

STOWLANGTOFT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Meeting Room, St George's Road
MONDAY 16th MAY 2016 AT 7.00 PM

Present : Cllrs D D'Lima, N Kaines ,J Orlopp, J Godfrey, H Godfrey, J Catchpole and District Councillor R Barker. Mrs M Gardiner (Clerk) was in attendance. Members of the public also attended.

Apologies: None.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

- 1 **Minutes of the meeting:** held on 18th May 2015. Cllr N Kaines proposed their adoption and this was seconded by Cllr Catchpole. It was unanimously agreed that they should be signed as a true record.
- 2 **County Councillor's report:** was read out in her absence and is attached to these minutes.
- 3 **District Councillor's report:**

It has been an enjoyable year throughout the ward. I have been impressed by the community spirit in Stowlangtoft which resulted in the very successful bonfire event. Villagers also took part in the Clean for the Queen initiative and had an excellent litter-pick.

I would like to congratulate Stowlangtoft Hall on winning the BALE Award which is the region's premier farming diversification business competition.

Our local Police have now been taken over by Stowmarket, which is closer than Debenham.

I have checked on the parking in St George's Road and there does not seem to be a big problem. No extra spaces are likely to be made.

Planning – there have been several applications this year from the village.

MSDC's Chief Executive is moving on. I have become the MSDC council member with special responsibility for waste.

Roy Barker
- 4 **Police report:** The new website gives no information for our area. However we have heard that our PCSO Vince Clarkson has retired. We are grateful for the work he has put in on our behalf.
- 5 **Annual reports from village groups :**
The Churchwarden reported as follows:

Like many other rural parish churches we are struggling. We greatly appreciate the support of the Friends of Stowlangtoft Church, particularly with regard to the Annual Bonfire and Firework evening, which last year raised the magnificent sum of £5,000 for the church. Thanks also to our generous sponsor Thomas Ridley & Son and to the Catchpole family for all their help without which this event would not be possible. As a result we have been able to install a new noticeboard to replace the very dilapidated old one, and after many setbacks the church clock is finally working once more.

We are fortunate to have a very hardworking vicar, Revd Katherine Valentine, who gives much encouragement, organising 2 services a month at St George's and many other activities within our Pakenham Benifice.

Marianne Rogers, Churchwarden

The Recreation & Social Committee reported that their AGM is shortly to be held and warmly invited all parish councillors and interested villagers to attend.

John Orlopp

6 **Chairman's Report:**

- This has been another relatively uneventful year for the small parish of Stowlangtoft. The main tasks for the Parish Council have been to set and allocate finances to be paid from the Village precept and to comment upon planning applications which affect us. In order to maintain the support we give to various village activities, it has been necessary for us to increase our small precept, which I hope has not caused any hardship for our parishioners.

- There have been a number of requests for building works in the Village during the past year, all of which the Parish Council has considered and commented upon. The new dwellings that we have approved, has meant a few new faces in the Village, we welcome them and their families and hope that in due course we can in turn welcome them to our meetings.

- Last year, I expressed my disappointment at our failure to effectively tackle the speeding motorists transiting through Stowlangtoft. This year, I am pleased to report that progress has been made on this front. With the support from our PCSO, Vince Clarkson, and the dedication of a small group of villagers, a Village Speedwatch has been established. We should all be grateful to Steve Wilkinson who has shown the energy to pursue and coordinate the Villagers' efforts in this respect, and I would urge others to get involved and assist him with this task.

- Also on the positive side, we have, under the organization of Cllrs Kaines and Catchpole, had another very successful annual litter pick. Turnout was good. Thank you to all who help keep our village tidy.

- Once again, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their contribution to making Stowlangtoft a safe and pleasant place to live. As always, the local and intimate knowledge that you can bring to planning, financial and other matters regarding our village, is invaluable in helping us make the decisions and recommendations that will hopefully benefit the majority of our villagers.

- I would also like to publically thank our District Councillor for his support to Stowlangtoft during the past year – it is always appreciated when you make the effort to attend and interact with us at our Parish Council meetings.

- Thank you also to our PCSOs, Vince Clarkson and Clare Wayman, and those admittedly few members of the public who regularly attend our meetings. You are always welcome!

- As always, I will finish by thanking our Parish Clerk, Margaret Gardiner, without whom I would most certainly struggle to keep within the rules, regulations and deadlines to which the Parish Council is bound. And I do have to finish on a sad note in this respect. Last year, Margaret wished to retire from her job as our Clerk, in order to spend more time with her travel and other interests. 12 months ago, I was able to persuade her that we really needed her to remain in post a little longer.

Sadly, I have been unable to pull off this feat another time, and Margaret has advised us that now is the time when she must give us notice. True to form, Margaret will not leave us high and dry though, and is actively helping us to look for another Clerk (we will discuss this later in our normal meeting). Suffice to say, we will miss Margaret, and are grateful for the many years of loyal service that she has devoted to Stowlangtoft, not only to being our Clerk, but also to establishing our website. We will miss you, Margaret.

Damian D'Lima

7 **Date of next meeting:** May 2017.