

# STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman:-** Councillor M. Williams

**Vice-Chairman:-** Councillor J. Lawrence



## **MINUTES OF THE STIFFKEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** **HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2025 AT 7.00 PM** **IN STIFFKEY VILLAGE HALL**

### **Present:-**

Chairman – Cllr. M. Williams, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. J. Lawrence,  
Cllr. P. Harrison, Cllr. A. Hooper, Cllr. R. Husain and Cllr. J. Sugden.

District Councillor V. Holliday.

Julie Chance – Clerk.

Seven members of the public also attended the meeting.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Claydon and David Hooper.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2024**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read, **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Attached.

**Clerk:-** Julie Chance, Pine Lodge, Gimingham Road, Trimingham, Norfolk, NR11 8HP

Telephone No:- 07305048062

Email:- [clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stiffkeyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

#### **4. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS**

- 4.1 Community First Responders:-** Report attached.
- 4.2 Stiffkey Village Hall:-** Report attached.
- 4.3 Parochial Church Council:-** Report attached.
- 4.4 Camping Hill Garden Plots:-** Report attached.
- 4.5 Stiffkey Local History Group:-** Report attached.
- 4.6 Stiffkey Social Services Committee:-** Report attached.
- 4.7 Community Speed Watch:-** Report attached.
- 4.8 Police Report:-** None given.

#### **5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work and achievements over the last twelve months.

**There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.29 pm.**

.....  
**Chairman**

.....  
**Date**

## APM Chair's report May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

Our year has been one of progress and consolidation. We started on a very positive note with the permanent appointment of our then Locum Clerk Julie Chance. Julie's contribution to the smooth, efficient and compliant running of the Council cannot be underestimated. Despite some personal challenges of her own Julie has been the catalyst and overseer of a successful year for the Council. I'm sure the whole Council will join me in thanking her for her invaluable contribution.

Alongside Julie my fellow Councillors have all made significant contributions of their own, with progress to completion of some projects and the commencement and continuance of others, all with the betterment of our lovely village and community in mind.

I would like to report that your Councillors have worked well all year as a team, and individual groups of them have continued that work between Council Meetings with working parties making very positive contributions to progress on several projects.

Alongside the Councillors work many villagers have made their own contributions to village life and have given of that most precious commodity – time – to improve our environment in many ways. I would like to thank everyone who has made such a contribution and listing them all would be fraught with danger incase I inadvertently left someone out, but I must make special mention of David Hooper and Alan Duff both of whom have given a huge amount of their time this past year.

Of course we witnessed the completion of our famous footbridge on the marsh, now named Curtis Crossing in acknowledgment of the massive contribution made by Ian Curtis in spearheading the campaign. We also saw the designation of new footpaths beyond the bridge, and again Ian made a very big contribution to the success of that project. Ian has rightly received much acknowledgement from the whole community and beyond, but it would be remiss of me not to give him a special vote of thanks for all his hard work in my own report. Thank you Ian.

Last year saw the installation of our new defibrillator in the phone box and I must thank the Healthy Stiffkey Working Group of Councillors for their invaluable contribution to this successful outcome, and of course sincere thanks to all the villagers who contributed funds and time to enable it.

Alongside this, and with the indispensable help of our Community First Responders, we organised some CPR training for villagers. The health and well-being of the village has been at the forefront of our work this past year, and we are hoping to extend our Healthy Stiffkey project into a transport scheme for all sorts of medical needs of our villagers such as attending appointments and collections. Our clerk Julie has been a great help

with this as has Councillor Tim Adams from Cromer who is kindly giving us the benefit of his experience in that area.

We launched our new village newsletter and this has been very well received by residents. Councillors Hooper, Sugden and Hussain deserve special acknowledgment for their hard work on the newsletter.

We now have a new website and I'm confident it is one of the best versions of a Parish Council website you can see. Many thanks to Councillor Alex Hooper for making this happen, and of course to her husband David for his help.

