

STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Report April 2021

Introduction by the Chairman, Cllr Rachel Terheege:

When you look back over the last year, I do not think anyone could have foreseen what a year it would be.

The Covid pandemic has affected our lives in many unforgettable ways: the lockdowns, the selfless acts of NHS and emergency workers, the countless number of deaths, the small acts of kindness. It has shown the strength, and the frailties, of the human character.

Volunteers have come forward throughout the village in many ways: to help people shielding, do their shopping, collect medicines, and even to help at vaccination centres.

The Parish Council has continued with its routine work this year, all be it in another format, via zoom. Everyone has had to learn to embrace new methods of communication which has not been easy.

This year has seen very little sport played on the recreation ground and the temporary closure of the village hall. Work to underpin the pavilion has been delayed by the wet weather, but when that is completed it will be the start of the renovation of this building.

The village is such a lovely place to live that developers see it as a potential area to build. The battle over the Roseway development was lost and the Wykin Lane appeal is still ongoing (as I write this). If we win that battle, I foresee other challenges to come. The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing a critical stage (see item below) and is our major defence against future attack.

Following years of debate with the Convent Site developers trying to encourage them to fulfil their commitments on the spare land, the Parish Council has now taken ownership of that area and will work to make it a village asset.

It is thanks to everyone's adherence to the lockdown rules and the vaccination programme that we are nearing the end of this traumatic year. It is with hope and anticipation that we will soon be back to normal (or as near normal as possible). We will be able to have meetings in public, play sport and hug our grandchildren. I look forward to meeting you all again.

End of Year Accounts and Budget Summary - Parish Clerk:

Receipts:	For Audit (draft)	Budget
	2020/21	2021/22
Precept	52,595.00	55,531.00
Other: Cemetery Charges	13,507.00	8,500.00
Recreation Ground Fees	0.00	2,470.00
Grants and Donations	24,991.37	240.40
106 monies	-	
Interest	498.69	600.00
VAT Recovery	4,068.82	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	95,660.88	69,341.40
Payments:		
Cemetery Interments	2,940.00	1,570.00
Cemetery Admin and Maintenance	12,101.06	930.00
Works to trees – cemeteries	1,095.00	2,200.00
Grave memorial repairs	4,829.17	2,000.00
Churchyard Maintenance	863.00	500.00
Ground Maintenance, Playground Inspection and Other Ground Maintenance Work	21,078.21	25,500.80
Works to trees – recreation Ground	1,076.67	2,000.00
Other Works to Recreation Ground	354.98	1,500.00
Litter/Dog Waste Disposal Contract	2,316.60	2,359.00
Village Hall/Pavilion Maintenance including Trade Waste Contract	871.62	1,280.00
Salt (for Grit Bins)		200.00
Village/cemetery planting		200.00
Works to Convent Drive open space		2,000.00
Administration, Insurance and Audit	20,520.41	15,975.00
Subscriptions and Donations	688.37	800.00
S137 expenditure	480.00	650.00
VAT	3,753.16	2,000.00
Capital Expenditure	3,051.00	
Small Projects/Emergency Fund		1,262.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS:	76,019.25	62,926.80

Future Provisions:		
Pavilion - available funds		34,173.12
Recreation field car park extension – estimated cost		20,000.00
Recreation field barrier replacement		
Recreation field rear ditch		
Wykin Lane Cemetery drainage work		
Recreation field pathways		14,725.00
Medium Term Planning (up to 3 years)		
Possible future land adoption	642.00	642.00
Start up costs for 'Making Tax Digital'	2,500.00	2,500.00
Balance of Accounts 31 st March 2021		
NSB Investment Account	£49,629.54	
Nat West Business Reserve Account	£39.96	
Nat West Current Account	£54,869.02	
CAF Gold Account	£1,594.32	

Financial Report - Parish Clerk:

Budget Report 2020/21

The precept for 2020/21 was £52,595.00. The full precept has been received.

Cemetery income is higher than yearly estimate.

There was no income from pitch hire this season.

Small projects and emergency works have been approved in this year at the total cost of £1,630.56 which was within the allocated budget.

Additional ground maintenance work has been approved at a cost of £867.25 which was within the allocated budget.

Work to trees/hedges have been approved in this year at the total cost of £4,151.00 with £249.00 of allocated budget remaining to be ring-fenced.

The following medium/large projects have been approved in this year at the total cost of £31,421.17, but with £3,088.67 funded by the EIP grant: street name signs, grave memorial repairs, churchyard railings removal, Wykin Lane Cemetery fence/gates, soil removal at cemeteries, solicitor for land transfer were covered by underspend on grave memorial repairs budget and unspent medium term planning budget and the pavilion underpinning and recreation field pathway repairs were covered from allocated reserves.

