

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF STISTED
HELD ON Wednesday, 1st MAY 2024 AT 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Mark Hughes (PC Chair)
Cllr Alan Routledge
Cllr Bob Powers
Cllr Howard Hollands
Cllr Richard White
Cllr Eleanor McMillan
Cllr Cheryl Hill-Cottingham

In the Chair: Cllr Mark Hughes

Clerk: Ruth Jubb

Councillors: Cllrs Tom Walsh and Denis Abram

Also Present: 7 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

APA24/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thorogood and it was noted that there would be nobody to present for CANs, Neighbourhood Watch and Stisted Primary Academy and these reports would be read out by the Chair.

APA24/02 MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Assembly were approved as a true record of the meeting.

APA24/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Written report attached.

The Chairman presented the annual report of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hughes reiterated his thanks to the village and to the other councillors and noted how much he has enjoyed being the chair for the past year.

APA24/04 PARISH ORGANISATION REPORTS

Church – Heike Prentice - Written report attached.

HP noted her written report and then discussed the need for more community engagement for the church to enable services to continue. There are no wardens at present and several churches are covered.

Community Shop & Post Office – Dave Cruikshank - Written report attached.

DC presented the report and noted how useful the grants received from the Hawthorn Trust have enabled the shop to stock fresh produce. Thanks were given to the committee from 2023 handing over to the new committee and volunteers. It is hoped that more stock and better opening hours will bring more support for the village shop.

Footpaths – Bob Powers – Footpath Officer - Written report attached.

Cllr Powers presented his footpath report covering the 50 paths around Stisted.

Montefiore Institute Karl Bunting?????

The Montefiore has been going for over 100 years and is well as having the village shop there are rooms that are available for hire by clubs including the Book Club and the Parish Council. It is a listed building and does have tenants and this contributes to the income and the upkeep of the building. At present the funds are acceptable. Noted that no invoice has been sent to the Parish Council for room hire in 2024. The village is fortunate to have this facility and the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Plan – Alan Routledge - Written report attached.

The report was presented by Alan Routledge, noting that the first public consulta on on the Plan has started and that we hope the plan the final plan will go to referendum in the autumn – it is an important document to have in place as BDC will need to take note of it in planning decisions.

Neighbourhood Watch – Report Read out by Cllr Mark Hughes - Written report attached.

Parish Magazine – Eleanor McMillan - Written report attached.

As well as noting the types of content in the magazine covering three parishes and the advertising, there was discussion on how long the magazine has been going. Cllr Hollands believes it is more around 100 years and there are some old copies in the archives.

Stisted Primary Academy – Report Read out by Cllr Mark Hughes - Written report attached.

Tree Warden – Mark Waine

MW has now been tree warden for 7 years. There were 8 applications for tree works via planning in the past year. It was felt that 7 of these were justified with just 1 where it was felt that the tree in question should not be cut down. He is happy to continue as tree warden if required. Noted that the Woodland trust is carrying out an Ancient Tree inventory.

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/> to map trees. Residents can take photographs of trees and submit them with location details and the Woodland Trust will allocate to Ancient / Veteran / Notable. He feels this would be of benefit. The Woodland Trust supplied the sapling to CANS in late 2023 for the village. It was stated that the there are some very old trees on the golf course and an old tree (approx. 300 years old) had come down in winds in the grounds of Stisted Hall.

Stisted Historical Archives – Howard Hollands - Written report attached.

The report covers the various presentations and activity of the Archives team. There have been grants and donations to help the work to continue. Cllr Hollands mentioned the forthcoming Autume Photographic Exhibition and encourages everyone to take part.

Village Hall – Mark Hughes

For the first time in many years the Village Hall has lost money. This is primarily due to losing one of their hirers who represent almost 80% of the Hall Hire income, leaving the Hall empty for 3 days per week. In addition, roof repairs were needed. There have been various events that have helped raise funds including film evenings, quizzes etc. an all have been well attended. There will be a Hog Roast and Jazz evening in July. Following the closure of the Onley, the Village Hall is planning to open on Friday evenings from 5.00 to 10.00 with a licensed bar. This will need support from villagers to continue and grow.

APA24/05 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Cllr Tom Walsh Raised concerns over the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme. It will have a visual impact for Stisted with Pylons as close as Coggeshall and Silver End. Final Consultation closes 18 June and comments can be emails to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

APA24/06 DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

Provisionally booked for Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7:30p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

DRAFT