We have been active with our perennial issues of traffic management and planning. In both cases we have tried to encourage good practice by all participants in the process, with frequent reminders to those in power on all fronts about what works best for our village. A special mention of thanks for Jackie Appleby and her Community Speedwatch team of hi vis clad villagers whose regular sessions do seem to be having some impact on speeding vehicles.

On a very personal note, as many of you will be aware, I had a big health scare myself this past year which meant I had to take a leave of absence from Council duties and I couldn't Chair a couple of meetings. Special thanks to my vice Chair Jamie Lawrence for stepping up, and to all my fellow Councillors for their support and hard work at this difficult time and indeed throughout the whole year.

I am very proud of what the Council has achieved this year, and I sincerely believe we have an excellent team who both individually and collectively have made a significant contribution to improving village life. Thank you, everyone.

The Stiffkey CFRs have attended 27 emergency callouts in the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Over the last 12 months, we spent just under 891 hours on duty, and were on shift a total of 199 times.

Of these 27 callouts:

Four were Category 1 – Life-threatening illnesses and injuries which included suspected heart attack, cardiac arrest and stroke.

Twenty-two were Category 2 – General Emergency calls for non-immediately life-threatening conditions, these included difficulty in breathing, loss of consciousness and diabetic emergency.

One was Category 3 – Urgent calls, which were generally non-injury falls of unknown duration. In this reporting period, we had no Category 4, less urgent calls.

This year, the majority of the emergencies that we have been dispatched to have been in Wells-next-the-Sea, with callouts along the coast as far as Salthouse to the East and Burnham Overy to the West. We have also been called to incidents inland in Fakenham and North Creake, travelling just over 380 miles in the process. Of our 27 official call outs in this reporting period, one was in Stiffkey.

Our operational radius remains roughly ten miles from Stiffkey and - on average - we generally arrive on scene within 6-10 minutes and between 15 minutes and 2 hours before Paramedic crews arrive on scene. In some instances – particularly in the case of non-injury falls, we are the only team to attend.

The Raizer II lifting chair has continued to be an asset in 2024-25 and has been utilised several times over the past year. We have also attended one complex - bariatric - fall which required assistance from the fire brigade in Wells-next-the-Sea, providing an excellent demonstration of how well the emergency services work together when required.

In November, the Wells and Fakenham CFR Group ran a Community CPR Training Evening which was well-attended by the residents of Stiffkey. It is hoped to repeat this training annually and in February, at a training course in Norwich, certification was obtained to allow one of the team to deliver this CPR Training. This will allow the Stiffkey team to be able to run community CPR training evenings independently, should this ever be required. In terms of our other continuing training and professional development, we have attended a variety of different trainings designed to improve our medical knowledge and skill set and we have also recently passed our mandatory annual Basic Life Support and Falls Response Certifications. Following completion of the First responder Emergency Care Level 3 (FREC3) training course in April 2024, one of the team subsequently attended a five-day FREC4 training course in September, which included both examinations and practical competency tests, followed by the submission of three examination papers. This qualification will be subject to annual recertification to demonstrate competency to practice at FREC4 level. In April 2025, the CFR Team attended an all-day training exercise in Norwich which was provided by EEAST ambulance crew and volunteers, and which was designed to provide us with the opportunity to provide emergency care in a series of simulated emergency situations. It was an excellent opportunity to get feedback and further training in how to manage medical emergencies.

The CFR Team is always looking for further support and assistance as only the fuel costs for attending emergencies are covered, while other mileage incurred in attending compulsory monthly training, annual re-certification and so forth are not covered. Wear and tear to vehicles and to our uniforms and equipment is also not covered, nor is the annual running cost of the NMA, the device that allows the EEAST's Ambulance Operations Centre (AOC) to provide us despatch instructions, medical history and navigation to scene.

## **Village Hall Report**

I am pleased to report that the Hall has been used on a regular basis over the past 12 months. There has been a mix of one-off events and regular activities as well as loaning tables and chairs for other village events not held in the Village Hall. It has been good to see the hall used on a more regular basis and the monthly 'swap shop' event has been consistently attended. Along with one-off events, such as the CPR training and the Transport Scheme meeting, the ability to use a community facility – free of charge to residents makes it a unique facility. The 200 Club is one of the reasons this is possible and this also continues to successfully operate. New members are always welcome!

