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## Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday 11th May 2020 – 7.30pm.**

**This meeting was held remotely using Zoom.**

# MINUTES

Present : P Banks (Chair), A Williams, J Jones, P Jones, J Baskerville, C Stanyard

 I Westwell

C Cllr J Pert No members of the public : D Wright (Clerk)

 Councillor P Banks took the chair of the meeting

1. Apologies: H Mann,
2. Minutes : The minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.
3. Chairman’s Report:

The Chairman reported on the work of the Parish Council and on activities in the Parish.

There were two changes to the composition of the Council during the year, Arran Williams and Simon Mather retired and were replaced with Carl Stanyard and Ian Westwell. Our thanks go to Arran and Simon for their dedicated service and we look forward to working with Carl and Ian.

It was a year of consolidation, with a reappraisal of priorities and actions.

Individual Councillors again undertook responsibility to lead specific projects as part of our succession planning.

We had a continued increase in members of the public attending the meetings on a regular basis throughout the year.

Thanks to everyone for their attendance and contribution.

Grants to local groups:

As in previous years, grants were made to the following community organisations for 2019/20. Village Hall – All Saints Church – St James Church – Standon First School – WI – Senior Citizens (Tuesday Club) – and the Toddler Group.

Once again, no application for funds for new start up activities in the Village Hall were received.

 Web Site:

The web site continues to have an active role in hosting all relevant documentation relating to the workings of the Parish Council, with links to other local organisations.

This year, we had to carry out modifications to the functionality of the system to meet Government Accessibility Regulations

Highways:

Pot holes were less of an issue within the area, we again agreed to continue to report them and leave it to the processes put in place by the Council to get them prioritised and repaired.

We had some Gulley cleaning carried out within the Parish but there are many areas where they are completely silted up. Following the serious flooding predominantly in Cotes Heath many of the Gulleys were cleared with a promise to have some of them done more frequently

The Grips on Weston Lane were cleared, by local residents following serious flooding on Weston Lane.

Flooding

The Parish suffered serious flooding in several areas but significantly, the A519 from Moorfields through to Cotes Heath and Station Road to the junction of Mill Lane. The established flood preventative measure were incapable of handling the volume of water. Many of the Gully’s and drainage culverts were heavily silted and therefore failed to function properly.

Remedial work has included Gulley cleaning with a regular repeat programme in critical locations promised, ditch improvement work completed behind the Moorfield site and the culvert under the rail track Mill Lane/Cranberry Marsh

Our sympathy goes out to all those who suffered significantly during this time.

A519 Speed Limit

The new 40mph was introduced on the A519 through Cotes Heath, with some notable reduction in speed through the village.

We questioned the adequacy of the signage deployed (lack of repeaters signs, road markings) and have had an assurance that repeater signs, speed camera warning signs and roundels will be installed in the second quarter of the year. The current Coronavirus crisis has delayed action to the time table indicated.

We can expect to see the speed camera van visiting the site from May onwards.

Village Pond Area:

We again paid for the regular ground maintenance throughout the year.

In addition, we have used Oak Tree Farm to remove dangerous and unwanted trees and shrubbery in order to open up and generally landscape the whole area.

Over three hundred tree and hedge saplings donated by the Woodland Trust were planted in January, by Parish Councillors and residents.

A study of the area conducted by a local entomologist revealed a myriad of diverse species, with some quite rare to the area. We are exploring getting the site listed as a site with special interest.

Village Signs:

Satisfied with the new Village signs, we plan to roll out the project through our Villages, next Village being Cranberry. We will choose slightly larger lettering for these A big thank you to the WI who planted spring bulbs around each of the three new Standon signs.

Planning

Standon Hall:

We held an emergency Parish Meeting in August to discuss the Wedding Venue planning application. In line with the consensus of the meeting, the PC sent a letter of objection to the planning authority; alas the planning application was approved.

Starter Homes proposed for playing field at the junction of Cotes Lane and the A519

The Parish Council felt it appropriate to oppose a planning application for starter homes on the corner of Cotes Lane. Access from the development on to the A519 presents serious safety issues.

Main Projects being under taken by the PC over the next three years:

In order to share the work load and give individuals responsibility other than just attending meetings, each project has a leader/sponsor.

* Village pool area – P Banks
* Village Signs – continue replacing/upgrading/ to include reference to careful driving – J Baskerville
* Stiles and Public Footpaths – several of our styles have been repaired/replaced by volunteers, guided by our local co-ordinator Bill Twigg. – P Jones.
* We will continue to follow up on the speed limit consultation process and continue to lobby for no overtaking in the vicinity of the Station road junction.
* Speed through our Villages remains a major concern. We have explored the use of a flashing speed sign taken up by other Villages, this has a high cost and comes with the logistic issues in moving the signs from location to location. Currently we are not proposing to follow this route, we will await the outcome of improved technology.

There has again been several visits by the police speed camera van on Mill Lane and Station road throughout the year.

Future Meetings.

Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus we are following Government guidelines on restrictions of assembly. Therefore future meetings will be conducted using video meeting technology. Details will be published on the Web Site and the Parish Notice Boards.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and contribution throughout the year. With a special thanks to Councillor Jeremy Pert for his help during the year particularly on the speed reduction on the A519 and the flooding issues throughout the Parish.

1. **Accounts:** The accounts for 2019/20 were outlined by the Clerk and a detailed explanation was given in respect of some questions. After approval by the Parish Council, the accounts will be published on the website. An external audit is not required this year because the Income and expenditure significantly less than £25,000 and the Parish Council can therefore certify itself as exempt. The accounts and supporting documents will be available for inspection by any resident during June and July in line with the guidance rules.
2. **Items for discussion**

None were raised at this meeting.

*This meeting closed at 7.55 pm and was then immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting*