



PARISH COUNCIL

20-4-23

Annual Parish Report May 2023

All electors in Stoke Golding are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 6.30pm .

Agenda

1. Formal apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 4th May 2022
3. Reports for the year ended 31st March 2023
 - a) Parish Council Chair Report
 - b) Parish Council Financial Report
 - c) Parish Council Planning Report
 - d) Parish Council Cemetery Admin Report
 - e) Village Hall Management Committee Report
 - f) Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee Report
4. To receive observations by the Borough Councillor representing the parish, Cllr Jonathan Collett
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
 - b) The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation
 - c) Stoke Golding Boys' Charity
 - d) Womens's Hall Charity
6. Questions by people currently on the Register of Electors for the parish are invited by email or in writing to the Chairman at nic.sgpc@gmail.com or c/o Old Forge, Blacksmiths Yard , Stoke Golding , CV13 6HD

The Annual Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish matters and pass resolutions about them for the consideration by the Parish Council, but such resolutions do not bind the council

Full report available on: stokegoldingparishcouncil.gov.uk or contact clerk@stokegoldingparishcouncil.gov.uk

Introduction by the Chair -Cllr Nicola Smith: Annual Parish Report 2023

As the Parish Council continues to serve the residents of Stoke Golding, this is an opportunity to reflect on what we have been doing over the past 12 months.

Last year we said farewell to Rachel Terheege, who resigned in June 2022. We are enormously grateful for the years of hard work and dedication Rachel has given to the Parish Council. Her presence on the Council continues to be sorely missed.

Our first task was to appoint another councillor to fill the vacant position around the table. After a lengthy recruitment, we welcomed Mark Styles to join the team in November 2022.

We have continued with usual Parish Council affairs, including maintaining the open spaces; managing the two cemeteries; assessing and maintaining the trees and responding to planning applications. We have also installed an accessibility bench at the recreation ground, mended various pieces of equipment and installed much-needed drainage at the Wykin Lane cemetery.

In addition to these routine things, various activities through the year stand out:

Convent Meadow

The land was transferred to the Parish and was opened to the public in. A small committee has undertaken the arduous task of cultivating the space and bringing the play area up to a standard that it can be opened. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have worked on that space, including an enthusiastic team of Scouts, who helped with tree planting.

Laburnum Gardens

The land at the front of the estate was transferred to the Parish, so is now available for all the residents to enjoy. We are grateful to Cartwrights for gifting a commemorative bench to further the enjoyment of the space and to remember all those who died during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Neighbourhood Plan

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan has now been adopted and forms part of local government planning guidance, the team continue to work on modifications to the plan in light of the new developments and the pending local plan that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are due to release in the near future. We are thankful for all the work they are putting into this and to the advice they routinely offer to the Parish Council.

Cemeteries

This year, our Cemeteries Administrator; Ray Tunks, stepped down from this role. We are extremely grateful for the years of dedication he gave and the sensitive way he supported families through the process. Our clerk, Sarah Beale has now taken on the role of Cemeteries Administrator and Ray continues to work alongside Sarah to share his expertise.

Civility and Respect Pledge

In November, we signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as a demonstration of the values that sit at the heart of Stoke Golding Parish Council.

Pavilion

We have been working hard to bring the Pavilion up to a standard that it can be used and enjoyed by the teams that play on the pitches. We continue to aspire to installing a new pavilion and work is underway to source funding and develop plans. However, for the time being, we have a functional pavilion that the teams can now benefit from.

Jubilee / Coronation

To mark the Queen's Jubilee, we joined the nation in celebrating with a picnic in the Village Hall and entertainment.

We look forward to celebrating the King's Coronation with further plans to be revealed in due course.

In May, our Borough Councillor, Jonathan Collett, is due to resign. His presence at meetings will be greatly missed, as will his advocacy and work he carried out on behalf of residents. We extend our thanks to Jonathan and wish him well with all his future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to our clerk, Sarah Beale, who works conscientiously and fastidiously for the Parish Council; to all the Parish Councillors, who work tirelessly to see our lovely village flourish and thrive and to all the volunteers that give their time for the benefit of our residents, whether it's planting troughs, clearing litter, fundraising, or organizing events.

