

MINUTES OF STIFFKEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON ZOOM ON MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021 AT 7PM

The Parish Council Chairman, Alexandra Hooper, presided and the following Councillors were present:-

Kerenza Claydon, David Smallridge, David Clifton, Ian Curtis, Philip Harrison. The Parish Clerk and County Councillor Marie Strong were also present. One member of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ian Moy.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14th MAY 2019

The minutes were missing and could not be approved.

3. UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was presented by Alexandra Hooper (Appendix A).

b. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by the Clerk (Appendix B).

5. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS

i. County Councillor

The report from Marie Strong was presented (Appendix C). On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Marie for everything she has achieved for the community.

ii. District Councillor

There was no district councillor report as the seat was awaiting the by-election in May 2021.

iii. Police

No report.

iv. Village Hall

No report.

v. Social Services Committee

Phil Harrison reported that the Committee was in the final stages of completing a new 30 year lease, and new equipment would be provided on the playing field to help keep it in better condition. The cricket club hoped to be playing more this year. A fundraising programme began at the start of 2021 for a tennis court, which would benefit residents and visitors alike. It was hoped to fund this through grants and donations. This would take a long time but it was hoped that this would be achieved.

Marie Strong noted that the district council had a fund of money available for communities, and gave the name of the officer at the Council.

The work was being carried out at the playing field by members of the Committee, and the cricket club had been very helpful with general maintenance. All volunteers were greatly appreciated.

vi. History Group
No report.

vii. Parochial Church Council
The report from Heather Harrison was presented (Appendix D).

viii. Wooden Boats
No report.

ix. Allotments
Alexandra Hooper reported that the garden plots were becoming successful, although there had been problems with deer. There had been a lot of enquiries and there was a waiting list for plots. Alex thanked the Parish Council for continuing to provide these.
The waiting list had been restarted, and this would be advertised in the Lynx – if anyone was previously on it they need to contact the Clerk.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

Signed:

Dated:

It has not been an easy year for many of us and I would like to thank all the Parishioners of Stiffkey for their patience, understanding and fortitude over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank all of those who have given up their time and energy to volunteer during these difficult times.

The last 12 months has seen change for the Parish Council - both through the shift to Zoom meetings as well as the loss of our Clerk Glynis. We have emerged, I hope, stronger and more able to adapt to change and fortunate enough to have Catherine join us as our permanent Clerk.

Over the year we have tried to keep work as normal and have had some successes. We were able to fill pot holes on Greenway, keep permissive paths mowed and dog poo bins empty, despite numerous lockdowns. With the help of volunteers and our local Post Office delivery team we were also able to ensure that Parishioners had access to information, prescription pick up facilities and emergency contact numbers during lockdown periods. A grant from the County Council has also enabled us to help those in need as a result of Covid-19 restrictions

Summer saw an influx of visitors which, once again, led to issues over traffic and traffic flow through the village. I am please to report that the Parish Council has begun a new process of consultation with Highways to see how we can prepare for the same this year. We have continued throughout the year to operate our SAM and this does seem to have had some impact on the speed of traffic though the village.

The Parish Council has also spent time over the past year focusing more on proactively responding to planning applications received via NNDC. Our beautiful local environment deserves nothing less and perhaps testament to that is that Stiffkey is also very fortunate in that over the past year we have also seen new full-time residents move into the village. This would appear to buck the normal trend but is welcome news.

It is a short report this year, given the circumstances, but I, and all my fellow Parish councilors are here to support the village if any of the parishioners have questions our contact details are on the Parish Council web site.

Alexandra Hooper, Chair

Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2020/21

Receipts

	<u>2019/20(£)</u>	<u>2020/21 (£)</u>
Precept & Shortfall Grant	4,910.00	5,110.00
Grants & Donations	1,920.00	2,500.00
Garden Plots	0.00	100.00
Interest	3.15	0.78
VAT Reclaim	0.00	1,679.30
TOTAL	6,833.15	9,390.08

Payments

	2019/20 (£)	Budget 2020/21 (£)	Actual 2020/21 (£)
Street Lighting	1,431.68	600.00	199.46
Insurance	510.80	0.00	529.23
Salary	1,884.15	3,000.00	3,138.65
Admin Costs	195.80	1,340.00	40.76
Audit	30.00	0.00	50.00
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	35.00
Newsletter	87.50	0.00	87.50
Village Hall	537.89	0.00	550.93
Grants / Donations	268.50	320.00	218.50
Maintenance	0.00	240.00	0.00
Dog Bins	190.40	0.00	182.00
Village Hall Access	1,055.00	0.00	1,500.00
Garden Plot Rent	0.00	0.00	200.00
TOTAL	6,191.72	5,500.00	6,732.03
VAT	530.95	60.00	97.89
TOTAL	6,722.67	5,560.00	6,829.92

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance at 1st April 2020	4,171.71
Total Income	9,390.08
Total Expenditure	6,829.92
Closing Balance at 31st March 2021	6,731.87

Earmarked Reserves

Covid Grant	800.00
Free Funds:	5,881.87

News from County Councillor Dr Marie Strong
Wells Division
[Marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk/07920 286 597](mailto:Marie.strong@norfolk.gov.uk/07920286597)

Dear Residents of Stiffkey

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be your county councillor for these past 12 years and I must confess I am sad as this relationship comes to an end.