While it continues to be used both by the Parish Council for meetings – the cancellation of local elections due to devolution plans, has meant that it has not been used this year as a wheelchair accessible polling station.

Efforts are currently underway to find ways to move forward with refurbishment and repairs as necessary to keep the hall viable

## **Annual Church Report for Stiffkey Parish Council meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**

A key point for Stiffkey Church and our Benefice, was the return in early August of Reverend Ian Whittle. We are pleased Ian's health and schedule are now largely restored, aided by Roger Bland our dedicated Lay Minister to sustain regular services in a Benefice of ten parishes and nine churches. Stiffkey was able to pay the full Parish Share to the Norwich Diocese for 2024, but it is equally important that the other churches in the Benefice can pay their share, to ensure that we have an incumbent in place.

We are indebted to all the helpers who clean the church and put in fresh flowers on a regular basis, to those supporting Christmas, Easter and August events and to the team who continue to maintain the churchyard.

New members of the PCC have been a significant boost to the team and is much appreciated. Of particular note is the enthusiastic and industrious work of our Fabric Officer – managing single-handedly the consultation formalities, excavation and reconstruction of the cover to the Buck Family Crypt as well as executing numerous repairs. He has also taken over as interim Treasurer and worked with other members to compile and produce the "Church Notes".

We have been successful in securing Charity status for our PCC and setting the structure and policies for the new organization. Charity status will enable further financial benefits and the possibility to raise funds for repairs to the roof and ongoing fabric maintenance.

### **Fundraising**

Our main fundraising events were the Gresham's School Concert last May raising over £700 and the combined Stiffkey Local History Group Exhibition and August Bank Holiday stalls on the knoll, raising nearly £1100 for the Church, including a generous donation from the Stiffkey Local History Group.

The church supported the refreshments served at the Warborough House Open Gardens on May Bank Holiday 2024 leading to a generous donation to the Church.

We acknowledge with thanks, these and regular donations from other members of our village, without which the Church finances would not balance even for the regular upkeep.

### **Ongoing and future support**

The need to seal the leaks between the church roof and the gable ends / tower walls has been highlighted in the editions of Church Notes and we hope soon with further help to close the gap between funds and the estimated cost. If anyone has ideas for raising money, please contact the PCC Secretary.

Alan Duff, Secretary St. John's Stiffkey, PCC      [stjstiffkey.sec@outlook.com](mailto:stjstiffkey.sec@outlook.com)

This year all the plots are being cultivated, although to varying degrees of success.

Mrs Beverely Bashforth continues to grow a variety of cutting flowers which she uses to adorn our Parish Church.

The remaining four are mainly set to growing a variety of vegetables. This year it has been particularly difficult as the reserve of rainwater is now non-existent. All the water butts are now empty and with no rain forecasted for the next few weeks, are likely to remain so during the summer months.

There is, of course, the perennial problem of the Muntjac population. A few nighttime visits to the Garden Plots and ravenous Muntjac's will, selectively, decimate flourishing flowers and vegetables. They enter the garden plots via holes in the surrounding hedges and the open access path from Camping Hill.

To ameliorate the situation it has been suggested, and agreed by the tenants, to seek the Parish Council's permission to install a gate at the end of the of the path leading from Camping Hill. Although this will not, completely, prevent the Muntjac from gaining access to the garden plots it will be another barrier against their marauding.

A gate will also act as a deterrent to visitors and dog walkers from accessing the garden plot and using it as a short cut to the Bangay entrance, and thus to the footpath to the marshes. It should be noted that the lower hinge to the Bangay gate is broken and in need of repair.

With a full complement of occupiers the Camping Hill Garden plots will, hopefully, continue to flourish and be productive well into 2026.

