

## **Stoke Golding Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

The annual parish meeting of Stoke Golding Parish Council was held in the Methodist Church Hall at 6:30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Present:** Cllr N Smith, Cllr A McLean, Cllr C Pegg, Cllr R Fisher , Cllr K Elliott

The Vice Chair Cllr N Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and explained that the chair Cllr R Terheege was unable to attend due to illness.

Cllr N Smith thanked the councillors and the clerk for the hard work over the last year. She also thanked Ray Tunks the cemetery administrator , Cllr R Fisher chair of the Village Hall Management Committee and Mervyn Ward and the Neighbourhood Plan committee for all the voluntary work they do to support the village.

#### **1. Formal apologies for absence**

Cllr R Terheege, Cllr V Palmer

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were unanimously AGREED and the vice chair signed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

#### **3. Reports for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

a) Cllr N Smith read out Cllr R Terheege's introduction

The last couple of years have been traumatic because of the Covid pandemic. As I write this, we are just beginning to see some kind of normality and then the Ukraine invasion happens.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all those people and families suffering as a result of one man's ambitions. Thank you for the tremendous support you gave with donations and at the vigil at the village hall.

Here in Stoke Golding the routine work of the Parish Council continues – on zoom during the pandemic and now back to face to face meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend, but otherwise all information is available via the village website, the PC Facebook page, or on the village noticeboard. Technology can be a wonderful thing but can also cause extra work in data protection.

I would like to thank Theresa Case, who was the Parish Clerk until the end of April 2021. She coped remarkable with all the varying clerical work of the Council, she steered us through the Covid emergency and the meetings via Zoom and she even dealt with unexpected village problems that were not listed on her CV. Enjoy your retirement.

I am pleased to say we have a new Clerk, Sarah Beale, who has been learning on the job since June and is adapting to her new role enthusiastically.

As I am sure you know by now, the Neighbourhood Plan passed at the referendum. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with this mammoth task. All were volunteers and they gave up many hours of their time to complete this document which will now be included in the planning regulations.

Routine work for the Parish Council during the year, includes maintenance of all our cemeteries and green spaces; the safeguarding of play areas and community land trees.

We have successfully taken over the convent open space and are working hard to have it accessible for the village in the spring. We have also taken over the Laburnum Gardens open community space

and are in the process of taking over Bosworth Manor play area as assets to the village.

This year sees the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which I'm sure you will all want to celebrate. Watch out for information about the lighting of the beacon and the picnic in the park and other related events over the June bank holiday.

Throughout the year there are numerous sporting and leisure events available for our enjoyment, many of which have been recorded in the Stoker. Jane White was one of the original instigators of this valued magazine. She has now handed over to new editors. Many thanks to Jane.

Our thanks go to Jane for another outstanding achievement. She and a team of volunteers have managed to secure the Baxter Hall for the village. It was proposed for redevelopment but through their persistence they have retained the hall and it is now available for hire.

The Christmas Sleigh is also a long-standing event and our thanks go to Ron Ward and his team who have been helping Santa for many years. The current team are handing over this year and new Elves are required.

It seems to be a period of all change as I too have decided to retire from the Parish Council. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved for many years with the varied topics that occur each month.

There are many things I am proud of – not least the smooth running of the Parish administration.

The PC has changed tremendously since I started – in scope, responsibility and legislation. It is time for others to carry on. I wish them all well and hope you continue to support these volunteer Councillors in their work managing the everyday background to village life for you all.

b) The clerk reported on the financial position of the Parish Council

Balance of Accounts 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	
NSI Investment Account	£61034.58
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£39.96
Nat West Current Account	£70688.29

### **Financial Report - Parish Clerk:**

#### **Budget Report 2021/22**

The precept for 2021/22 was £55,531.00 The full precept has been received

Cemetery income is higher than yearly estimate

There were no cricket pitch hire fees as the team is no longer using the recreational ground.

Additional ground maintenance work has been approved at a cost of £1163.25 which was within the allocated budget.

A sum of £1,000 has been allocated in the budget for Neighbourhood Plan admin A grant of £1365.00 was received and spent on consultancy fees.

The total reserve in the NATWEST current account going into 2022/23 is £70688.29 There is £340.34 maintenance grant remaining for the gym equipment and £1500 ring-fenced for election costs A reserve of £20,000 enables funding for large projects in the future £10,000.00 is ring-fenced for the essential drainage work £600 is ring fenced for maintenance at Laburnum Gardens and £200 for printing costs. This would leave a working reserve of £38047.95 that is not allocated, to be carried forward to 2022/23.

#### **Precept Report 2022/23**

The Precept for 2021/22 was £55,531.00 with a Band D figure of £70.40 per household There has been a decrease in the tax base figure from 788.80 to 788.50. To cover the cost of the proposed annual budget and medium-term planning budget the total increase for 2022/23 required will be £60,525.00, this will increase the Band D figure from £70.40 to £76.76 per household, an increase of £6.36 per household. The precept will increase by £4994.00 on the previous year.

