

STRATFIELD SAYE PRISH COUNCIL
AGM 16th May 2018

Minutes of the AGM held in the Village Hall 16th May 2018 at 7.00 followed by the Ordinary Meeting

Present:

Cllr I Pearson	Cllr G Preston	Cllr N Hall	Cllr Toosey
Cllr A Harborne	Cllr A Speed		Parish Clerk Mrs P Mayo
Cllr Gardiner	Cllr Vaughan	6 members of the public.	

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carruthers & Tucker.

Record of Councillor Attendance at all meetings in the past year 2017/8:

Pearson 6, Preston 6, Harborne 6, Toosey 5, Hall 5, Speed 5, Carruthers 2.

Chairman Cllr Pearson stood down and the Parish Clerk took control of the meeting to elect a new Chairman.

1.18 Election of Chairperson

Cllr Harborne proposed Cllr Pearson for Chairman seconded by Cllr Toosey.

Motion carried unanimously by Councillors.

Cllr Pearson resumed control of the meeting.

2.18 Officers of the Parish Council

Cllr Pearson's proposal that the Officers continue with their area of responsibility, as per 2016/7.

a. Vice-Chairman	Cllr G Preston
b. Village Hall	Cllr A Harborne
c. Basingstoke & Deane Association of Parish Councils	Cllr G Preston
d. Footpaths & recreation Ground	Cllr J Carruthers
e. Hampshire Association of Town Councils	Cllr G Preston
f. Trees, Environment & Pond	Cllr C Toosey
g. Media	Cllr I Pearson
h. Transport	Cllr A Speed
i. Mornington Cup Garden Competition	Cllr A Speed

Motion carried unanimously by Councillors.

3.18 Adoption of minutes AGM 8th May 2017

Cllr Pearson proposed acceptance of the minutes AGM 8th May 2017 – motion carried unanimously – and signed them as accurate.

4.18 Reports for 2017/8

a. Chairman's Report - Cllr Pearson

I began last year's report by discussing the pavilion, and I shall do the same this year. The repairs are now complete, but a problem with the drain has now arisen. Hopefully all will be rectified soon and the pavilion will be 100% operational.

While surrounding Parishes have had issues with unauthorised encampments, Stratfield Saye has fortunately avoided such problems. This will not lead to complacency, and we are working with a group of local Councils to ensure that our concerns are clearly understood at higher levels of government, and that they provide the assistance that we need when it is needed most.

The introduction of new regulations concerning data control and management has required the Council to move the website to a new [.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) domain, and with it new email addresses for the Councillors and Clerk. Compliance has not been cost free and necessitated the increase in the Precept this year. While regrettable this is unavoidable.

The Council has enrolled into a lengthsman scheme, which will help with maintenance around the Parish.

The responses to the broadband survey were excellent. We are currently waiting on Gigaclear to progress, and their route planning is underway.

The Council were invited by the Rifles Regiment in Reading to their Christmas Carol concert, continuing the friendships established last year. Hopefully this will continue.

The issues with potholes and damaged verges continues. Please could I ask that you report the former - there is a link on the website - and be considerate when driving for the latter.

Looking forward there are future changes expected in the coming years in local government whereby services are devolved to lower levels. While current funding is sufficient for current services, with these changes it is likely that the Precept will have to rise further in future years. The Council will ensure that these are kept to the minimum prudent level.

Finally, I would like to thank the Council and Clerk for their help and support this year. I would also like to thank the Parishioners who have attended meetings and provided feedback so that we are better able to serve you.

b. PCC's Report by Cllr Preston

Informal PCC Report for Stratfield Saye AGM 2018

1. The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is separate from the Parish Council. The PCC has responsibilities for the maintenance and operation of Stratfield Saye Village church, and also Hartley Wespall church. There are representatives on the Council from each village. The Stratfield Saye representatives are Charles and Anna Atkinson, Geoffrey Preston, Andrew Speed, Annie Wainwright and Lynda Toms. The Council meets two or three times a year.
2. Services at Stratfield Saye church are held regularly on the first Sunday of the month, and at Easter, at Christmas and on Remembrance Sunday. There are christenings, weddings and memorial services. The church has a significant role in the life of the village – 95 people attended a recent christening.
3. The church is a Grade 1 listed building, built in 1758, and of course has many connections with the Wellington family. It also contains items linked to previous owners of the Estate, such as the Pitt family (in the 1700's), the d'Abridgecourt family (in the 1500's), and earlier still. Many former residents are buried in the churchyard, and their graves are quite often visited by family members. Very recently we have had an application to install a plaque commemorating the life of a distinguished Australian army officer, whose early life was spent in the village
4. The Rector, Stephen Ball, is also responsible for Sherfield church and (with Revd John Lenton) for Bramley church. So he is not able to devote a great deal of time to Stratfield Saye. Much of the responsibility has been shouldered by volunteers, such as John Williams who, until he had to retire through illness, was churchwarden. He has regularly led services, along with other lay ministers such as Richard Elphick, Ian Goodall and Karen Blakely. John's wife Gill has been the organist for many years, and there is also a rota of dedicated volunteer flower arrangers.
5. Although helpers are unpaid, the church needs to raise about £10,000 a year. This is partly for maintenance (insurance, electricity, etc), and partly to pay about £7,500 per year to Winchester Diocese towards central expenses, including the Rector's salary. Most of this £10,000 comes from regular donations, and collections made at church services. However, recent repair and renovation work has been expensive – about £49,000 plus vat in 2012-2014, and £10,000 plus vat in 2015. These repairs were financed largely by donations and grants, including of course a generous grant of £1,000 from Stratfield Saye Parish Council in 2012.
6. The PCC does now want to finish off the renovation of the interior – largely removing flaking paintwork, making good and repainting. A quote has been received for £7,800 plus vat, and the Duke of Wellington has agreed to pay £4,000 of this, once the remaining £3,800 has been raised. If the Parish Council felt able to help this work with a further grant towards this sum, it would certainly be very much appreciated.

c. Village Hall (classes)

Cllr Harborne gave a brief report.

The Village Hall is providing a good service to the residents and is financially healthy. All the classes are full – art & bridge do not run during the summer term – and a new dance class is about to start

d. Borough & County Councillors

Reports given in Ordinary Parish Council meeting that followed the AGM.

e. Police

No report available. Regular reports from the police are circulated to all Councillors during the year.

AGM closed by The Chairperson Cllr Pearson at 7.35p.m.

There was an Open Forum held prior to the Ordinary Meeting for Parishioners to bring up any items they wish to be considered or investigated by the Parish Council.

Planning application 18/00936/FUL Ramblers Farm for 2 2 bedded detached houses.

The Planning consultant Mr Cottrell issued amended plans showing repositioned garages for the 2 houses. He confirmed that the land in question came under 6A – previously developed land. After discussion the Parish Council had no objections to the amended plans.

No other matters were raised.