## SLHG REPORT 2024-25 TO STIFFKEY PARISH COUNCIL

- 1-The revised constitution was aired and approved at our last AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- 2-Following the AGM at the village hall we held a Stiffkey history quiz which was won by Peter Woodyard who is a regular visitor to us and a member. The donated prizes were very generous, thankyou. We had a happy time and a few minor disputes but happily as chair and quiz master I had announced before the start that my decision was Final!
- 3-The SLHG put on their usual display at Warborough House Open Gardens day on 27<sup>th</sup> May BANK HOLIDAY but with an extended and updated display that was well received.
- 4-On 27<sup>th</sup> June members had a return visit to Glanford Shell Museum where I gave a brief resume of the life of fisherman/artist John Craske whose wonderful stitched mural of the Norfolk coast is housed. The beautiful restored church, full of excellent carving in the medieval manner was also on the agenda. We had hoped to hear the church clock chimes but they were silenced as the organist, and her dog, were practising on the organ for a funeral that afternoon, which was equally entertaining.  
We finished up having cake and coffee across the road at the barns. For the first time our outing numbers reached double figures.

5-The committee decided to make founder member, Sally Amesbury, a lifetime member in regard for her constant support over the years.

6-Thanks to the sterling efforts of our vice-chair John Wykes we were able to get our book "Stiffkey with Cockthorpe, a story of Norfolk people" 2013, reprinted. It is now on sale once more.

Copies of "STIFFKEY, Those who served in WW11" are still available.

To date we have sold 32 copies and also 16 of our world war one book.

7-Once again SLHG put on an exhibition at the church. The subject for 2024 was "Transport through the ages" It covered the past from the ancient walkers who lived on this coast to the advent of the flying machines. It illustrated how advances in travel effected the lives of the folk who lived here.

Thank you to all who gave their time and money to support the history group and raise money for the church fabric fund.

8-Of interest in 2024 was the discovery of a large and well built brick crypt abutting the East wall of the parish church. It contained the remains of James and Mary Buck who were major land and property owners in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century here in Stiffkey. James was the builder of Warborough House. Also there were three other leaded coffins. The headstones next to the church refer to the couple and their son William Richard (1810-1828) Also to their children who died in their early years. It is possible that one of the lead coffins belongs to their grandson

James from Langham who died in 1844 aged 9 years and was recorded as being buried at Stiffkey. The crypt has been resealed.

9-I have written several short articles for the Wells Quay magazine TO but am taking a break at the moment due to ongoing health issues.

10-Our membership of BALH was renewed. This gives us public liability coverage along with access to their very useful website.

11-All being well our next exhibition in August will be" Then and now"

©Geraldine Green SLHG

## **Report from Stiffkey Playing Field Committee to Stiffkey Parish Council AGM**

The AGM of Stiffkey Playing Field Committee was held on Thursday 13 February 2025. Kurt Janson was welcomed to the meeting and was appointed a Trustee. Janey Sugden was also welcomed to the committee but did not wish to become a Trustee.

The Trustees are now Paul Claydon, Chris Cooke, Phil Harrison, Greg Pepper, Jamie Lawrence and Kurt Janson.

Jeremy Bevan joined the meeting representing the cricket club. He said that the 2024 season had been very difficult due to bad weather and a lack of players. Very few matches were played at Stiffkey. A new Captain, Seb Price, has been appointed for the 2025 season and four home matches have been arranged so far with more expected.

The tractor and mower performed acceptably well last season. Alan Lawrence helped a great deal with the cutting of the field. He has agreed to help again this year although, due to other commitments, this will be limited. It was proposed that we produce a volunteer rota for grasscutting to share the responsibility more widely. A new strimmer has been purchased to keep the field edges and the children's play area tidy. The Harrison family kindly donated the fuel for the tractor last season for which we are extremely grateful.

We are looking at grants available to refurbish parts of the Pavilion. In particular the ceiling, doors and toilets need some attention. Repairs to the tractor shed roof are also needed.

It was agreed to relaunch the Tennis Court fundraising project and to look again at grants which may be available. Janey has kindly offered to get this going.

A further meeting is to be arranged in the near future to discuss other fundraising event ideas.

We look forward to a warm summer and some enjoyable cricket in 2025 together with, hopefully, some other events.