End of Year Accounts and Budget Summary - Parish Clerk:

Receipts:	For Audit (draft)	Budget
	2022/2023	2023/2024
Precept	£ 60,525.00	£66,750.00
Cemetery Charges	£ 13,448.00	£14,309.00
Recreation Ground Fees	£ 1,100.00	£ 1,922.00
Grants and Donations	£ 13,735.58	£ 1,400.00
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Interest	£ 938.10	
	£ 56.95	£ 10.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	£ 89,803.63	£84,391.00
Payments:		
Cemetery Internments	£ 2370.00	£ 2,200.00
Cemetery Admin and Maintenance	£ 6223.49	£ 2,790.00
Works to trees – cemeteries	£ 0.00	£ 2,200.00
Grave memorial repairs	£ 1541.67	£ 2,000.00
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 274.80	£ 500.00
Ground Maintenance, Planters, Playground Inspection and Other Ground Maintenance Work	£ 28,394.98	£31,550.00
Works to trees – recreation Ground	£ 630.00	£ 2,000.00
Other Works to Recreation Ground	£ 7121.46	£ 1,500.00
Litter/Dog Waste Disposal Contract	£ 2952.16	£ 3464.00
Village Hall/Pavilion Maintenance	£ 6643.62	£ 1667.00
Salt (for Grit Bins)	£ 20.00	£ 200.00
Works to Convent Drive open space	£ 6415.32	£ 2,500.00
Administration, salary, Insurance and Audit	£ 22,627.92	£24,803.00
Subscriptions and Donations	£ 2258.14	£ 745.00
S137 expenditure	£ 556.82	£ 800.00
Capital Expenditure	£ 0.00	£ 500.00
Land transfer	£ 0.00	£ 2000.00
Small Projects/Emergency Fund	£ 0.00	£ 1500.00
Events	£ 0.00	£ 400.00
Chairman's allowance	£ 0.00	£ 100.00
Election costs	£ 0.00	£ 500.00
Neighbourhood Plan admin/grant	£ 9709.50	£ 3000.00
Bank charges	£ 54.44	£ 72.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS:	£ 97,794.32	£ 86,991.00

Balance of Accounts 31st March 2023

NSI Investment Account	£61,091.38
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£ 40.14
Nat West Current Account	£19,479.49
Unity Trust bank	£41,027.56

Financial Report - Parish Clerk: Budget Report 2022/23

The precept for 2022/23 was £60525.00 The full precept has been received

Cemetery income was higher than yearly estimate

Football pitch hire fees were lower than expected due to the pavilion not available for use for most of the season.

Grants and donations received were higher than expected.

Cemetery maintenance was higher than expected due to installation of new soil enclosures ,cleaning of block paving and soil removal. The cleaning and the soil removal has now been budgeted for in next years accounts. Grave memorial repairs were lower than expected.

Ground maintenance work was higher than expected due to extra ground work and purchase of new climbing frame at the recreational ground

Pavilion maintenance was higher than expected due to essential upgrade of electrics and water and fire assessment requirements.

Village Hall maintenance was higher than expected due to water leak issues .

Convent Meadow expenditure was higher than expected due to ongoing essential work to improve the area.

Works to trees was lower than expected.

Neighbourhood plan expenditure was lower than expected. A grant of £9500 was received. £7000 was spent and £2500 was returned to Groundworks UK.

Precept Report 2023/2024

The Precept for 2022/2023 was £60,525 with a Band D figure of £76.76 per household. There has been a decrease in the tax base figure from 788.50 to 784.90. To cover the cost of the proposed annual budget and medium-term planning budget the total for 2023/2024 required will be £66,750, this will increase the Band D figure from £76.76 to £85.04 per household, an increase of £8.28 per household. The precept will increase by £6225 overall on the previous year.

Budget Report 2023/2024

Cemetery income and expenditure is estimated based on the average net income over the three years prior 2022/23

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 £3000 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, cost of pavilion electricity and any safety assessments required.

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 Coronation.

Projects and reserves

New pavilion. We are working on building a new pavilion on the recreational ground. There is currently no estimated cost for the pavilion project. There is £31,205.70 ring-fenced for this project.

Car park extension. We are looking into different options to extend the car park at the recreational ground. There is £12,000.00 ring-fenced to go towards this project.

Maintenance money from the developer for Laburnum Gardens is ring-fenced at £10,145.00.

Convent Open Space. This is an ongoing project and we have ring-fenced £2,000 for extra work required.

S106 money for the maintenance of the exercise equipment and the accessibility picnic table in the recreational ground is ring-fenced at £645.09.

Money towards election costs is ring-fenced at £1500

Match funding is ring-fenced at £20,0000.

For the essential drainage work at Wykin Lane cemetery and the allotments we have ring-fenced £10,000 to go towards the cost.

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.

Planning Report - Parish Clerk:

Since 1st April 2022 the Parish Council has consulted and offered comments where appropriate on 34 planning applications. These were for 11 extensions and alterations to dwellings, 11 works to trees, 1 agricultural building, 1 change of use, 1 development of twenty five dwellings, 4 developments of one extra dwelling, 1 change of conditions and 3 reserved matters.

Borough Councillor-Jonathan Collett

This will be my final report as I am not standing for re-election in May due to my work commitments. As you will all be aware Stoke Golding is very close to my heart and I have very much enjoyed representing villagers over the last four years.

