



Stanway

Parish Council

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**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH FORUM
Held on Tuesday, 12th May 2022 at 7.00pm
VICTORY HALL, VILLA ROAD, STANWAY**

1. Attendance and Chair's Welcome

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllrs D Bloomfield, T Baines, D Jordan, A Norton, J Norton, J Spademan and P Williams.

Also in attendance were Donna Tristram, Clerk, Amanda Ward, Deputy Clerk and A Longman, Stanway Village Hall Management Committee.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Forum held on Tuesday 25th May 2021: APPROVED.

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

Good evening and welcome to Stanway Parish Councils Annual Parish Form.

My name is Debby Bloomfield, and this is my first full year as the Chair of the Parish Council which has been an honour being able to represent the residents and community of Stanway.

Being a Councillor does have its challenges but is a worthwhile and rewarding role once you see what can be achieved by the Committees and the hard work of our staff. They are, our Clerk Donna Tristram who has had to overcome numerous obstacles since taking on the post, Amanda Ward our Deputy Clerk who has been with us for over 13 years and is Stanway through and through. I would like to thank Amanda for all her support since becoming a Councillor and for being a shoulder to cry on when at times I have been ready to pull my hair out and Barry Cooper our Maintenance Man who we all have to give a special thanks to for the hard work and commitment he shows to the Village and especially for his care and upkeep of the Comb Meadow Burial Ground, of which the late Cllr Trevor Manning and Colin Lax would be very proud.

This has been a very busy and exciting year with the building of the new Stanway Lakelands Community Centre which is hopefully due to be completed by the end of this year. The facility will be accessed by a new toucan crossing and will include a pentanque court, and a community café. A commemorative Pin Oak tree donated by the Mayor for the Queens Platinum Jubilee will also be planted there in the Autumn as part of the Queens Green Canopy project.

On the subject of the Queens Platinum Jubilee some of you may have noticed that the Coronation Bus Shelter on the London Road has just been re-painted with the Jubilee Colours and we are awaiting a new plaque to commemorate her 70-year reign on the throne.

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To further celebrate this momentous occasion and in conjunction with Bex Bakes are holding a Party in the Park Event on Thursday 2nd June to which you are all welcome. The evening will include local stalls, a raffle, bbq, beer tent, bouncy castle, live music and a DJ, then at the end of the evening there is a bag pipe player and the beacon lighting ceremony accompanied by the choir from St Albrights Church. All proceeds from the event will go towards our Stanway in Bloom project.

Thanks to external grant funding we are in the middle of upgrading our play areas at Silver Witch Green and Lucy Lane South with some fantastic new equipment, works should be completely finished early next month.

Later this year will see the installation of our covid memorial at Silver Witch Green where residents can go to reflect on the loss of loved ones to the dreadful pandemic.

I have been asked to pass on apologies from Borough Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell and our new Borough Councillor for Stanway Tracey Arnold who would like to have attended but are this evening working at the re-opening of the Youth Club for Stanway's young people

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that we as the Parish Council are here to serve the residents of Stanway and that our Meetings are open to the public, dates and times of all our meetings can be found on our website. Please feel free to approach any of us should you have any questions or are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

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

Cllr J Spademan asked if the Chair had enjoyed her first year. Cllr D Bloomfield confirmed that she has enjoyed it very much and learnt a lot. Should she not be re-elected she wished her successor all the very best with the projects ahead.

6. Stanway Village Hall Management Committee Chair's Report:

Good evening. I am pleased to give a more upbeat report this year.

With the easing of all the regulations the halls are getting busy again. We have lost a few of our regulars and some of our weekends have not been as busy as we would have liked but we expect that to pick up again. Childrens parties seem to be our staple booking for weekends.

Our caretaker manager and the assistant caretaker have been our greatest asset this year. Thank you to Paul and Stuart for everything they have been doing. Paul has taken on board all the contact with contractors when things have not gone as well as they should and has taken a lot of that work off of Teresas shoulders. Stuart has slipped into the job as if he has always been with us. A great team.

Unfortunately, the storm took off some of the guttering on the Victory Hall and exposed the wood behind was rotten. Contractors have already been on site to give us estimates and the job should be done shortly.

We now hope to get on with some of the other refurbishment work in the Tollgate Hall that we had planned to do before Covid. We still have a problem with the floor and Ann Norton has taken on the task of chasing the contractor to put the damage right. We are in discussions with him and hope to have this resolved shortly.

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Teresa and Ann have recently moved the sandbags that were taking up spaces in the Tollgate car park. We hope that the extension to the car park is approved as there is often a need for the extra spaces having lost some to the shed.

As always, my sincere thanks must go to Teresa for all of the Secretarial support and Ann Norton for her enthusiastic support to the Halls and to Parish Council especially Donna and Amanda for their help.

7. Presentation by guest speaker Andy Moore, Colchester Zoo:

Andy Moore, the Conservation Education Manager at Colchester Zoo gave a presentation on the past, present and future of Zoo's. The presentation was interesting, informative and engaging. At the end it prompted numerous questions from the audience

8. Presentation of awards to Stanway Community Champions:

Cllr D Bloomfield presented the Community Champion Awards to:-
Nichola Ransom for Unsung Hero and Community Champion.
Rebecca King for Community Champion.

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

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

Amanda Ward, Deputy Clerk

13th May

2022

Signed.....
Chair

26th May 2022