

STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Report

Introduction by the Chairman, Cllr Rachel Terheege:

In previous years, this report has been part of the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). This year there was no APM because of legal restrictions relating to the local government elections. The Parish Council is not allowed to take any action which could be deemed to be promoting any individual councillor who is standing for (re)election; hence, no community meeting. We would appreciate your comments as to whether you value the APM as a platform to communicate with councillors or whether a report such as this is sufficient in the future.

By the time you read this there will be a new council. I would like to thank all councillors (whether they are standing again or not) for their hard work and dedication over the past 4 years. They give their time freely not only for one meeting a month, but on many other occasions and on many other committees.

Over this term there has been an overload of increased legislation which has been an added complication to an ever-expanding role. This is apparent by the extra items on the monthly agenda.

As I have said before, the village is lucky to have so many volunteers in all spheres of community life.

One example of this is the Neighbourhood Plan. Volunteers have come and gone, but others have diligently worked on this project. The draft version is being compiled and a new consultant is now on board.

By necessity, the new pavilion project has been superseded by a plan to extend the village hall. This will incorporate the required sports facilities, as well as providing additional community space. As soon as draft plans are available the village will be consulted for your input.

As you will have noticed, building work is well underway at the Laburnum Cottage site. When completed there should be some additional community space.

Stoke Golding is a lovely village to live in with good neighbourly conduct and, until recently, very little crime. Unfortunately, over recent months, some residents have suffered to the contrary. HBBC and the police have been (and are continuing) to act to reverse this current trend. The Parish Council will continue to put pressure on authorities to take action and will support residents wherever it can.

End of Year Accounts and Budget Summary - Parish Clerk:

<u>Receipts:</u>	For Audit (draft)	Budget
	2018/19	2019/20
Precept	38,482.00	45,320.00
Other: Cemetery Charges	13,421.00	8,500.00
Recreation Ground Fees	2,586.60	2,198.00
Grants and Donations	8,555.62	356.18
106 monies	-	
Interest	445.99	200.00
VAT Recovery	4,358.83	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	892.27	
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	68,742.31	58,572.18
<u>Payments:</u>		
Cemetery Interments	2,150.00	1,640.00
Cemetery Admin and Maintenance	10,607.37	860.00
Churchyard Maintenance	390.00	
Ground Maintenance, Playground Inspection and Other Ground Maintenance Work	20,624.82	22,592.80
Works to Recreation Ground	1,148.40	
Litter/Dog Waste Disposal Contract	1,959.36	2,344.00
Village Hall/Pavilion Maintenance including Trade Waste Contract	953.42	1,090.00
Salt (for Grit Bins)		200.00
Administration, Insurance and Audit	11,852.96	15,835.68
Subscriptions and Donations	785.71	800.00
VAT	3,579.01	2,000.00
Capital Expenditure	10,386.91	2,208.00
Small Projects/Emergency Fund		2,011.70
Grave memorial repairs – 50% of costs		2,000.00
Works to trees – rec		2,200.00
Village/cemetery planting		200.00
Works to trees – cemeteries		2,200.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS:	64,437.96	58,372.18

Future Provisions:

Pavilion - available funds	36,173.12
Recreation field car park extension – estimated cost	20,000.00
Possible future land adoption	2,000.00
Wykin Lane Cemetery pathway	
Recreation Field pathway	
Recreation field car park barrier	

Balance of Accounts 31st March 2019

NSB Investment Account	£39,017.27
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£39.82
Nat West Current Account	£48,357.82
CAF Gold Account	£1,113.12

Financial Report - Parish Clerk:

2018/19

The precept for 2018/19 was £38,482.00.

Cemetery income was significantly higher than that estimated and income from pitch hire was slightly less than estimated.

Small projects and emergency work have been approved in this year at the total cost of £3,101.95, but with £1041.91 funded by the Charity of Thomas Barton. Total cost to the Parish Council was within the budget allocated.

Additional ground maintenance work has been approved at a cost of £878.00, which is within the contingency budget.

Trees/hedges at the cemeteries have been approved in this year at the total cost of £2,125.00 Total cost to the Parish Council was within the budget allocated with £1,375.00 remaining.

Trees/hedges at the recreation field and around the village have been approved in this year at the total cost of £540.00. Total cost to the Parish Council was within the budget allocated with £960.00 remaining.