## Community Speed Watch Report to Parish Council – May 2025

The Stiffkey Community Speedwatch formed in August 2024 with an initial 6 volunteers, the group of volunteers has now grown to 10 with regular weekly monitoring taking place.

We are starting to notice an impact and our presence is suppressing speeding when we are out monitoring. It is hoped that as we are getting out more regularly that it will start to have an effect when we are not out monitoring. We have received comments from residents about how much they appreciate the Speedwatch efforts so it appears they are starting to notice a difference.

The introduction of some 20mph monitoring spots has been helpful however we have still not been able to secure a location in the middle of the village where the main safety issues are. The guidance around health and safety requirements have prevented this to date. We hope to revisit this again in the future.

A breakdown is given below of all the sessions carried out to date, the number of vehicles caught exceeding the speed limit and the letters sent. Where the number of letters sent is less than those caught this is due to either the vehicle details not matching; an error in the data or because the vehicle is a hire vehicle.

We hope we will continue to make a further impact over the next 12 months.

| Session dates          | Location Name           | Location Speed | Sessions | Vehicles exceeding speed limit | Letter 1 issued | Hours spent monitoring |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Sep-24</b>          |                         |                |          |                                |                 |                        |
| 02/09/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph          | 1        | 4                              | 3               | 1                      |
| 12/09/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph          | 1        | 4                              | 4               | 1.25                   |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |                | <b>2</b> | <b>8</b>                       | <b>7</b>        | <b>2.25</b>            |
| <b>Oct-24</b>          |                         |                |          |                                |                 |                        |
| 15/10/2024             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 30mph          | 1        | 2                              | 1               | 1.5                    |
| 31/10/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph          | 1        | 6                              | 6               | 1.5                    |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |                | <b>2</b> | <b>8</b>                       | <b>7</b>        | <b>3</b>               |
| <b>Nov-24</b>          |                         |                |          |                                |                 |                        |
| 05/11/2024             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 30mph          | 1        | 0                              | 0               | 0.5                    |
| 05/11/2024             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 30mph          | 1        | 1                              | 1               | 0.75                   |

|                        |                         |       |          |           |           |             |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 06/11/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 2         | 1         | 1.25        |
| 13/11/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 3         | 3         | 1           |
| 21/11/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 2         | 2         | 0.75        |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>5</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>4.25</b> |
| <b>Dec-24</b>          |                         |       |          |           |           |             |
| 02/12/2024             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 30mph | 1        | 0         | 0         | 1           |
| 11/12/2024             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 2         | 2         | 1           |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>    |
| <b>Jan-25</b>          |                         |       |          |           |           |             |
| 10/01/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 8         | 7         | 1.25        |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>1</b> | <b>8</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>1.25</b> |
| <b>Feb-25</b>          |                         |       |          |           |           |             |
| 03/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 20mph | 1        | 4         | 4         | 1           |
| 19/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Bridge Street | 20mph | 1        | 3         | 3         | 0.5         |
| 19/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 3         | 3         | 0.5         |
| 21/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 1         | 1         | 1           |
| 27/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 30mph | 1        | 0         | 0         | 0.5         |
| 27/02/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 6         | 6         | 0.75        |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>6</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>4.25</b> |
| <b>Mar-25</b>          |                         |       |          |           |           |             |
| 05/03/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 2         | 2         | 1           |
| 12/03/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 20mph | 1        | 5         | 5         | 1.25        |
| 17/03/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 2         | 2         | 1           |
| 28/03/2025             | Stiffkey, Bridge Street | 20mph | 1        | 0         | 0         | 0.75        |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>4</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>4</b>    |

|                        |                         |       |          |           |                              |          |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Apr-25</b>          |                         |       |          |           |                              |          |
| 08/04/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 20mph | 1        | 5         | Stats not received for April | 1        |
| 14/04/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 6         |                              | 1        |
| 22/04/2025             | Stiffkey, Church Street | 20mph | 1        | 5         |                              | 1        |
| 29/04/2025             | Stiffkey, Wells Road    | 30mph | 1        | 5         |                              | 1        |
| <b>Total for month</b> |                         |       | <b>4</b> | <b>21</b> |                              | <b>4</b> |