In the last year I have continued to speak out against development in the village. Stoke Golding has had far more than its fair share of development and I have argued against further development at Full Council, Planning Committee and to executive members writing the draft local plan.

I have supported village applications for the Parish Community Initiative Fund and taken a close interest in the development of the proposed 1485 Trail including the statue in Stoke Golding.

I have continually raised issues with Leicestershire County Council, HBBC and developers concerning the Miller Homes Development off Hinckley Road. I successfully contacted Enforcement to get advertising signs removed at the Bath Piece for the forthcoming Roseway Development.s

I requested new signs for the Stoke Golding Marina Bridge outlining and signposting Bosworth Battlefield and Crown Hill.

I have continued to support Baxter Hall, St Margaret's Church, the Village Hall and have supported Village concerns about the future of the White Swan Pub.

At Council level I remain extremely concerned about the absence of a Local Plan for HBBC and a five year land supply and the knock on effects on speculative development. The HBBC budget and depletion of reserves remains a concern.

Cemetery Report -Ray Tunks

HINCKLEY ROAD CEMETERY, STOKE GOLDING. In Hinckley Road Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2022 – March 2023) there has been one full burial plot purchased, five full burials and two burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect four memorials and approval was given to add wording to three memorials. These transactions resulted in £4912.00 going into Parish Council funds.

WYKIN LANE CEMETERY, STOKE GOLDING In Wykin Lane Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2022 – March 2023) there have been four full burial plots purchased, six full burials and three burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect three memorials. Approval was given to add wording to one memorial. These transactions resulted in £6710.00 going into Parish Council funds.

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

I would also like to add that since taking on the post of Cemetery Administrator in 2008, it has been my privilege to help the Parish Council, individuals, and families in dealing with the burials and associated issues regarding the two cemeteries in the village. After 14 years I have decided that now is the time to pass this on for someone else to continue into the future. May I thank everyone for their support over the years.

Convent Meadow- Cllr Amanda McLean

Throughout the year 22/23 good progress has been achieved within the Convent Meadow area . Work will continue on each site as needed and the project will become more established as funds allow .

The formal play area is now safe to use and meets play equipment regulations, a bench , picnic table & bin have been positioned for community use and the next objective here will be safety matting around equipment and entrance to help counteract the muddy ground .

A Convent Meadow sign has been added to the entrance gate from the Convent Drive estate .

The informal play area is now an easily maintained natural grass area , a couple of ground dips will be filled using earth from other site areas .

The allotment area has drainage ditch work planned along the boundary with security enhanced by new fencing and hedge planting , a clean up day by allotment owners has been organised to keep site tidy . A new fence and hedge has also been added along the the allotment entrance again with security in mind .

The orchard area has had ground level clearance around the original fruit trees allowing for the orchard to be extended with 16 new fruit trees planted by the village scouts .

The balancing pond and Severn Trent enclosure is again work in progress, explanations have been requested re pipeline and pond areas and Severn Trent will carry out a gate inspection on their site visit to decide if the original convent iron gates can be repositioned.

The conifer area is presently the main concern due to health and safety issues with the existing trees , funding is being sourced to begin project of removing and replanting to establish a wildlife friendly woodland. Once this has been achieved the original compost toilet now renovated into a bird hide will be positioned providing views over the countryside and surrounding fields .

Village Hall Management Committee - Ruth Fisher

It has been a relatively quiet, uneventful year at the hall, with a steady return to normality after Covid. The hall is almost full to capacity but there are a few slots available. It's a popular venue for children's parties, in particular. We now have wi-fi at the hall which we hope will benefit all users and will enable us to control the heating remotely. Last year we had a defibrillator installed on an external wall, which will benefit not only hall and rec users but also the wider community. We are currently investigating the possibility of installing a hearing loop in the hall.

In December we said farewell to Sue Mitchell who has been a committee member and our treasurer for many years. We would like to thank her for her hard work and commitment and wish her a long and happy retirement. We have now welcomed Rachel Terheege back onto the committee after a break of several years, and also our new member, Denise Gladwin.

Last June the hall was filled to capacity, celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a success.

We have held 3 successful Stoke Arts events so far this season: The Chris Ingham Trio performed The Jazz of Dudley Moore in October. The Sounds of Simon returned for a second time in February, and The Beast in Me in April. We look forward to welcoming Bowjangles back in May – they were very well received when they last performed in the hall in 2014. Thank you, Alan White for taking the lead for all these events.

As always, my thanks go to fellow members of the Management Committee who work very hard to keep the hall running smoothly and provide such an excellent village facility.



Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee – Chair Mervyn Ward Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) – Chairman: Mervyn Ward

Introduction

The referendum took place on 3rd March 2022 and the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan (subsequently referred to as the 'Plan') was approved. There was a 29.2% turnout with 95.0% voting in favour of the Plan. Following the positive result, HBBC 'made' the Plan part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

Therefore, the Plan is now incorporated into the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) planning process, which gives Stoke Golding Parish Council some measure of control over future planning applications.

Revision of the Plan

However, neighbourhood planning is an ongoing activity with plans needing to be periodically updated to reflect the latest position - with both Borough planning policies and also changes in Government policies and regulations. Drafting of the current Plan was completed in early 2021 but changes since then which need to be reflected include the following:

- (a) New Government policies, such as the First Homes Scheme and biodiversity targets
- (b) Existing planning approvals for Wykin Lane and Hinckley Road
- (c) Some updates to the village Settlement Boundary
- (d) Some changes to the Local Green Spaces
- (e) Clarification of some policies to ensure that it is clear how a decision maker should assess planning matters.

Also, the Plan was prepared having regard to the emerging HBBC Local Plan. However, ongoing delays in the preparation of this Local Plan raises concern about the protections from 2024 offered by our current Plan. In the absence of an HBBC Borough-wide Local Plan, the Plans prepared by the various parishes lose much of their effectiveness in protecting against unwanted development after just two years.

Therefore, the Plan is being revised. However, no additional housing has allocated over the current committed developments and the previous allocation at Mulberry Farm.

In 2023, this revised Plan will again go through a village consultation phase where residents of Stoke Golding Parish will be invited to comment on the revised Plan.

Following this, there are several regulatory stages. The NPAC believes that the modifications do not change the nature of the Plan because the objectives and broad strategy of the Plan are unaltered. If HBBC and Independent Examiner agree, another referendum will not be required.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)

An SEA is a wide-ranging assessment of the impact of a Plan on the environment. The Parish council was required to undertake one for the current Plan and it took around 12 months. A Screening Assessment is now underway to determine if another full SEA is required - assessing this is a regulatory pre-requisite to the Regulation 14 consultation stage. The NPAC has consulted with various bodies, none of whom so far require another full SEA to be undertaken. This process is still underway.

Using the Plan to manage development.

HBBC is responsible for determining most planning applications, but in the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Area, the policies in the Plan now form part of the basis of those decisions.

Following the referendum approval, the Parish Council is using the Plan to guide the response on planning matters. The NPAC has assisted with the assessment of planning applications, compliance with Plan policies, reports by third parties (such as Historic England), and issues with design and construction for the various sites.

Publicity

Throughout the year, the NPAC has kept villagers aware of what was happening. This has been through updates on the parish notice board, the village web site, articles in the Stoker magazine and Facebook postings.

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 it received £297.07. The current amount available to spend is £2030.03. A donation of £1500 has been agreed to be given to The Baxter Hall Management Committee to help towards the replacement of a boiler, this has not yet been donated as there have been issues with changing bank accounts.

The Charity of Thomas Barton-Morris Bolton

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-on (Refreshments, Band, and Fire Brigade Sleigh)

Donation to W Leicestershire First Responders

Support for Projects at St. Margaret's School (Ukulele Lessons, Repair of Pirate Ship, Bike Shed)

Funding for 'The Stoker'.

St. Margaret's Church Floodlighting Costs

Support for St. Martin's School Willow Project

Provision of Mugs for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee

Support for Projects at the Methodist Church (Replacement windows, Messy Church)

Support for Baxter Hall (Storage Cupboards)

Grant to Village Garden Society Show

Prizes for Best Kept Front Garden

Over £18,000 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 out of rates, taxes, or other public funds.'

The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity-Tony Smith

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.

The amount available this year will be £5000.

The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation- Chair Jean Buckby

Hester Hodges Foundation

Charity No: 528011

2022 report for Stoke Golding Parish Council

Current Trustees:

Mrs Jean Buckby Chair

Mrs Sarah Beale Secretary

Mrs Alison Bates Treasurer

Mrs Sarah Hill

Mr Mark Ashworth

Mrs Shiona Alston

Mrs Sarah Beale continues to represent the Hester Hodges Charity as our school governor representative at St Margaret's.

After many years of support and service, Miss Ann Fullager has retired from the committee.

November 2022.

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.

£240.00 was given to St Margaret's Primary School to be used for buying bibles for Year 2 pupils.

5 students all met the criteria and received a grant of £60.00 each

The student application form has been updated.

The charity will continue to meet twice a year but we have moved meetings to June and December when dividends on investments have been received.

There is now a vacancy for a new trustee. If any member of our community is interested, please contact Jean Buckby on 01455212494. This would not be a very time consuming role, as we only meet twice a year.

If you have 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 Stoker and on Facebook.

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

Clerk to Stoke Golding Parish Council – Mrs Sarah Beale at Email: clerk@stokegoldinparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall.