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**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF STISTED
HELD ON TUESDAY, 18th MAY 2023 AT 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Dave Burge (PC Chairman), Cllr Mark Hughes, Cllr Alan Routledge,
Cllr Bob Powers and Cllr Howard Hollands, and Cllr Richard White
In the Chair: Cllr Dave Burge
Clerk: Emily Bamforth-White
Also Present: 6 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

APA22/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Dennis Abram, Dave Willingham – Neighbourhood plan, Tayrina Ferguson – Stisted Church, Helen Remfry – CANS, Mr. Martyn Hawrylak, Headteacher, Stisted Primary Academy.

APA22/02 PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Assembly were approved as a true record of the meeting and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

APA22/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented the annual report of the Parish Council.

The past year has seen lots of changes – with the parish once again pulling together to help each other during the continuation, and removal, of Covid. Special thanks to Mark Hughes and Bob Powers for giving up their time to put in place tree bollards for the village, as well as thanks to Helen Remfry who put so much effort into CANS to help the village's nature and wildlife. Thanks to the Church, the Village Shop, and the Village Archives for playing a vital part in village life. Thanks to our Footpaths Officer Bob and our Tree Warden Mark for their support and advice throughout the year. The Chairman also wished the new Councillors and Clerk success and luck for their roles within the Parish Council.

APA22/04 PARISH ORGANISATION REPORTS

a) Speeding - District Cllr Walsh

Tom Walsh offered his assistance in setting up a Community Speedwatch group following concerns raised regarding speeding through the village.

He also mentioned there is a free independent advice service called 'Community 360'. This would take place on the 1st Thursday every month from 10am-12pm in the library.

b) Church – Tayrina Ferguson

A written report was received. Within the last year, the church has continued their support to the Braintree food bank and the Village Pantry. They have offered their support in helping and developing livelihoods for people across Africa. The church was a focal point which brought the parish together over 3 royal events: Queen Elizabeth II's jubilee, Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, and King Charles III's coronation. Which saw Stisted bellringers on BBC look east as well as appearing in local newspapers.

Tayrina wished to record her thanks to the Church Warden, without whom the church would not be able to continue and expressed their thanks to the Golf Club for raising funds for the Church. *[Full written report attached to minutes]*

c) CANS – Helen Remfry

A written report was received on behalf of CANS.

CANS has the aims for building a sustainable focused community with a reduced carbon footprint. There were many achievements for CANS which will be included in the full report. They expressed their thanks to Kings Seeds for their generous donation, Wivenhoe Town Council and Biodiversity Group, Essex Wildlife Trust, RHS, and Garden Organics. CANS encourages everyone to get involved to protect nature and reduce carbon footprint in the village. There are potential social and educational events being thought of with include Eco fair, community made fertilizer and compost bins.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

d) Community Shop & Post Office – Simon James

Simon reported that it has been another difficult year trading wise, with the shop only being open Mondays 2-4pm per week. During March, the shop opened on a Saturday morning as a trial. Even though they were not rushed off their feet, they felt it worthwhile to remain open for April and May and will review the opening hours for the upcoming months. The shop remains in a precarious situation financially. Thanks, must be given to the volunteers and the Trustees of the Montefiore Institute.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

e) Footpaths – Bob Powers – Footpath Officer

Bob reported that the major impact on the village was caused by the weather. Snow and rain caused considerable flooding – and high winds resulted in falling trees. This caused a delay to a planned major resurfacing of Byeway 41. Landowners have generally kept the footpaths over fields clear and marked. The Golf club had maintained and replaced the FP marker posts on their land.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

f) Montefiore Institute

No report received.

g) Neighbourhood Plan – Dave Willingham

A written report was received on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is continuing to develop with the assistance of Navigus. They now have a detailed road map of the tasks requiring completion before assembling a draft plan. The end of grant report has been completed for 22/23 and they will be applying for another grant.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

h) Neighbourhood Watch

No report received.

i) Parish Magazine – Eleanor McMillian

No report received.

