

Stelling Minnis Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 in the Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: J Haffenden Chairman
P Carr
A Day
L Dudas
D Spencer
N Smith
I Bowie – Clerk and RFO
L Jones – Internal Auditor

The meeting was also attended by 29 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman invited PCSO's D Mills and M Hazell to give their report. They reminded residents that they cover 12 Parishes and a Town Council, as a result they try to attend Parish Council meetings when they can. They can be contacted via 101 (non-emergency) or via the Parish Clerk.

Further advice on these issues and crime prevention is available website at: <http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice.html>

1.0 Apologies were received from: Cllr R Hubble, KCC & FHDC Cllr S Carey, FHDC J Hollingsbee, R Gambrill, R Shefford, A Barlow.

2.0 To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2018.

All were in agreement for the Chairman to sign the Minutes as a true record of the business transacted at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2018. Proposed by Ms Cara Cooper and seconded by Cllr Day

3.0 To receive the Chairman's Annual Report. Chairman of the meeting Cllr John Haffenden

Welcome to this the Annual Parish meeting for Stelling Minnis.

During the past year we have met every two months and dealt with a number of issues concerning the parishioners of Stelling Minnis.

The major time occupation for the Parish Council this year has undoubtedly been the development of new housing, Rose Lane Estate, behind the Rose and Crown Public House. The initial proposal by the developer, Rogate Ltd, was for 14 houses and a preferred entrance off Crown Lane which the residents were less than happy with. After much discussion and two public meetings and four additional Parish Council meetings it was finally agreed that the original proposed entrance off Minnis Lane would now be the preferred as the only entrance into this new estate. We then had to present and support this new project before Folkestone & Hythe District Council Planning and Licence Committee which was finally past on the 27th November 2018, The contractor is still awaiting the final important documents of agreed Planning Permission which are essential in getting this contract started which John Showler of Rogate Ltd will explain in detail during his presentation.

The Stonegate development under construction by Pentland Homes is progressing at a pace with most of the roads, drainage and services are now installed and piling for all the housing is taking place as we speak. I am led to understand that all the road improvements both at the

end of Curtis lane and along Stone Street are due to be started in the mid-Summer period so expect a period of traffic interruption when this happens.

As reported at last year's Parish meeting an application has now been lodged for a Certificate of Lawfulness in the upper part of Fryarne Park Wood which is currently being handled by Folkestone and Hythe Planning Enforcement officer. Your Parish Council is vigorously opposing this application.

An additional bus stop shelter at the top of Wheelbarrow Town hill near Sunrise is still being investigated and we are currently awaiting quotations which would also house the other village notice board as well.

In the last year, as your Parish Council, we have been very busy on your behalf. We have been consulted and commented on 22 planning applications, which is more than usual. The defibrillator cabinet, which has now been installed on the wall of Stelling Minnis Stores has been used again during the past 12 months with a great success. This means that the defibrillator is now available 24/7 and one thing that people should know is that there is combination lock on the cabinet and the shop has this when open. When it is closed there is a number to call who will give that number for activation. If you are out of reception on the phone go to the phone box on Minnis Green and dial 999 who will be able to assist. By a quirk of administration although we have been able to save the phone box and the lighting has now been rectified by a qualified electrician!!! Our thanks go to Bruce and Emma of Stelling Minnis Stores for agreeing to have it on their external wall which has already saved one life and our thanks to First Responder Steve Moores for his expertise in selecting the cabinet. The defibrillator itself is owned by South East Coast Ambulance Service and maintained by Steve Moores.

On behalf of the Managers of Stelling Minnis Common we did ask for a review of speed limits on Bossingham Road where it passes the invisible fencing areas, that hold the grazing cattle, which is currently being explored for a speed reduction and could take a while before any positive decision can be reached on any speed restriction..

Don't forget that the Windmill and Museum is open for cream teas every Sunday afternoon (2 to 5) and Bank Holidays inclusive. The Windmill Fete is on track at the end of June and represents a great local spirit and is a lot fun for all and something that should not be missed. The new Davison's Windmill book is now available from the village shop or local pub and has proved to be an astonishing publication which every house in Stelling Minnis should have. This year we had a contested Parish Council election which was held on the 2nd of May with a 49.68% electorate turn out which is very good for a Parish Council. Those elected are: Pam Carr-Hurdwell, Ann Day, Laszlo Dudas, John Haffenden, Robert Hubble, Nick Smith & David Spencer. A detailed list of their positions and responsibilities are to be published in the next Parish Magazine at the end of May.

A mention of appreciation for the Neighbour Hood Watch coordinator Robbie Gambrill, who has been providing a most interesting set of articles and especially with his warnings about the various scams that are being operated by certain call centres from different parts of the world.

And finally I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Irene Bowie, who has done a sterling job and has an extensive knowledge of the workings and ways of KALC and to our new Hon Auditor, Lee Jones, who will keep us in check where appropriate.

Because Parish Council represents the community then our representatives are also your representatives, so please contact them if you have a question; our Clerk will provide contact details on request.

We are very grateful for the work done by Martin Hart as our Footpath Warden. We have discovered various scrap books and photos of times gone by in Stelling Minnis history from the 40's, 50's and 60's which you may find of interest so please have a look at them on the table.

Finally if there is anything that I have not mentioned in this summary, that you wish to talk to me or any of the Councillors about, then please do so later when there is an opportunity for questions or after the formal part of the meeting has finished.

4.0 The Parish Council Statement of Accounts for year ended 31.3.19

Irene Bowie (Clerk & RFO) reported on the Parish Council accounts 2018/19. She explained that these had not yet been audited. The submission date for these had been extended by the external auditors to the 1st of July 2019. Annual gross income for the Parish Council was £5565 plus £2100 for uncashed cheques from the previous financial year. Total receipts being £7665. Expenditure was £6726.05. The total net bank balance as of 31st March 2019 was £8692.34. Fixed asset value was £2260.

However, the recent Parish Council Election was contested and the expected cost of £2260 will be borne by the Parish Council.

Budgetary control was accurate and efficient with the Parish Council achieving savings in key areas such as administration and maintenance costs.

The 2019 20 precept was discussed and agreed at the January 2019 Parish Council meeting. It was set at £6,400 representing an increase of 40p per annum per band D equivalent property. This equates to 0.01 p per week.

The Parish Council now utilises a web based accounting package which has made monitoring and control much simpler. The new package will also produce variances against budget lines to assist with future financial planning.

5.0 To receive a report by KCC, Cabinet Member and FHDC Cllr S Carey

Cllr Carey was unexpectedly detained and gave her apologies.

6.0 To receive a report by FHDC Cllr J Hollingsbee

Cllr Hollingsbee gave her apologies.

7.0 To receive a presentation, by Mr John Showler ,Rogate Developers Ltd, regarding the development behind the Rose and Crown

Mr Showler gave his presentation. He advised that the development, which was approved by the FHDC planning committee, had not yet been given formal planning permission. He was hopeful that work would start at sometime in August and should be finished by Christmas 2020. He also gave a commitment to support a Village Project possibly a new bus stop incorporating a new noticeboard.

He gave an assurance that work would not commence during the nesting season. He further stated that measures would be instigated to protect the hedgerow during the construction. He thanked Cllrs and residents who wrote/spoke in favour of the development. He also thanked Charlie Gooch and the Minnis Owners for their assistance in offering an alternative entrance to the site, which had alleviated many concerns. Mr Showler also confirmed that once the

planning application had been received, he would be willing to meet with residents and discuss further the details of the development.

He stated that the houses would be sold once they were all completed and not one by one. He also spoke regarding an agreement with the owners of Stelling Minnis Common that temporary parking would be made available for construction vehicles to minimise disruption to residents.

The Chairman thanked Mr Showler for his presentation and confirmed that Mr Showler had agreed that:

- (i) There would be an open meeting with residents before building works commenced.
- (ii) This meeting would be published in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish Website
- (iii) The Crown Lane Residents group would be involved in the meeting.

8.0 To receive a presentation by Mr Alastair Cracknell of Quinn Estates re: a proposal seeking an amendment to the existing Planning Permission for the two business barns on the old Stonegate Egg Factory site.

Mr Cracknell explained there had been very little interest in the commercial space at Stonegate Park despite extensive advertising and marketing. The options were to leave the premises empty or to apply for planning permission to convert the premises into 8 x 2-bedroom flats. This would also include affordable housing (2 of the 8). The affordable flats would be advertised in the locally provide an opportunity for local people to purchase them. He stated that a planning application regarding this would be submitted in the near future.

Mr Cracknell confirmed that :

- (i) The new planning application would not slow down the remainder of the existing development.
- (ii) The Stonegate development would be ready for habitation in the summer of 2020 and marketing would begin in early 2020. 30 houses (including 9 affordable homes) .
- (iii) The affordable homes would be available via MOAT Housing Association.
- (iv) A solution to the safety concerns at the Stone Street/Curtis Lane/Thorn Lane junction was being sought
- (v) A solution to the flooding issues on Thorn Lane that making this road impassable in winter was being worked on.

The Chairman thanked Quinn Estates for attending the meeting and advising all present of their plans.

9. Public Questions and Comments through the Chairman

A resident suggested that the cost of the recent Parish Council election my be halved as FHDC elections took place on the same day.

There being no further formal business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm

Signed

Date

APPENDIX Village Reports

Police report for Annual Stelling Minnis Parish Meeting 15th May 2019

First of all please accept our apologies for our absence at this meeting. We have compiled a report regarding Stelling Minnis and the surrounding area which summarises key elements of crime and Anti-social behaviour. There may be certain incidents not mentioned with this report but have been reported to Kent Police.

Reported Crime and ASB (anti-social behaviour) 24/04/2018 – 24/04/2019:

- 1 x incident of criminal damage
- Recent report of nuisance motor vehicles being ridden in the area.