### **Budget Report 2022/23**

Cemetery income and expenditure is estimated based on the average net income over the three years prior to 2021/22

Recreation ground fees will be based on Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council fee structure and the number of teams playing

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 £1000 contingency for any necessary works which are not included in the contract

Pavilion and village hall maintenance take account of annual increase in trade waste collection, estimated cost of water supply and the cost of pavilion electricity.

Litter/dog waste collection by HBBC will increase annually.

The Clerk's salary will increase in line with NJC pay scales and contract

Other budgets for PC admin, cemetery admin and subscriptions have been updated to reflect increased costs and a budget for S137 spending has been included.

Budgets have been allocated for small projects and emergencies, works to trees at the recreation field, church yard and the cemeteries, grave memorial repairs, planting in the village and events such as the Platinum Jubilee.

Laburnum Gardens open space land has been transferred to the Parish Council and £12,000 has been received from the developer to help towards the maintenance of the area over the next 20 years.

### **Projects**

There is currently no estimated cost for the pavilion project. There is £31,855.57 ring-fenced for this project.

### **NSI Reserves**

Ring fenced reserves in the NSi account: £5,761.00 remains of the solar panel farm donation, £10,000 from the small business account and £16,094.70 have all been ring fenced for the pavilion project. £11400 is ring fenced from the developer for maintenance of Laburnum Gardens for the next 19 years.

The unallocated reserves in this account are currently £17,778.88

The government external audit ensures that all reserves are appropriate. In addition to any allocated reserves the Parish Council may hold the equivalent of twelve months expenditure in general reserve.

- c) Cllr N Smith reported on the previous year's planning applications

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the Parish Council has consulted and offered comments where appropriate on 32 planning applications. These were for 14 extensions and alterations to dwellings, 4 works to trees, 3 agricultural buildings, 3 change of use, 1 change of fence, 1 development of six dwellings, 1 development of seventy dwellings, 1 development of nineteen bungalows, 2 development of one house and 1 vehicle access variation on occupiers

- d) Cllr N Smith reported on the cemetery administration report

### **HINCKLEY ROAD CEMETERY, STOKE GOLDING.**

In Hinckley Road Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2021 – March 2022) there have been ten full burials, three burials of ashes and three scattering of ashes. Permission was granted to erect five memorials and to place two plaques on the memorial wall. Approval was given to add wording to one memorial.

## WYKIN LANE CEMETERY, STOKE GOLDING

In Wykin Lane Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2021 – March 2022) there has been one full burial and three burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect seven memorials and four grave plots, and one cremation plot were purchased. Approval was given to add wording to one memorial. Both cemeteries continue to be maintained by the Parish Council to a good standard.

e) Cllr R Fisher reported on the Village Hall

We are pleased that activities at the village hall have resumed following the end of COVID-19 restrictions, with all our regular users returning, plus two new community groups – the WI and Ambion Voices. We have also been picking up bookings for private parties.

In September we had a celebration in the hall marking its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 20 years of The Stoker magazine. Our many visitors enjoyed tea and coffee and delicious cakes, ably served by local Scouts. Entertainment was provided by Ambion Voices and Bold Ukes, ukulele group. Donations collected during the afternoon enabled us to twin all the hall toilets with those in developing countries.

[www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

We have been able to resume Stoke Arts events with three very successful performances: Tears of Laughter in October, Three Men in a Boat in November and She 'Koyokh in February. We kept our audience numbers limited to 70 and each show sold out.

In November, the Scout Group again hosted a Peace Tea following the Remembrance Day Service. It was a delightful occasion, and it is hoped will become an annual event.

Earlier this year we installed electrically operated opening windows in the main hall to allow better ventilation – it has only taken 60 years and a pandemic to achieve this.

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

f) Mervyn Ward reported on the Neighbourhood Plan

### **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan**

From December 2020 until February 2021, the NPAC undertook a village consultation (Regulation 14) on the draft plan. The plan was then updated, and the revised draft plan was approved by the Parish Council in April 2021. This was submitted to HBBC for the next stage in the consultation process which was the Regulation 15 validation and Regulation 16 consultation.

At the same time, the NPAC collated the supporting many documents and added them to the village web site to form the 'Evidence Base.'

HBBC had conducted their checks by 19<sup>th</sup> May and the consultation was done in the six weeks from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### **Updating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

An updated SEA was required to match with the revisions being made to the plan. This was undertaken by AECOM and the new SEA report was received in July.

### **Examination Phase**

The Plan moved onto its Examination, which needed to be done by an Independent Examiner.

The Examiner was appointed in July and the Examination commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and ran until late September. The Examiner considered whether the Plan met the necessary regulatory requirements, as well as considering the comments from HBBC and other parties, including the

Parish Council. There was a dialogue about the potential modifications and the Examiner then made a number of recommendations which were accepted by the Parish Council. The Examiner then passed the plan.

### **Approval of the Neighbourhood Plan at referendum**

On 10<sup>th</sup> October Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) issued a Decision Statement approving our plan to go for referendum. This should have taken place by the end of December but was impacted by staff shortages at HBBC.

The referendum took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the plan was approved. We had a 29.2% turnout with 95.0% voting in favour of the plan. The plan has now been formally incorporated into the HBBC planning process which will give some measure of control over future planning applications.

### **Housing numbers for the village**

The Plan submitted to HBBC in April 2021 had already been updated for the planning approval of the land east of Roseway (65 homes) and included Mulberry Farm as a 25-home reserve site to give future flexibility around housing growth. However, after submission of the Plan, there was approval of the 55 homes in Wykin Lane at the Planning Appeal. These were then added into the proposed housing supply and reflected in the approved plan. When the plan is next updated, the subsequent approval of the Hinckley Road application will also need to be reflected.

### **Publicity**

Throughout, the NPAC has tried to keep villagers aware of what was happening. This has been through updates on the village web site, articles in the Stoker, Facebook postings, the parish notice board and occasional household leaflets.

### **The Neighbourhood Plan will need to be updated at intervals**

The plan is a living document and needs to remain current. HBBC is well underway with the preparation of its new Local Plan and the NPAC is also considering other potential changes to further clarify the village's intentions around future planning. In a year or so, therefore, our neighbourhood plan will need to be updated.

### **Using the plan to support suitable development**

The NPAC participated in the Appeal inquiry over the Wykin Lane planning application. Submissions have also been made regarding the proposed design for Roseway, the outline applications for Hinckley Road, Higham Lane and Mill House and a request for input at an early design stage for Mulberry Farm.

Following the referendum approval, the Parish Council should now be comprehensively using the neighbourhood plan to guide the response on planning applications

#### **4. To receive observation by the Borough Councillor representing the parish Cllr Jonathan Collett.**

2021/22 has been a challenging year for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

As the Borough emerges from the Covid pandemic significant reserves were used to balance the budget. The Council remains exposed in terms of constructing the new crematorium, in terms of losses from the leisure centre, and remaining empty units in the Crescent development.

The absence of both a local plan for HBBC and a five-year housing supply has put Stoke Golding at risk from speculative development with a tilted balance applied in planning decisions in favour of developments. In recent time developments have now been approved at Wykin Lane (after my motion at Planning Committee was passed to reject it this was reversed at appeal by the Inspector), Roseway, and Stoke Fields Farm. This is of great concern.

The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan will now be accorded full weight after the village voted in its favour at Referendum. It is to be hoped this will now protect the village from further development.

Minimum housing numbers in the draft local plan will include those already passed by the planning committee.

The village has benefited from Parish Community Initiative Funds including for St Margaret's Church. Protection for the Baxter Hall after it was listed by HBBC as an asset of Community Value led to a lease being granted to a local Trust dedicated to preserving and running the Hall.

Plans are still on track to include Stoke Golding in a 1485 Sculpture Trail - a new landscape of world class artworks telling the story of the Battle of Bosworth. The key role of Stoke Golding as the birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty will be marked with a sculpture which will mark the crowning of Henry VII in Stoke Golding.

**5. To receive such observations as representatives of the following local organisations, registered with the Charity Commission may wish to make.**

a) 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

St Martin's School Awards Scheme

Village Christmas Lights (Additional Lights and Storage)

Village Christmas Lights Switch (Refreshments, Band, and Fire brigade Sleigh)

St Margaret's Church Lighting Costs

Donation to W Leicestershire First Responders

Support for Projects at St. Margaret's School (Ukulele Lessons, Faith Garden build Faith Assemblies, Christmas Baubles)

Funding for 'The Stoker' anniversary edition

Repairs to St. Margaret of Antioch Church

St. Margaret's Church Floodlighting Costs

Donation to Stoke Golding Sleigh Fund

Over £14,000 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 from rates, taxes, or other public funds'

b) The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation

Current trustees, Mrs Jean Buckby (Chair), Miss Anne Fullager (Secretary), Mrs Alison Bates (Treasurer), Mr Anthony Collett, Mrs Sarah Hill, Mr Mark Ashworth, Mrs Shiono Alston, Mrs Sarah Beale continues to represent the Hester Hodges Charity as our school governor representative at St Margaret's.

Sadly, again due to rising numbers of Covid cases at the time, we met via Zoom.

All investments were audited and in accordance with our constitution The Exhibition Fund was split between St Margaret's school and grants to local students. £264.04 was given to St Margaret's school to be used for buying bibles for Year 2 pupils. 4 students received a grant of £60 each

It is, with sadness that Miss A Fullager will be stepping down as secretary after many years of service. In the short term she will continue to advise the trustees as we define our trustee roles for 2022/23.

*There is now a vacancy for a new trustee. If any member of our community is interested, please contact Jean Buckby on 01455 212494. This would not be a very time consuming role, as we only meet twice a year.*

If you attended St Margaret's Primary School and are undertaking further education, please send us a written request by October 2022 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.

c) 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 this year will be in the region of £6000.**

d) Women's Hall Charity

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 it received £58.91. The current amount available to spend is £1653.23. A donation of £1500 has been agreed to be given to The Baxter Hall Management Committee to help towards the replacement of a boiler.

**6. Questions by people currently on the Register of Electors for the parish are invited in writing to the Chairman .**

It was NOTED there was nothing to report

Meeting closed at 7pm.