The following medium/large projects have been approved in this year at the total cost of £7,126.74, but with £1,862.17 funded by an EIP grant, £1,189.00 by the Charity of Thomas Barton and £880 from other funds: Grave memorial repairs, unscheduled works for cracks at the recreation ground, jitty maintenance, cemetery bins, HR Cemetery wall and street name signs.

A further sum of £1,000.00 has been allocated for Neighbourhood Plan admin, £1,831.78 of the admin budget ring fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remains unspent.

The Clerk's salary has increased slightly due to adoption of the NALC Model Contract and pay scale.

The total reserve in the NATWEST bank going into 2019/20 was £48,357.82: £3,377.00 is required for agreed works that have not yet been invoiced, £1,831.78 ring-fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remaining, £748.32 maintenance grant remaining for the gym equipment, £2,335.00 ring-fenced for tree planting and 200.00 ring-fenced for the planters. This leaves £39,865.72. A reserve of £20,000 enables claims for the Parish and Communities Initiative Fund for the large projects in the future, as payment is only received once work is complete and invoices paid. This leaves a working reserve of £19,865.72 that is not allocated to be carried forward to 2019/20.

2019/20 Budget and Precept Report

Cemetery income and expenditure is estimated based on the average costs over the previous three years.

Recreation ground fees will be based on Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council fee structure and will be down on previous year due to less teams.

As usual the ground maintenance budget will cover the cost of the ground maintenance contract, playground safety inspections, planters and Christmas tree arrangements. There will be a £1500 contingency for any necessary works which are not included in the contract.

Pavilion and village hall maintenance have been adjusted to take account of increase in trade waste collection, estimated cost of water supply and actual cost of pavilion electricity

Litter/dog waste collection will increase due annual increase and proposed additional bins at the cemeteries.

The Clerk's salary has increase in line with NJC pay scales and job evaluation.

The PC admin budget will increase by £200 to cover the cost of councillor training.

The budget for the Neighbourhood Plan will increase to £2000.

An annual budget of £500 per annum has been added for potential election costs.

Budgets have been allocated for small projects and emergencies, works to trees at the recreation field/village, works to trees at the cemeteries, grave memorial repairs and planting in the village and cemeteries.

Projects agreed for 2019/20 are street name signs for Convent Drive, Ryland Crescent and Ridgeway and the repair of the wall at St Margaret's Churchyard.

Potential future medium term provision for possible acquisition of open space at Laburnum Cottage and Morris Homes developments will need to be considered.

The Precept for 2018/19 was £38,482.00 with a Band D figure of £51.71 per household. Due to an increase in the tax base figure from 744.2 to 775.1 the precept would automatically increase to £40,080.42. To cover the cost of the proposed budget and medium-term planning for the next 3 years the total increase for 2019/20 will increase the Band D figure to £58.47 per household, an increase of £6.76 per household. This is still below the national average of £64.05. The precept received will be £45,320.00, an increase of £6,838.00 on the previous year.

Projects

There is currently no estimated cost for the pavilion project. 106 funds from the Morris Homes development will provide funds of £29,173.72 provision and £23,859.54 maintenance. The £10,000 from the solar panel farm has been ring fenced for this project with £3000 already allocated for initial admin and consultation fees.

Planning Report - Parish Clerk:

Since the 1st April 2018 the Parish Council has consulted and offered comments where appropriate on 32 planning applications. These were for ten extensions and alterations to dwellings, nine works to trees, three building of a garage or works to garage, two building of an agricultural building, seven variations of condition to previous applications and one deed of variation.

Cemetery Report, Cemetery Administrator - Mr. Ray Tunks

Year 2018/2019

THE OLD CEMETERY, HINCKLEY ROAD, STOKE GOLDING

In Hinckley Road Cemetery in the last 11 months (April 2018 – February 2019) there have been five full burials, two burials of ashes and one scattering of ashes in the garden of remembrance. Some of these were in pre purchased plots. Permission was granted to erect two memorials and to place one plaque on the memorial wall. Approval was given to add wording to six memorials. These transactions resulted in £3432.50 going into Parish Council funds.

THE NEW CEMETERY, WYKIN LANE, STOKE GOLDING

In Wykin Lane Cemetery in the last 11 months (April 2018 – February 2019) there have been four full burials and six burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect eight memorials and four grave plots and five cremation plots were purchased.

These transactions resulted in £9705.50 going into Parish Council funds.

Both cemeteries continue to be maintained by the Parish Council to a good standard.