A sum of £2,000.00 has been allocated in the budget for Neighbourhood Plan admin and ring-fenced giving a total of £4,546.59 ring-fenced admin budget remaining unspent. A grant of £6,649.00 was received and £149.00 is to be repaid.

A small business grant has been received of £10,000.00 and transferred to the NSB reserves. This could be ring-fenced for maintenance of recreational facilities.

The total reserve in the NATWEST bank going into 2021/22 is £54,869.02: £2,032.00 is required for agreed works that have not yet been invoiced, £4,695.59 ring-fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remaining plus £2,000.00 ring fenced for 2020/21, £505.84 maintenance grant remaining for the gym equipment, the remaining tree allocated budget of £808.00 plus £249.00 to be ring-fenced from 2020/21 budget, £200.00 ring-fenced for the planters and £1000 ring-fenced for election costs. This leaves £45,378.59. 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 would leave a working reserve of £25,378.59 that is not allocated, to be carried forward to 2020/21. The working reserve has increased from £14,218.67 to £25,378.59 over the year, mainly due to increased cemetery income. Therefore, £10,000.00 is to be ring-fenced for the essential drainage work at Wykin Lane Cemetery.

Precept Report 2021/22

The Precept for 2020/21 was £52,595.00 with a Band D figure of £65.63 per household. There has been a decrease in the tax base figure from 801.4 to 788.8. To cover the cost of the proposed annual budget and medium-term planning budget the total increase for 2021/22 required will be £55,531.00, this will increase the Band D figure from £65.63 to £70.40 per household, an increase of £4.77 per household. The precept will increase by £2,936.00 on the previous year.

Budget Report 2021/22

Cemetery income and expenditure is estimated based on the average net income over the three years prior to 2020/21.

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 £1500 contingency for any necessary works which are not included in the contract. The sum of £2,500.00 has been added to the ground maintenance budget for Convent Drive formal play area. This figure has been estimated by reference to the existing contract figures and proposals for other similar areas.

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.

The allocated budget for the Neighbourhood Plan is £2000.

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 and the cemeteries, grave memorial repairs and war memorial cleaning, planting in the village and works to Convent Drive open space.

Potential future medium-term provision will include: possible acquisition of open space at Laburnum Close and potential cost of 'making tax digital'. The £5,000.00 unallocated income for 'making tax digital' in this financial year will be ring-fenced towards the cost of initial work to Convent Drive play area: matting, fencing and ROSPA inspection, to enable it to be opened to the public.

Projects

There is currently no estimated cost for the pavilion project. 106 funds from the Bosworth Manor development will provide funds of £29,173.72 provision and £23,859.54 maintenance. There is £5,761.00 ring-fenced for this project which will cover the cost of the underpinning work. Total funds available for provision is £34,934.72.

NSB Reserves

Ring fenced reserves in the NSB account: £5,761.00 remains of the solar panel farm donation which is ring fenced for the pavilion project and the sum of

£16,094.70 has been ring fenced for maintenance of recreational facilities. The £10,00.00 small business grant has been moved to this account and could be ring fenced for the maintenance of recreational facilities.

The unallocated reserves in this account are currently £17,773.84.

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 the 1st April 2020 the Parish Council has consulted and offered comments where appropriate on eighteen planning applications. These were for ten extensions and alterations to dwellings, two works to trees, one agricultural building and one new building with change of use, 1 garage, 1 wall insulation, one development of six dwellings and one development of 65 dwellings.

Cemetery Report, Cemetery Administrator - Mr. Ray Tunks Hinckley Road Cemetery

In Hinckley Road Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2020 – March 2021) there have been three full burials and five burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect four memorials and to place one plaque on the memorial wall. Approval was given to add wording to four memorials.

These transactions resulted in £3693.00 going into Parish Council funds.

Wykin Lane Cemetery

In Wykin Lane Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2020 – March 2021) there have been five full burials and five burials of ashes. Permission was granted to erect four memorials and six grave plots and four cremation plots were purchased. Approval was given to add wording to two memorials.

These transactions resulted in £9814.00 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

As you can imagine there's little to report from the village hall since last April as it's been closed for most of the time. We've had the gents' toilets refurbished and during lockdown we've carried out several minor improvements.

At the time of writing, it is hoped that children's groups and activities will resume on April 12th, with other groups returning on May 17th, at 50% capacity.

We have received Local Restrictions' Support Grants from HBBC which have been very beneficial.

In November we paid tribute to Claire, a valued member of our committee, who sadly died in October. She is greatly missed.

Going forward, we hope to resume some Stoke Arts events, with the possibility of an outdoor event in August and maybe 2 or 3 indoor events in the autumn.

The hall continues to be well maintained by a small group of hard-working people. My thanks go to all of them for their continued support.

