

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF STISTED
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4th MAY 2022 AT 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Dave Burge (PC Chairman), Cllr Philip Fisher, Cllr Helen Remfry,
Cllr Hayley Waine and Cllr Dave Willingham
In the Chair: Cllr Dave Burge
Clerk: Melanie Whiteside
Also Present: 6 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

APA22/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Neil Denley, Cllr Mark Hughes and Mr. Martyn Hawrylak, Headteacher, Stisted Primary Academy.

APA22/02 PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Assembly were approved as a true record of the meeting and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

APA22/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented the annual report of the Parish Council.

The past year has seen lots of changes – with the parish once again pulling together to help each other during the continuation, and removal, of Covid restrictions and the generosity shown in helping the people of Ukraine. Special thanks to Mark Hughes and the Big Bear Cider family for setting up a charity, coordinating the donations of supplies and then driving them to Ukraine.

Thanks to the Church, the Village Shop and Post Office and the 123 Group for playing a vital part in village life. Thanks to our Footpaths Officer Bob and our Tree Warden Mark for their support and advice throughout the year.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman wished to record his condolences to the family of Christine Attwood who had served the village as Post Mistress for many years and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The Chairman also thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their continued work and support.

The Parish Council thanked Marc Guy for his contribution during his time as a Councillor and welcomed Helen Remfry onto the Council following co-option.

APA22/04 PARISH ORGANISATION REPORTS

a) Church – Tayrina Ferguson

Tayrina gave a brief verbal report on the work of the church during the previous year. The church has welcomed a new Vicar, who is shared with 5 other churches. Weekly services have resumed and the local congregation has grown over lockdown.

Tayrina wished to record her thanks to the Church Warden, without whom the church would not be able to continue.

b) Community Shop & Post Office – Simon James

Simon reported that it has been another difficult year trading wise, with the shop only being open for one morning per week. It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden passing of Christine Attwater who had served as Post Mistress since 2005 – she will be greatly missed. Thanks must be given to the volunteers and the Trustees of the Montefiore Institute. *[Full written report attached to minutes]*

c) Community Transport

This is currently still not available due to Covid restrictions. The Parish Council will contact Braintree District Council for an update.

d) Footpaths – Bob Powers

Bob reported that the past year has seen Covid, storms, high winds and flooding – all of which causing extra problems to the Public Right of Way network and delayed planned remedial works to footpaths and infrastructure. *[Full written report attached to minutes]*

e) Montefiore Institute

No report received.

f) Neighbourhood Plan – Dave Willingham

The Neighbourhood Plan must be completed by March 2023, and without increased support and resources, the Steering Committee will struggle to complete the plan by this time. *[Full written report attached to minutes]*

g) Neighbourhood Watch

No report received.

h) Parish Magazine – Tayrina Ferguson

Tayrina reported that advertising prices have had to be increased in order to cover costs. The magazine continues to be an important source of information within the parish and is available via subscription to residents.

i) Village Green & Playing Field – Dave Burge

Dave reported that a new grass cutting contractor has recently been appointed and asked residents to bear with us whilst they get used to the schedule. Plans are in place for the repainting of the play equipment and pavilion and it is hoped a new pathway from the Onley to the equipment will be installed.

j) Stisted Primary Academy – Martyn Hawrylak

A written report had been received – attached to minutes.

k) Tree Warden – Mark Waine

The Tree Warden continues to advise the Parish Council on tree matters within the parish.

l) Stisted Historical Archives – Howard Hollands & Derek Pryke

Howard reported the archive has now settled into its new home in the Fairhead Room of the Village Hall and wished to thank those of have contributed to the refurbishment of the room or for items for the archive. *[Full written report attached to minutes]*

m) Village Hall – Mark Hughes

A written report had been received – attached to minutes.

APA22/05 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

On behalf of the Parish Councillors and residents, Mr. Burge was thanked for his work as Chairman over the past year.

APA22/06 DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

Provisionally booked for Wednesday, 3rd May 2023 at 7:30p.m.

The meeting closed at 7:55p.m.