

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF STISTED
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4th MAY 2021 AT 7:00PM via ZOOM**

(as permitted in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) due to the COVID19 Coronavirus crisis)

Present: Cllr Dave Burge (PC Chairman), Cllr Neil Denley (PC Vice Chairman),
Cllr Marc Guy, Cllr Mark Hughes, Cllr Hayley Waine, Cllr Dave Willingham
County Cllr Robert Mitchell
In the Chair: Cllr Dave Burge
Clerk: Melanie Whiteside
Also Present: 10 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

APA21/01 APOLGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Philip Fisher and Mr. Martyn Hawrylak, Headteacher, Stisted Primary Academy.

APA21/02 PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly were approved as a true record of the meeting. Due to COVID19 restrictions, there was no meeting in 2020.

APA21/03 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman presented the annual report of the Parish Council – The past year has been unusual and difficult for members of the parish and the Chairman wished to express his thanks to the whole village for pulling together in varying ways to help each other. Thanks also to the Church, the Village Shop and Post Office and The Onley for playing a vital part in village life and diversifying to offer support and assistance to all.

The Parish Council thanked Jack Poulton for his contribution during his time as a Councillor and welcomed Philip Fisher onto the Council following co-option. The past year also saw Mr. Paul Tandy becoming the Greenfields Representative.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan had to be put on hold during the lockdown, however the Chairman stated that in order for this to continue, more volunteers are needed to join the group.

The Parish Council are now looking forward to a new year, and with the lockdown restrictions easing, it is hoped that work on improving the play equipment can now proceed.

APA21/04 PARISH ORGANISATION REPORTS

a) Church – Tayrina Ferguson

Tayrina gave a brief verbal report on the work of the Church during the previous year, including how COVID19 has impacted church life and worship. The church played a vital role in community life – continuing as a donation point for the Foodbank, starting a Village Pantry and adapting to online worship.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

b) Community Shop & Post Office – Simon James

Simon reported that the past year has been unlike any other, however the shop and Post Office were able to stay open albeit for only one morning per week. Thanks must be given to the volunteers, the Post Mistress, and the Trustees of the Montefiore Institute.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

c) Community Transport – Simon James

Simon reported that day trips had to be suspended for the whole year but it is hoped that they can re-commence sometime in the future.

d) Footpaths – Bob Powers

Bob reported that the pandemic had seen a vast increase of walkers enjoying the local footpaths, however restrictions had meant delays to maintenance and repair works. Winter weather had rendered many footpaths unusable. Many footpaths, bridleways and byways crossing farmland have been cleared and well-marked and thanks must go to the local landowners for this.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

e) Montefiore Institute

No report received.

f) Neighbourhood Plan – Dave Willingham

Dave reported that the Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) progress is heavily reliant on input from residents and the COVID restrictions has hampered this process. The committee have continued to meet regularly and work is ongoing.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

g) Neighbourhood Watch

No report received.

h) Village Green & Playing Field – Dave Burge

The village green will soon be getting its new post sleeves which should protect the actual wooden posts. We also have the new addition of the Christmas Tree and the other tree has had a nice hair cut. The playing field has started to be tidied up. Cllr Fisher has repaired some of the play equipment and we are looking in to getting the rest of the equipment painted and possibly some new equipment with some funding from the Golf Club. We are also going to do some work on the football pitch.

i) Stisted Primary Academy – Martyn Hawrylak

A written report had been received – attached to minutes.

j) Tree Warden – Mark Waive

A written report had been received – attached to minutes.

Action points to be put forward to next Parish Council meeting for discussion.

k) Village Archives – Howard Hollands & Derek Pryke

Howard reported on what has been a busy year as they continue to build the village archives. The Village Hall Trustees have kindly offered the Fairhead Room as a base and work will begin to transfer the archive once restrictions have ended. They continue to provide material for the Parish Magazine, the village Facebook pages and were successful in obtaining recognition of Michael Rothenstein with a Blue Plaque at Cumbria House.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

l) Village Hall – Mark Hughes

Mark gave a verbal report on the work of the committee over the past year, which saw the Hall having to close due to COVID. They were able to secure a grant from Braintree District Council of £10,000 which meant there was only a small loss of income over the year. The AGM saw a few committee member changes and the launch of a separate Social Committee – the aim of which is to put on and promote events to raise funds to continue the refurbishment work.

Members and volunteers used the closure to continue with the refurbishment of the Hall both inside and outside, together with work on the Orchard including the installation of a beehive. Requests for allotments vastly increased and there is now a waiting list.

Although missing from the agenda, a written report had also been received from Eleanor McMillan, Editor of the Parish Magazine. This will be attached to the minutes.

APA21/05 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the Clerk for her work during the year. On behalf of the Parish Councillors and residents, the Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Burge for his work as Chairman over the past year.

APA21/06 DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

Provisionally booked for Tuesday, 3rd May 2022 at 7:00p.m.

The meeting closed at 7:31p.m.