

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Stradishall Annual Parish Meeting
13th May 2019

PRESENT: Parish councillors **Ady Swift (Chairman)**, **Adrian Lee (Vice-chairman)**, **Robert Deeks**, **Jonathan Masefield**,

Also present: **Joanne Kirk (clerk)**, **Marion Rushbrook**, **Jim Meikle** and **Karen Richardson** the three new district councillors for Stradishall and County Councillor **Mary Evans**.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from parish councilors **Debbie Gates** and **Ian Hutchinson** and **Jane Helliwell (PCC)**

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chairman Ady Swift

Marion Rushbrook introduced herself and explained that she is one of the new district councillors for the new Clare, Hundon and Kedington ward along with Karen Richardson and Jim Meikle.

Jim Meikle introduced himself and said that his vision was to try and improve the provision in rural communities as most of the West Suffolk projects focus on the towns in West Suffolk.

Karen Richardson introduced herself and explained a bit about her background.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. PCC report from Jane Helliwell

PCC Secretary, Jane Helliwell, sent a written report:

- At the end of 2017 the Rector, Revd. Brin Singleton, resigned and St Margaret's Church entered an interregnum. The position was advertised and two people applied with a prospective incumbent appointed, however, after some delay he decided not to accept the position. The post was re-advertised but unfortunately there were no applicants. After much discussion about the future of the Benefice it was agreed to try again this year.
- Since January 2018 they have had a Sunday service at Stradishall approximately every 2 months and are reliant on retired clergy to whom they are very grateful. Average attendance has been about 20, the majority of whom come from the other Parishes in the Benefice. Luckily, they were also able to hold the usual Harvest Festival and Carol Services.
- The reduction in services has meant a reduction in income and for the first time in many years the PCC was unable to pay its full Parish Share, only managing £3,500 or 70%. One fifth of their income came from the 100 club but the resident who ran it for many years, has now retired. It is hoped it will continue sometime under the control of another resident, who agreed to take it on before her husband's recent illness.
- The asbestos chimney was finally removed at the beginning of 2018 and Smart Water applied to the external metalwork. The work on the chestnut trees was completed in 2018 and the felt on the south aisle roof was again repaired. This roof however does require complete re-roofing and an overhaul.
- A resident organised a successful flower show in the summer which raised over £1,500. Other events were a Pudding Evening and the normal Harvest and Christmas meals, although the latter was not as well supported as in past years. These events raised a further £1,400 for the fabric, or restricted fund. They were also fortunate to receive a legacy of £5,000 which has also been added to that fund.
- A major event was the week-long WW1 Commemoration Event in November, supported by Mary Evans's Locality Fund, which was visited by over 300 people. The history of the lives of the men on Stradishall's War Memorial were displayed as well as the histories of villagers' own ancestors together with the 10 sitting "There but not there" silhouettes donated by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. Happy Days Nursery made the River of Blood display around the pulpit and together with other events and activities to coincide with the commemoration, the event was well supported.
- After a lengthy delay awaiting the necessary permission, the PCC were finally able to deposit the historic Stradishall Church pewter in the Cathedral Treasury.
- The village review group made up of Parish Councillors, PCC members and interested parishioners has met several times during the year and ideas and research is still ongoing in relation to the Church being used as a village amenity.
- In October 2018 Ed Hollingsworth indicated to the PCC Secretary that the access road and Church Car Park area will be landscaped and made available again in 2019.
- The PCC thanks all those who have helped to maintain the Church and Churchyard during the last year and to the Parish Council for their contribution towards Churchyard maintenance.

3. The John Houlth Charity

Balance B/F: £10,921.27

Rental income: £600.00

Interest: £65.49

Total: £665.49

Expenditure:£0

Balance as of 31/03/19: £11,586.76

4. Chairman's Report

Parish Council Chairman, Ady Swift gave a short report:

- The Chairman thanked his co-councillors, for their continued efforts and enthusiasm and their excellent Parish Clerk, Joanne, for helping to make the Parish Council a real benefit to the Stradishall community.
- He explained about the current project to update the play equipment and provide adult gym equipment.

5. Financial Report

The parish clerk presented the Council's financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website at www.onesuffolk.net

6. Village issues raised by members of the public

- Electric fencing near the footpaths which is stopping people walking in areas they have previously been able to walk.

7. Report from Borough Councillor Mary Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Improvements to Haverhill
- Her locality grant to Stradishall Parish Council for the second phase of the playing field project.

8. Report from County Councillor Mary Evans

Mary Evans spoke about the following:

- Highways. She has been looking at ways to improve the performance of Highways. Road closures are not being managed properly particularly road closures planned by utility companies.
- Suffolk County Council's budget and the high cost of adult and social care with the remaining money going to Highways, the Fire Service and other services.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm

Signed

Dated.....