

**MINUTES OF STISTED’S ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD ON TUESDAY, 14th MAY 2019
AT 7.00PM IN THE MONTEFIORE INSTITUTE**

Present	Alan Moor David Burge Melissa Hewitt Hayley Waine Neil Denley Marc Guy Xavier Hodgetts	Chairman Vice Chairman
Apologies	None	
In Attendance	Sam Edwards Melanie Whiteside Bob Powers Robert Mitchell	Interim Parish Clerk Incoming Parish Clerk Footpaths Officer Essex County Council

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APA19/1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

APA19/2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Parishioners thanked all the Councillors for their hard work over the past year, and thanked those Councillors leaving office for their time on the Parish Council.

APA19/3 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2018

Cllr Denley proposed, and Cllr Burge seconded that the minutes were a true record and were signed by the Chairman. All in favour.

APA19/4 OUTGOING CHAIRMANS REPORT

Before I start my outgoing report, I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of the Parish Council to Sam Edwards, who at very short notice stood in as interim clerk. I would also like to thank our previous clerk Christine Marshall who did an extremely good job for the parish council and for the people of Stisted. We now have a new parish clerk, and I would like to welcome Melanie Whiteside we wish all of them the very best for the future.

As you may know Xavier Hodgetts and Melissa Hewitt have not stood for re-election. I want to thank them both for the very good work they have done on the parish council. This last year has been difficult for the people of Stisted, with all the publicity and sadly in some cases people's attitude towards some of the quite contentious issues on planning matter's, Chicken Meadow, The Onley, Braintree Golf Club and Kentishes Farm, however these are the issues people are aware of, there are others. Gulls Meadow, Gladwish Land, opposite Brooks Farm and Monks Wood, it is

important people are aware of these, because although they are not headline concerns to most people, they could very easily become a problem in the future.

It is important the parish council reminds Braintree District Council to be diligent on these issues.

The year has kept the parish council working hard for their parishioners, sometimes I'm sure some people may wonder what are doing, but things like the surgeries which had a very good turnout regarding the Planning Application for the Onley. I hope the surgeries continue and parishioners make good use of them.

A new storage facility for the playing field has been erected, we must continually make sure that the playing field equipment is safe to use, plus we have installed new litter bins.

The Parish Council have entered this year's Village of the year competition. Fingers crossed this time the parish council and village get an excellent result.

Thank you for putting up with me, at this point I would like to thank my wife Dawn for her patience, and help, I'm confident the parish council will carry on the good work they have already achieved.

Thank you, Cllr Alan Moor chairman.

APA19/5 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING

The Chairman reported that there have been some big Planning issues as mentioned in the outgoing Chairman's report. Cllr Moor requested that the new council remain vigilant on issues of enforcement such as Gull's Meadow, Twin Oaks, Gladwish land, and Chicken Meadow. He also reported that due to the recent District Council Elections the new Planning Committee at Braintree District Council would not meet until end of June.

5.2 MONTEFIORE INSTITUTE (Dennis Buston)

The trustee had the opportunity of an empty building and decorated throughout and renewed all the flooring.

There is now a tenant in occupation, and all seems to be going well.

The garden area has also been cleared and the rear of the property is now much better. These activities have used up much of our funds and we must be careful for a year or two until they are replaced.

5.3 PLAYING FIELD/VILLAGE GREEN (David Burge)

The Playing field currently hosts two football teams, Stisted Men's and Heddinghams United Under 9's. It continues to host Stisted Ladies Rounders team also. This year there has been a new shed erected on the Playing Field for keeping equipment and items such as memorial silhouettes and basketball nets etc.

There is work to be done to repair the fence on the playing field and replace bollards on the village green.

5.4 TREE WARDEN (Roy Edwards)

It's been another quiet year with a few trees in the conservation area needing pruning and shaping. The major issue was the large Beech tree on the village green which

decayed shedding 90% of it's lower bark and therefore deemed dangerous in the canopy resulting in it needing to be removed. A replacement should have been planted as all trees with a TPO must be replaced. The Village decided on a flowering Cherry and I would advise this be planted in October to give the new tree the best chance of survival.

