



Stanway

Parish Council

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**Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH FORUM
Held on Tuesday, 25th May 2021 at 7.00pm
VICTORY HALL, VILLA ROAD**

1. Attendance and Chair's welcome:

The following were in attendance: Cllrs J Spademan (Chair), T Baines, D Chambers, D Jordan, J Norton, G Cotter and C Clouston (Dept. Clerk), A Ward (Asst. Clerk), J Green (Technical Support), C Spademan, A Norton, A Longman (SVHMC) and Rev'd W Pagden (Pioneer).

Cllr J Spademan welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Forum, last held in 2019 due to Covid restrictions.

2. Apologies: NONE

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Forum held on 11th April 2019: APPROVED

4. Report from the Chair on the work of the Council:

It has been two years since we have been able to hold this Forum. It has been a challenge for us all. It has often been said Stanway is not a community, and it has been difficult to see otherwise.

From the beginning of 2020 we have been helping those that needed it most, those who were asked to stay indoors. We are going to honour those that came forward to meet that need. What was most surprising was that the vast majority of those that needed help got it from their family, their friends and in many cases neighbours they had never fully know before. So, we find out we are a most active community, living and caring for each other.

As a Parish Council we struggled as to how to function if we cannot meet up. So, all our meetings for well over a year have been by video link. We have just started again to meet in person, although still taking the necessary precautions as per tonight's meeting.

Since we last reported to this Forum, the Parish Council has had many changes. We are looking at building more sustainability into everything we do. Many of you will have seen the new Adult Gym on Silver Witch Green. We are looking at replacing the other play areas as soon as possible.

To achieve all this, we have had a few changes and have taken on new staff. We now have a new Clerk and Deputy Clerk to strengthen our capacity to deliver. I hope you will enjoy meeting them and working with them as time goes by.

Stanway is growing rapidly. We will soon have nearly everything we need. We could possibly do with a Bank, but you can make deposits and withdrawals for any bank at one of our Post Offices.

The challenges for the Parish Council will not diminish but could grow. We are quite stretched at present with five vacancies. If you want to find out how you could become a Councillor, then please speak to me after the meeting or contact me when it best suits you.

Together we can build a better future for Stanway.

5. Questions from the public to the Chair and Councillors and any other matters raised by the public:

Cllr Chambers wanted to acknowledge the sad loss of Cllr Manning and recognise the major contribution he made to Stanway Parish Council and the community over the years, and in

particular, his role at Comb Meadow Burial Ground. A Tea Party will be held at Tollgate Hall on 3rd July in his memory.

6. Stanway Village Hall Management Committee Chair's Report 2021 presented by Ann Longman:

Well, what can I say – it's been a very sad time for us again this year; just as things were starting to reopen along came the second lockdown. Now that things are on track we are starting to get back to normal and we are seeing an increase in usage by our organisations as they resume their use of the halls. The youth organisations were very quick to get back to their activities and we now look to the future and building up our reserves again as we still had expenses during lockdown: rates, utilities and wages. Our caretakers decorated everything that they could during the first lockdown and then during the second we still had to maintain the security of the buildings. During this time, we have been very grateful for the furlough scheme and the small business grants that have helped with on-going staff and utility expenses. Without this we would have nearly exhausted our reserves. Unfortunately, during the lockdown we saw both of our caretakers leaving our employment. We have successfully recruited a new caretaker-manager and are now looking for either 1 or 2 part time caretakers to help him. The further refurbishing of the Tollgate Hall has been put on hold for the time being, but we have now arranged for the guttering and fascia boards to be replaced shortly. We are still a very small committee, and my thanks must go to all the committee members, especially the tenacity of our Secretary, Teresa Baines. Teresa is the main go-to for all our problems and is very good at the sorting them including all the grants that were available to us during lockdown. Ann Norton for being a good listening ear and Carol Hardisty our booking clerk for all her assistance in making sure that the rules are followed and moving organisations so that they can get the best use of our halls. We now look forward to having our halls back to the usage we had before lockdown in September with many of the organisations confirming their return.

7. Presentation by guest speaker, Rev'd Wendy Pagden, Stanway Foodbank:

Rev'd Pagden gave an engaging talk, mentioning what a pleasure it is to have worked with SPC on different things to foster and enhance 'thriving together' in our community:

- Needing Help Postcards (Covid 19),
- Welcome Packs for new residents in Stanway,
- Foodbank

She gave a slide presentation with a short film on the establishment and progress of Stanway Foodbank, now in new premises in Tollgate Retail Park given free of charge by the Tollgate Partnership.

8. Presentation of awards to Stanway Community Champions:

Name	Award
Ronald Barron	Support of SPC and Burial Ground – Sainsburys gift voucher
Colin Lax	Support of SPC and Burial Ground – Homebase voucher
Jennifer Dobson	Needing Help Volunteer
Martin King	Needing Help Volunteer
Lizzi Locke	Needing Help Volunteer
Doug Chester	Needing Help Volunteer
Jo Boxall	Needing Help Volunteer
Kimberley Bedford-Straw	Needing Help Volunteer
Claire Bailey	Needing Help Volunteer
Janet Harges	Needing Help Volunteer
Sharon Carr	Needing Help Volunteer
Dawn Tindall	Needing Help Volunteer

Ken Bailey	Needing Help Volunteer
Debbie Newman	Needing Help Volunteer
Ashley Reed	Needing Help Volunteer
Sam Oliveros	Needing Help Volunteer
Paul Turnbull	Needing Help Volunteer
Jason Cater	Needing Help Volunteer
Gill Eales	Needing Help Volunteer
Cathy and Phil Mayhew	Nominated by Mrs Alexander for being Community Minded

In conclusion of the evening, the Chair thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....
Chair

Date: 27th May 2021