Here is a link to the latest figures:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/your-area/ashford-and-shepway/elham-and-stelling-minnis/>

Other Information:

Vehicle security – There have been several reports throughout the year of unattended vehicles being broken into and valuables taken from within. This has predominantly happened in the rural lanes near to well-known walking trails and parking locations. Officers have patrolled locations when possible but are still finding a large amount of persons leaving valuables on display in cars. The forestry commission has been contacted in relation to displaying more visible posters in relation to this, if anyone witnesses anything suspicious or untoward then please contact police via 101, or visit the Kent Police website if time has passed.

Reporting suspicious persons/vehicles – If there is a person or vehicle that is behaving in a manner that is concerning or causing alarm or distress then please note as much detail as possible and call 101.

Please find advice on these issues and crime prevention on our website at:

<http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice.html>

If you have any worries, concerns or information you would like me to know, please do not hesitate to contact on 101 (non-emergency) and the information will get to me.

Kind Regards

PCSO Daniel Mills 58997 and PCSO Nicholas Hazell 59007

North Downs East, North Downs West

Stelling Minnis & Upper Hardres History Group

As in previous years, we have provided monthly articles for the Hardres & Stelling News.

Interest on those articles covering local subjects has been raised among readers and we are getting feedback with more information.

For this ongoing project, over the year we have been mainly concentrating on interviewing people, taking photos and getting articles together for our Minnis Memories follow-on book. The title 'More Minnis Memories' has been agreed and we have found a company to do the printing and they will also help us with the general layout.

Nick Onslow gave a very interesting talk on Wooding and very generously donated the proceeds to our village book project.

Together with grants from the two Parish Councils, sponsorship and grants, we are delighted that we have also managed to raise the money to cover these publishing costs. Once all articles collated, cover and drawings decided on, we hope to have More Minnis Memories published in the next few months.

More talks are planned with 'The History of Sound' booked for 15th June, 2018 at SMVH.

During the coming year we plan to visit Lympe Castle, Brook Historical Museum and Brook Church, a Martello Tower and the tunnels at Ramsgate. We might even manage to fit in a visit

to the Shepherd Neame Brewery.

Our membership numbers have increased, with more attending our regular, very friendly and enjoyable twice-monthly meetings.

We had a stand next to the windmill at the School Windmill Fete, where we chatted to the many visitors, answered questions about the villages and told them some of the local history.

Once again we shall have a stand at the coming School Windmill Fete On the 30th June.

Stelling Minnis web site - report for 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

The web site, which is owned by Stelling Minnis Parish Council, was never intended to be complex or sophisticated, just basic enough to enable residents of Stelling Minnis and beyond to keep up to date with both the Parish Council and other organisations and their events etc.

As far as Stelling Minnis Parish Council is concerned, agenda and minutes of meetings, notices and planning applications are added and updated when they are received from the Clerk and usually within 24 hours of receipt.

The home page and the Stelling Minnis Parish Council pages have been re-vamped with quick link buttons to other pages within the site, including an A-Z index of pages. In some instances the quick link takes you to another web site.

All Clubs and societies within the community are welcome to have a page on the web site or just a link to their own web site. Many have chosen to one or the other. The only commitment is to please check your page or link on a regular basis to ensure that it is both correct and relevant – I can only make changes when I am made aware of the requirement to so do so.

Hosting and domain name are provided at no cost to the Parish Council by Simon Wood of Terabyte Computing Ltd., for which the Parish Council are very grateful.

The web site address is <https://www.stelling-minnis.co.uk>

Nick Smith – Webmaster.
7 May 2019

Footpath Warden's report 2017-18

This year has seen the first of the new metal gates installed in our parish.

The one pictured here was recently fitted on the path behind Boormanhatch Farm (HE18). Thanks to Countryside Access Wardens, Averil and Steve Brice, who helped obtain and fit the gate for the landowner, the previous wobbly stile is now firewood. Where stiles need replacing these gates can now be obtained from KCC. A landowner generally has only to make a donation towards the cost and deal with the installation. Although, as in this case, the Countryside Access Wardens can sometimes arrange for volunteers to do this work. Averil and Steve are also helping with sorting a problem on HE2, one of the paths from Stelling Church to Stone St, where a stile has collapsed.



Another good news story was the replacement of the stile on path HE11/HE9 which heads out towards Stone St from the back of Holly Tree Farm. Within days of it being reported to me that it was in poor repair, and after speaking with the farmer, he rebuilt it as pictured below.



Thanks to John Haffenden for refurbishing a number of stiles across his land, making getting over them an altogether more stable experience.

We have again experienced a problem this year of someone cutting wire fences underneath stiles - presumably to let dogs through. However, apart from being criminal damage, this is very unhelpful to other dog owners who may have their dog off the lead, relying on the stile to limit access to the next field, which could have animals in it.

Elsewhere, paths have remained accessible through the winter months, although the 'discouraging' sign I reported on last year, on the path next to the village hall, is still there. We are just entering the time of year when crops start to grow and need spraying or mowing by landowners to keep them clear, so I'm hoping this will get done by the few who can be slow or sometimes forget altogether. It's also in the landowners interests to mark out paths, to stop walkers who veer off course all taking slightly different routes across a crop.

Martin Hart - Footpath Warden