5.5 VILLAGE HALL

No report.

5.6 FOOTPATHS P3 (Robert Powers)

Mr Powers reported that the footpaths have been ticking over nicely during the year, however there are currently 2 issues of overgrown paths outstanding which have been reported Essex County Council. There have been threats to two paths this year, The Street to Church and Church to Water Lane FP43 due to planning issues at Chicken Meadow.

A bridge has been repaired on FP13 (Pond Pear Tree House), and the footpath from Baines Cottages to Priors green has been fully cleared. Footpaths 37 and 38 (Bluebell Wood and Jenkins) have both been reported as needing attention, but the landowners have been positive with their responsibilities.

5.7 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (Xavier Hodgetts)

Cllr. Hodgetts reported that one driver has retired, and another 2 drivers have come forward. Unfortunately, one of the volunteers did not have the correct licence to drive the mini bus, so more promotion for volunteers will be needed. There will be discussion for including the possibility of adding Greenstead Green and Bradwell to the bus routes.

Cllr. Hodgetts declared that despite standing down from the Parish Council, he would continue to volunteer organising the Community transport for the next 6 months. The Council thanked him for his contributions over the last few years.

5.8 YOUTH LIAISON (David Burge)

Cllr. Burge reported that Youth Club is continuing to thrive with 22-26 regular children attending every fortnight. New activities include Karaoke, indoor hockey, dodgeball, Skipping to name a few. There are lots of helpers but always welcome more. The YC are currently looking in to providing a minibus to take older children to Freeport and back at weekends.

5.9 COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE (Simon James)

Mr. James reported that the Community Partnership is run by Jennie Alderton, Doreen Digby and himself, and they wished to thank all the Volunteers and customers to keep the non-profit community shop going. They try to accommodate requests for non-perishable goods as much as possible and will continue to do so.

The C.P continues to organise trips which anyone with Stisted connections can attend by purchasing a ticket from the shop. All proceeds go to the hiring of the mini bus and entry to locations where required. Trips are decided by regular trippers during the

annual Fish and Chip supper of which 26 attended this year. Trips in the past have included Seaside, Museums, Shopping and evening shows.

Mr. James reported that Doreen Digby will be retiring from the C.P after 15 loyal years and thanked her for the hard work she has put in from the start. The C.P also thanked the Montefiore trustees for their continued support providing a venue for the shop and post office.

5.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (Nick Eliot)

No report.

5.11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Melissa Hewitt)

Cllr. Hewitt reported that it has been a challenging year for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group as there are currently only 3 members. However they have regrouped and refreshed the steering group with a strong plan liaising with Jan Stobart from the RCCE. Quotes are needed for a Housing Assessment and a Landscape Assessment which form the two most essential components for producing a N.P in Stisted.

Government funding has been released for this but requires the Parish Council to facilitate applying for these grants.

As Cllr. Hewitt is standing down from the Parish Council, there will need to be a representative from the new council as a member of the steering group.

A housing survey has been produced and a link has been put on Facebook via the N.P page and Stisted Village page. Members of the steering group have knocked on doors with the survey also.

5.12 ADDITIONAL REPORT FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Robert Mitchell reported that ECC are currently following up on environmental initiatives such as low energy street lights and increasing solar panels. There is currently a motion to discuss the possibility of banning trail hunting.

Cllr. Mitchell's initiative to provide a member footway program is in place and asks Parish Councils to forward details of footways in need of repair. Each village will be entitled to 20 metres of new and repaired pavements.

Queries regarding highways issues were asked including the blue plastic fencing on water lane and overgrown bush near Tan Cottage. Cllr. Mitchell advised that the fence repair on Water Lane has been earmarked for repair soon. He also advised the Parish Council to kindly ask the home owner responsible for the overgrown bush to have it cut back. The protocol for this situation being proposed at ECC is to ask all Parish Councils to send 2 letters to the homeowners, if the work isn't completed within a reasonable timeframe then it can be reported to ECC but advised a gentle approach face to face is always a preferred option in the first instance.

APA19/6 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The next Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2020.

APA19/7 MEETING CLOSED AT 7.55PM