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee – Chair Mervyn Ward Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Our lengthiest task this year has been preparation of an SEA on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This is an assessment (by an independent third party) of the impact of the proposed development in the Plan and is a necessary pre-requisite to the consultation. Delayed by the impact of the virus, the SEA took from April to November, after which the NPAC considered the recommendations and updated the Plan.

Drafting the Plan

At the same time, other parts of the Plan were finalised. A meeting with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) Planning and Conservation officers had raised a serious concern about the proposed reserve site which was on undeveloped land at Mulberry Farm. This was because the land lies on Bosworth battlefield ground. Consequently, an alternative reserve site was selected on land south of Hinckley Road.

Other changes to the Plan concerned locally important views and green spaces. In addition, the NPAC has compiled an 'Evidence Base' of over 100 documents which have been used in the preparation of the Plan. Copies of these are on the village web site.

Regulation 14 Consultation

The draft Neighbourhood Plan was now complete and started formal consultation. This was a six-week phase for the village (and other parties), called the 'Regulation 14 Consultation'.

A leaflet was sent to villagers, and consultation on the draft Plan lasted eight weeks from 14th December to 5th February. Other consultees, such as statutory bodies, were also engaged in the exercise. The responses, together with the NPAC replies, run to over 150 pages. The main changes to the Plan are:

- Housing requirements – this was the main change and is addressed below
- Area of separation from Dadlington – the policy to be strengthened following the Roseway approval
- Locally important views – reduced from 13 to 7 to focus on the main views
- Local green spaces - formal 'Local Green Space' (LGS) designation will be sought for the allotments at the Zion Baptist chapel
- Village centre - policy to be reworked to protect the current commercial uses.

Housing Requirement

The draft Plan proposed a main site at Mulberry Farm of around 25 homes, plus a reserve site (on Hinckley Road) of around the same number, the reserve being to provide flexibility if required.

However, a few days before the commencement of the Regulation 14 Consultation, HBBC approved the planning application for 65 homes on land east of Roseway. There was strong opposition from the Parish Council and the village representatives but, despite this, HBBC granted permission. Since this development has been approved, the Plan's housing proposals have been reworked to incorporate it.

Regulation 16 Consultation

The revised Plan requires approval by the Parish Council and will then be submitted to HBBC for the next stage in the consultation - the 'Regulation 16' phase. Following this, it will be referred to an Independent Examiner who will pass, refuse, or require amendments to the Plan.

If passed, the Parish will need to hold a Referendum and if a majority of those voting approve the Plan, it will become part of the framework within which planning applications will be considered.

Convent Open Space Committee – Chair Cllr Chris Pegg

The acquisition of the piece of land adjacent to Convent Drive, probably better known as where the allotments are, was first proposed in 2003 and the sale was completed in December 2020.

Whilst the purchase price of £1.00 seems very attractive, the land is in poor condition and as the developer went into administration no additional funding was included in the sale. The PC has established a committee made up of residents, allotment holders and councillors to oversee the work and obtain grants where possible to create an area of natural open space, whilst maintaining the thriving allotment association.

Currently there is only access to the allotment area as this is very much a work in progress; when it is safe to do so the area will be opened up for the whole village to enjoy.

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 £198.54. There was no expenditure. The current amount available to spend is £1,594.32.

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 and Switch-on Ceremony

St Margaret's Church Lighting Costs

Grants for Flower Festivals at Churches in the Village

Kit for Stoke Golding Youth Football Team

Donation to First Responders

Donation to St. Margaret's School for Diosoing

Donation to St. Margaret's School for Music(Ukelele)

Provision of Flower Bin for Cemetery

Donation to Roof Alarm for St. Margaret's Church

Banner for Display in St. Margaret's Church

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 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 available this year will be £6000.

The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation

Current Trustees:

Mrs Jean Buckby - Chair

Miss Anne Fullager - Secretary

Mrs Alison Bates - Treasurer

Mr Anthony Collett

Mr M. Bernard Lamb - Vice Chair

Mr Mark Ashworth

Mrs Shiona Alston

Due to the Covid restrictions, we did not meet in May and met in November via Zoom.

We welcomed Mrs Sarah Hill as our new trustee and Mrs Sarah Beale has become our Hester Hodges representative, as governor at St Margaret's Primary School. She began her term of office in February 2021.

The accounts had been audited, were presented and accepted.

The interest from the shares was split 50% to St Margaret's Primary School and as grants to students in Stoke Golding.

The school spent their monies on Bibles for Year 2.

Last year we had 7 students who received a grant of £40 each.

If you have attended St Margaret's Primary School you can apply to Hester Hodges for support with your further education. Information will be advertised in The Hinckley Times, the village notice board and in The Stoker.

Applicant must apply by the end of October 2021.

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

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom. The agenda and login details will be published on the Stoke Golding Village Website.