



# Stanway

## Parish Council

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2023/1

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH FORUM**  
**Held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm**  
**VICTORY HALL, VILLA ROAD, STANWAY**

**1. Attendance and Chair's Welcome**

The following Councillors were in attendance: Cllr T Baines, T Bloomfield, D Chambers, L De Col, J Cotter, J Hagon, D Jordan, A Norton and J Spademan.

Also in attendance were Donna Tristram, Clerk, Amanda Ward, Deputy Clerk and Lee Needham, Responsible Financial Officer.

There were 16 members of the public present.

Cllr T Baines welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Forum.

**2. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Forum held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 to be APPROVED. RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Forum of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

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

Good evening and welcome everyone, so lovely to see you all here.

This is my first report as chair and it has been my privilege to lead the council meetings this year, with such a committed and diverse group of skilled and experienced councillors, willing to give up their spare time to the community. Thank you, councillors.

We started the year with the full compliment of 15 councillors, and although 4 have subsequently left for different reasons, we are pleased to recently welcome 3 new councillors in their places. If any of you are interested in making Stanway a better place to live, or know of someone who is, we still have one vacancy.

Working for the council and supporting our councillors is our team of staff, led by Donna, our clerk who is supported by Amanda her deputy and Lee who looks after our finances. Finally, but by no means least, Barry looks after all the grounds and street furniture that belongs to the parish council. The whole team have done an amazing job this year. The grounds are looking great and spring was welcomed in with splashes of yellow from the newly planted daffodils. Barry and his new mower have made our grass areas at Swan Green, Lucy Lane South and the Burial Ground look the best they have for some time. Donna and Amanda have done a great job supporting me as a new chair and all the councillors, with the many challenges we have experienced. Lee has been vigilant in keeping our spending within budget, which can be challenging at times. Thank you all for your hard work and support.

Aside from keeping the grounds maintained, streetlights working and bus shelters clean etc., the council has also put on some events, such as our successful annual quiz night and the children's new year disco. We also tried some new ventures like the coach trip to London.

# Stanway Parish Council

**2023/2**

This year we start with the D Day Celebration on 6th June and you will be pleased to hear that the quiz is once again scheduled for the autumn. The children's event in January is still under discussion but it is hopeful that this may be a pantomime next year, all these will be advertised when full details are known, so watch out for details on our Parish Council FB page.

In our mission to make the lives of residents of Stanway better and our village a good place to live, the council has been representing you in meetings with City Council, Essex Highways and other bodies to get you the improvements you deserve. On your behalf we have a set of priority goals, such as better crossings across London Road, to make access to the schools safer for the parents and their children; funding to improve the junction at Warren Lane and Maldon Road; improved bus service, especially to Stane Park and the development of Jansma Park which, subject to public consultation, we hope will give a great open space for all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Jansma Park is an exciting new venture for Stanway and with your engagement, will be something for us all to be proud of and enjoy. Sadly, the transfer of land is taking much longer than we expected but our solicitors are working hard with the executor's solicitors to resolve this as soon as possible. Then the fun begins, with public consultations so that you can all have a say on what you would like to see in the park. At that time anyone who has already come forward with an idea will be invited to register an expression of interest. All your ideas, the council's ideas and the expressions of interest will be shared with our residents and they will be asked to select the ones they would like to see in the park. So exciting times ahead, keep a watch out for our publicity on this so you don't miss your chance to have your say. We have a working party set up which you are welcome to apply to join, you do not have to be a councillor to be a member and help with our future legacy.

Thank you for listening and if you have any questions, now is your time to raise them.

Cllr. Teresa Baines (Chair)

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

A resident advised that the Council's events do not seem to be advertised on the Notice Boards. Another resident backed this up and stated that the Community Champion Awards had not been mentioned in the Stanway Life Magazine.

The Deputy Clerk found this surprising but confirmed that in future all events would be advertised on the Notice Boards, Website, social media and in the Stanway Life Magazine.

Cllr T Baines asked those present if there were any other locations residents would like to see events advertised and gave the locations of the Parish Council boards.

Cllr J Spademan advised that nominations for Community Champions could be made all year round.

Cllr T Baines then went on to read a report received from Priti Patel MP and advised a copy would be available as part of the minutes. If anyone wishes to comment on the report the Parish Council will forward them on to Priti Patel MP.

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

In the absence of Ann Longman, the report was given by Ann Norton.

Good evening. I am representing our Chair Ann who is away and am pleased to present our Community Centre report for 2024.

This has been a much easier year for us although not without its challenges. After many delays and problems we have finally got the Wi-Fi into the Tollgate Hall.

**2023/3**

## Stanway Parish Council

Air con has been installed in the Clerk's office and the small meeting room in Victory Hall making both rooms more comfortable. New fire exit doors have been fitted to the Village Hall due to damage to the fixings. Our flooring in the Village Hall is also being sanded and sealed. This is done approx. every 5 yrs.

We now have a projector screen in the Victory Hall and a Projector that can be used in any of the halls using a wall as the screen.

We are still planning to do some refurbishment in the Tollgate Hall – the ceiling and lights, toilets, entrance lobby and possibly solar panels to help with energy costs. This will not be cheap and funding will need is being sought.

The new car park extension is great asset to the halls – when all 3 halls and the field are in use we are able to accommodate the users. Not certain that the bike shelters are being used for many bikes!!

Unfortunately, with the rise in utility bills etc we reluctantly have had to increase our hire charges for the coming year. Even with the Lakelands Centre being opened our bookings remain good and with the assistance of our caretaking staff we have extended our weekend bookings which have become more popular especially children's parties. The use of bouncy castles in the halls has also been beneficial to our bookings

We have a great team – Thanks to Paul, our manager, Stuart and Katie our caretakers. Paul has now stepped back into an admin role from Feb with Katie coming on board as our assistant caretaker. Also, to Carol Hardisty who keeps all our bookings in order. Teresa Baines our Secretary and Ann Norton- vice chair who have worked tirelessly, especially with the accts and planting bulbs and trees. We have a very small committee who are committed to making the halls the best they can be for all hirers. My thanks go to all of them. Thanks also to Donna and Amanda from Parish Council for their help.

Ann Longman Chairman SVHMC

The meeting then broke for a short refreshment break.

### **7. Presentation by guest speaker Mr David Haffenden, Local Metal Detectorist**

Mr Haffenden began by explaining that he has 44 years' experience in metal detecting and has also appeared on the TV programme, Time Team, he then went on to give a very interesting talk on the processes involved.

Mr Haffenden brought along a selection of items he has found for those present to peruse and answered several questions from the interested audience.

### **8. Presentation of awards to Stanway Community Champions:**

Cllr T Baines presented the Community Champion Awards to:

Corrinna Dawes and Terry Holland, nominated by Barry Cooper for their continued litter picking in Lucy Lane South area.

Sharon Scott, nominated by Karen Palmer for her community group Sewing Bee.

Retired Councillors Debby Bloomfield and John Norton, nominated by the Community Services Committee for their commitment to the Committee, Council and the Community.

Debby and John also received an engraved cut glass retirement gift each in recognition for their long service as Parish Councillors.

**2023/04**

Cllr T Baines then gave Mr Haffenden a small gift in recognition of his engaging contribution to the meeting.

## Stanway Parish Council

In conclusion of the evening, the Chair thanked the Staff and Councillors for their hard work and everyone who attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Amanda Ward, Deputy Clerk

26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Signed.....  
Chair

Date to be confirmed