You have joined me in many campaigns whether related to your needs and wishes but also to fellow residents across our division and the county. I have not yet completed the list but it includes:

- Flood Sirens, Better Broadband for Norfolk, Mobile phone reception, DAB, MIPS, Coasthopper, Shoreline Management Plan, Marine Conservation Zone, Wells Field Study Centre, Pub is the Hub, Mobile Libraries and the 'trod'.
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- Those of you of long standing will recognise the trod as the very useful and safe path along a goodly stretch of the village. Many of us were involved in discussion, seeking practical assistance, financial support – and even investigation into ownership and rights. A lot of work and effort but I am sure others as I do continue to enjoy seeing people walk the path.
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And I have collaborated with so many of you – individuals and local councils – on other projects, seeking solutions to problems, needs and wishes – many more memories.

Mike and I looking forward to 'bumping' into you.

(A few notes below hopefully of interest)

Marie

**Until Thursday 6 May:
County Cllr Dr Marie Strong
Wells Division**

Barshams & Houghton St Giles, Binham with Cockthorpe, Blakeney, Brinton with Sharrington, Field Dalling & Saxlingham, Glandford with Letheringsett, Great Snoring, Great & Little Walsingham, Hindringham, Holkham, Langham, Morston, Sculthorpe, Stiffkey, Stody with Hunworth, Thornage & Little Thornage, Warham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton, Wiveton

COVID-19 grant scheme extended: A grant scheme which has provided support with food and bills for vulnerable households during the pandemic has been extended – renamed the [Covid Local Support](#) – renamed [S-scheme, extended until 20 June with a further £40 million allocated](#). This is to provide [much-needed support](#)

[to low income households at risk of poverty](#) and financial hardship Councils will, for example, be able to provide further targeted support to families entitled to free school meals during the May holiday

Remote meetings: There has been considerable concern in some towns and parishes that remote meetings must soon come to an end. However as you know a judgement will be made on 21 April (news out probably by 27th) as to whether they can continue. What follows is an extract from the Chair of the Local Government Association's letter:

'.... Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, confirm that MHCLG will be supporting the legal action taken by Hertfordshire County Council, Lawyers in Local Government and the Association of Democratic Services Officers to allow councils to continue remote meetings. this action is also supported by the LGA, the National Association of Local Councils and 74% of local councils. The Secretary of State recognised the importance of councils being able to meet remotely – if remote meetings continued, there was a need to ensure transparency, openness, scrutiny of these meetings'

COVID-19 Information: Keep these websites which will enable you to check for regular and reliable updates:

Information on the national tiers is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus: this site includes local services as well as the latest regulations for Norfolk and reference to many if not all of the government schemes

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Project Gigabit: I am repeating this piece because it is so very important and remains the most exciting piece of news regarding broadband since I campaigned with you for 'Better Broadband for Norfolk'. Whilst many, many people have good broadband due to BBfN too many still struggle but now one million hard to reach homes and businesses will have next generation gigabit broadband in the first phase of a £5 billion government infrastructure project. If your broadband is a problem hopefully you can access the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST STIFFKEY

Church report for 2020

This is a brief report for the year 2020 for the Church of St. John the Baptist, Stiffkey.

As with all churches throughout this year times have been difficult – long periods of closure without any visitors, few services and no fund raising events at all. Consequently a loss of £1,233.31 was the result and only half of the Parish Share paid to the Diocesan Board.

The church, however, was delighted to receive the donation of £250.00 from the Parish Council in February. This was very much appreciated.

No fabric repairs were undertaken during this year, but work had to be carried out to some trees in the churchyard in October. The Church and PCC owe a huge debt of gratitude to David and Alex, Steve and the gardener from the old Hall for their care and work in the churchyard, which looks as good as it has ever done, also to the band of helpers who have continued to clean the church and keep it decorated with flowers for the whole year.

It is hoped that things will improve during 2021, visitors will return and fund raising will be possible towards the end of the year. Services have resumed with masks, although singing is not encouraged, every 3rd Sunday a Holy Communion will be held with the Rector, but on some 1st Sundays in the month a Lay Reader will take Morning Prayer.

Heather Harrison (Treasurer, Stiffkey PCC)

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