lots of people in the village who pick up litter as they make their way round the village and I thank them for their efforts in making our village a pleasant place to live.

Safari Supper report by Maggi Mukasa

This year we had our 10th Safari Supper and it was every bit as successful as past ones have been.

We decided this year to ask for a donation of food to contribute to our local food bank. We had a huge response and ended up taking over 250 cans to the local food bank.

Each year we raise nearly £2000 and we have been able to help many many charities with the £20 thousand we have raised over the last twenty years..

In addition we support our local school, village hall and church and anything we feel needs support in the village.

It is our intention to continue this evening as it is a ray of light during the winter months, If you have never attended why not try it out!!

Newsletters report by Maggi Mukasa

The newsletter continues to be a good source of communication.

Each fortnight 450 plus copies are delivered around the village by our 16 deliverers Tim Vale, Jill Hutchins, Mary Herbert, Glenys Cook, Audrey Webb, Irena Litton, Nicola Hillary, Neil Utting, Brenda Hallet, Mary Nash, Judy Turner, Bernie Cave, Sue Glastonbury Cole, Tony Cawston, Dave Cam and me.

We have an excellent team and the system works well,

Together with our local website and Facebook page all age groups are catered for as far as communication is concerned.

We are very lucky to have all these people working together to provide this service.

Long may it continue!

Toddler Group report by Claire Collins

This year September 2017 to May 2018, has been a very successful time for the Toddler Group, thriving with a usual attendance of about 15/20 children accompanied by Mums, Nannies etc. Everyone seems to have a great time, kids joining in craft activities, dressing up, kitchens bits + pieces, castles, cars & garages, lots of toys, dolls pushchairs, tricycles etc. Mums etc. enjoying meeting others for a chat, a coffee/tea encouraging the children with their playing and activities. Before finishing the children have a snack and enjoy a music and singing time!

We have enjoyed two trips to Blooms for the play area, both trips were well attended!

Last July we were kindly invited to the "Teddy Bear Picnic" on the playing field by the Leonard Stanley Early Years. We all had a very happy time, everyone bringing food which we all shared.

At Christmas we had a lovely party, all the children were given a present by Father Christmas, they were all so excited! At Easter we had another party; the children wore their Easter Bonnets which they decorated, at the craft activity the week before. The children then took part in an "Egg Hunt" and were presented with an Easter Egg before going home.

We have been very lucky to receive several very kind donations during this year, we are very grateful to these people, we really do appreciate it, because of their kindness it has enabled us to buy Christmas presents, Easter Eggs etc. for the children.

We are looking forward to continuing with the same success we have enjoyed this year.

Before finishing, I must say a big "THANKYOU" to the great band of helpers who turn up every week to help run "Toddlers".

Leonard Stanley Village Hall 2017 report by the Secretary Lisa Walters

The Village Hall Management Committee look after and maintain Leonard Stanley Village Hall for all who wish to use it within the village and surrounding areas. Presently our regular users are Yoga,

Toddlers, Art Workshop, Wine Circle, W.I., Women's Fellowship, Parish Council, 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. Bookings for parties and other events have varied throughout the year however we are pleased that there has been an increase in bookings recently. We are extremely grateful to the groups and individuals who have supported the hall through donations, and their support is invaluable to us.

Fundraising, as last year, continues to be important as we have many projects that we would like to achieve. We are presently working with the Parish Council on our projects relating to the toilet renovation and window refurbishment and hope that these will be completed over the next few months. The toilets are a high priority project because at present they let the hall down greatly, as does the state of the windows. Both projects we feel will improve the appearance of the hall dramatically and should have a direct impact on bookings, also there will be an improvement in energy usage. There are other areas of the hall including work on the bar area, new chairs and tables and redecoration which will hopefully be achieved this year.

Fundraising events have included regular monthly coffee mornings where we also have a book sale. We have been considering running a library/book swap during the coffee mornings and this is something we would like to get up and running during the following year. We will be holding a 'wedding reception' for the royal wedding, which will be shown on the large screen in the hall. As a further fundraising initiative, we are looking at starting a film club where we hope to show a range of film types, this is still a project under maintenance, but it should develop over the following few months. Car parking issues have improved this year with increasing cooperation between village hall and football club.

We welcomed a new cleaner, Graham Carr, and he has settled in well to the role and is keeping the hall looking very good. We would also like to thank Garry Walker for all his help whilst working as our cleaner, including all the maintenance he has carried out for us. Garry is still attending our meetings representing the Social Club. We feel that the relationship between the village hall and social club has improved over the past year with both committees working together for benefit of everyone.