Village Hall Management Committee - Ruth Fisher

The hall continues to be a very well used facility in the village, with many groups and small businesses using it daily, however, there is availability for private bookings on three Saturday evenings a month, and every Sunday up to 4pm.

We have held one StokeArts event since last April, when we welcomed back Rag Mama Rag to a capacity audience; and a local theatre group put on a performance in December. We are back on track again with StokeArts now and have 6 exciting events booked for this year.

In November last year the Scout Group hosted a Peace Tea in the hall following the Remembrance Day Service. It was a delightful occasion and it is hoped to repeat this in the future.

We had the floor cleaned and sealed in October, but unfortunately the sealant started peeling off almost immediately. The committee has been in negotiations with the contractor since then to rectify the matter and would like to apologise to all users for any inconvenience caused. We hope it will be repaired soon. CCTV has been installed around the hall which should cut down incidents of anti-social behaviour in the hall's vicinity. We have also had new stage lighting fitted to enhance stage performances.

The committee is in preliminary discussions with the village football and cricket clubs with regard to having an extension built on the side of the hall, that will benefit those clubs and also the community.

My thanks go to all members of the Management Committee for their continued hard work in keeping the hall running so well.

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee – Sarah Beale

The NPAC is starting to make real progress. We are working with our consultant to ascertain realistic minimum new housing numbers for our village and our general housing needs to cover up to 2036 . We are half way through writing our draft plan.

The policies will include ,heritage and design, local green spaces, housing, services, facilities and infrastructure and employment.

Our meetings are open to the public and take place in the Methodist hall every other Monday , more information can be found on the website www.stokegolding.co.uk/np

Everyone is welcome to attend and their feedback is crucial to making this plan for our village a success for everyone.

Reports from Charities registered with the Charity Commission

Women's Hall Charity – Parish Clerk

Funds from the sale of the Womens Hall were invested in shares. Dividends and interest will be used to provide improvements for all within the village and this year were £248.54. There was no expenditure. The current amount available to spend is £1,112.75.

The Charity of Thomas Barton

The interest from the investment portfolio of the Charity continues to fund the many projects in the village which the Charity undertakes.

During the year the Charity has provided funds for the following:

Village Web Site Expenses

Donation to Gardener for Old Cemetery Maintenance

Best Kept Front Garden Competition Prizes

Donation to Village Garden Society Show

St Martin's School Awards Scheme

Village Christmas Lights

Christmas Lights Switch-on incl. Refreshments, Band and Sleigh

St Margaret's Church Lighting Costs

Contribution to St. Margaret's Church and Methodist Church Flower Festivals

Repair of Village Sign

WW1 and WW2 Benches for Cemetery

Support for Projects at St. Margaret's School. (Pedestrian Safety Training)

Replacement of Broken Bench in Village

Repair to Church Gate

Grant to Stoker Magazine

Printing of Remembrance Day Leaflet

Purchase of Soldier Silhouette Statue

Over £10,500 has been spent on village projects since the last report.

The Charity will also consider applications for a grant from *any organisation or suggestions for projects* that meet the criteria of the Charity namely that it is:

'For the general benefit of the inhabitants of Stoke Golding for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes, or other public funds'

The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity

The income of the Charity after payment of expenses will be distributed to boys and young men of Stoke Golding under the age of 25 years. The amount payable this year will be in the region of £6000.

The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation

We are a small charity supporting education in the village of Stoke Golding and Dadlington.

Mistress Hester Hodges left a legacy for the education of children and youngsters.

It began in 1678 and the Foundation funded a free Grammar school, which was the forerunner of St. Margaret's Primary School.

We have a board of eight trustees and we meet twice a year. Whilst we do not have huge reserves we ensure that the annual interest is shared equally between the children of St. Margaret's Primary School and any past students from the school who can apply for an educational grant. The school usually uses their allocation to buy Bibles and last year it was used to buy books for their newly refurbished library. Also we had two students who applied for grants to support their further education. Students have requested funding for many things, we have even had a request to help fund a skeleton for a medical student.

If you have attended St. Margaret's Primary School and are undertaking further education, please send us a written request by October 2019 and it will be considered for a grant. Details of how and where to apply will be published on the Parish Notice Board, in The Hinckley Times and in The Stoker.

A copy of the APM Minutes 2018 are available on the Stoke Golding Village Website

If you wish to contact Stoke Golding Parish Council please contact:

Clerk to Stoke Golding Parish Council – Mrs Theresa Case at Email: clerk.stokegoldingpc@gmail.com