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 welcoming Ali McBride as our new treasurer and say a big thank you to Phil Herbert for stepping in as treasurer when we desperately needed the help.

Village Hall Management Committee

Leonard Stanley Welfare Trust & Rishton Education Foundation report by Dave Camm

The Welfare Trust during 2017 has been able to continue to let 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 all with the exception of 9 are occupied by 79 allotment holders, and there is no waiting list.

The trust was able to make various grants in 2017 totalling £750 for 6 youngsters entering tertiary education, and in addition a further £600 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 are at the moment Mr. John Hanvery and Mrs Ann Connett (secretary) both for the church, Mr Jan Bogdiukiewicz and Mr. Chris Connett (chair) for the Parish Council and myself (treasurer) to represent the allotment holders at this point I would like to thank Cllr. Sue Davis for despite no longer a trustee visited Lloyds bank in Stroud on behalf of the trustees to sort out a protracted problem over changes to mandates.

The community spirit is strong amongst the allotment holders and the following must be thanked for their contribution for the smooth running of the allotments.

The trustees wish to thank Mr. Terry Pillinger for his time along with Vernon Gibberd in clearing the shed of old mowers and the like and selling it for the charity.

Mr Stuart Lusty for his numerous trips to the tip to get rid of rubbish that continues to be dumped inside the top gate.

Mr Graham Davies for his work on repairing the dam that supplies water tanks. Mr Dave Frape and Mr. Colin Harris for their work in repairing the pipe work and tap,

Should anyone living in Leonard Stanley or King's Stanley like an allotment please contact Mrs Ann Connett, 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 it to the allocations meeting in September so that the trustees can decide on its merits for financial help.

LEONARD STANLEY WI report by the secretary Chris Phillips

We have lost a few members due mainly to age and currently stand at 28 members and 2 dual members. There is currently new houses being built in the village and we are hopeful that we may get a few new members from there.

Our programme as usual tries to cater for all interests and besides speakers we do some in house activities to keep the costs down and also hands on activities with members. This included making Christmas Cards and a session of playing old fashioned games. Its surprising how competitive snakes and ladders can be! We also have the usual book, Bring and Buy and cake stalls.

When I think about it, we are quite a busy WI despite the age of the committee and members. In April we helped with Dragon Day by providing cakes and serving tea, assisted with the Annual Plant Sale. Organizing a Ploughman's lunch in July for members, assisting with the Macmillan Coffee morning when £563 was raised. We had our highest ever total of 64 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and organized an excellent 'posh' Christmas Tea In December for members. In March, we organised a Lent Lunch in aid of The Willow Trust and raised £268. Money was also raised for the Denman Appeal, ACWW and the Cobolt Unit. At various times throughout the year, there are whist and scrabble afternoons, tea and croquet on the lawn hosted by one of our members, a small Craft group who try to meet once a fortnight and at the moment knitting like mad red poppies for both the church and war memorial to commemorate 100 years of the ending of the First World War. We have also got a lot of the village knitting too. Amongst other activities members enjoyed a visit to the Walled Garden at Stroud Museum, a theatre trip, an Autumn walk and an outing to Monkland cheese farm, visiting the black and white trail on 25th April. Every year we enter the WI Quiz which we hosted this year and do quite well, although did not win. None of this would be possible without a hard working committee who are now hoping to plan a sports activity for September. I think living in a village (although now a spreading one), makes us a quite a close knit community which does help.

As a WI, we make every effort that someone always attends the Weavers Group meetings, Christmas Concert at Cheltenham, the various council meetings, outings and county activities as we feel it is important not to be just a member of our own WI, but of WI as a whole of which we are proud to belong.

Yoga report by Carol Maguire

Yoga continues to be popular regular activity at the Village Hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings 9.30-10.45 a.m. There are 12 regular attendees on a Tuesday morning and 16 on a Friday morning, which now also has a waiting list. I also use the village hall for a regular 1:1 yoga session on a Friday morning 11-11.45 a.m.

It would be lovely to have a little more room to fit a few more attendees in and this would be possible if we could update the chairs and tables and have moveable & stackable chairs and tables which could then be kept out in the large corridor near the toilets. The hall is noticeably warmer since the large end window has been double glazed and I'd also like to thank Gary Walker for putting the heating on for us in the mornings so that we have a warm hall to stretch out in during even the coldest of winter months.