j) Stisted Primary Academy – Martyn Hawrylak

A written report was received. The school was not immune from the rising costs of goods, energy, and services which had to be met within existing budgets and staffing costs taking up 90% of the school's budget. Nonetheless, the school continues to be a popular choice, which is important because the funding and running of the school is linked to pupil numbers. In September 2023, the school will only have one pupil joining reception from the village, although other year groups are well represented with local children. Fortunately, the school has a strong reputation attracting interest from families living in the surrounding areas. Ofsted inspectors praised the school for providing "exceptional education", and the school maintained its status of 'outstanding'. Years 5&6 will have training for road safety and Bikeability which hopefully will encourage more children to cycle to school and alleviate traffic congestion. [Full written report attached to minutes]

k) Tree Warden – Mark Waine

The Tree Warden continues to advise the Parish Council on tree matters within the parish. Explaining there was some minor planning which grew a degree of concern around the golf course. However, actions will be taken to review their intentions.

l) Stisted Historical Archives – Howard Hollands

Howard reported the archive wished to thank the team and the Village Hall for their contributions to the archives. Current Archive research into Trading and Businesses of Stisted had taken place, which will be the focus of a future exhibition.

[Full written report attached to minutes]

m) Village Hall – Mark Hughes

Mark had explained how the Village Hall had received many bookings. Managing to have a surplus of £3000. The hopes are to put on an event every quarter. The upcoming event which is a Barn dance taking place on 8th July 2023.

APA22/05 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were some concerns that there hasn't been a report from Montefiore for 2 years and to contacted.

APA22/06 DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

Provisionally booked for Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7:30p.m.

The meeting closed at 7:55p.m.

Stisted Parish Council Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Assembly

The last year has seen many changes for our village. The Council started the year with myself as a new chairman and many new councillors. We have been busy as a team over the year:

- One of the most significant issues for our parish was the proposal from Essex County Council for 3 potential gravel quarries in our village. The village has pulled together to object to this with support from the Parish Council – who also submitted detailed reports objecting to these sites. We will follow this closely over the coming months to see whether the 3 Stisted sites are chosen as preferred sites to move forward to the next phase, but we do hope they are not. Updates will be available later 2024 or early 2025 according to the ECC website. We have seen almost 30 planning applications for work in our Parish over the last 12 months – and one third of these were for tree works and pruning where permission is required as we are in a conservation area
- Our Climate and Nature group has tried several different wildlife and nature initiatives through out the year and their report shows how active they have been sourcing native trees for planting and holding village events that were well supported (including pub and pizza nights and Christmas Wreath making)
- There continues to be a lot of rubbish on our verges and we have organised 2 litter picks in the year and been well supported by village volunteers. We also provided a dust cart for villager's benefit
- After consultation and advice, we changed our streetlights to LEDs to be more environmentally friendly and save on electricity consumption. We have seen a 2/3rds drop in our electricity bills as a result of this as well and use a supplier who uses a significant proportion of renewable energy
- We noticed that Santa came to our village again this year and was welcomed by all the children

The Council would like to offer thanks to the Church, the Village Shop, and the Village Archives and the Village Hall for playing a vital part in village life. Thank you again to our Footpaths Officer Bob and our Tree Warden Mark for their support and advice throughout the year with bad weather affecting footpaths and so many requests for Tree Works.

Village life will change in the coming year without a Village Pub, but the Village Hall is planning to provide an alternative and we hope you will all support the Friday evening events.

If you have any concerns, please contact any of the Councillors or Clerk- contact details are on our website.

A lot has happened during the last twelve months, and in particular two events immediately stand out.

At the beginning of May 2023 we celebrated the coronation of King Charles the III and the church was open and decorated accordingly – and in fitting the bells were rung for the occasion. Congratulations to twin brothers Tony and Terry Stock, both 85, who together with their friend Terry Earle have been campanologists at All Saints Church for over 70 years, which means they also rang the bells for the Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. All this was captured and broadcast by BBC Essex. They are always looking for new bell ringers!

Then in September we were pleased and proud to witness the ordination of Revd Tayrina Ferguson, who had shaped so much of the ministry in Stisted and Bradwell during her years as an ordinand. Tayrina moved on to our sister parish in Cressing, where she is pioneering a new church expression at St Barnabas and looking for support in the reordering and updating of All Saints Cressing.

We continue to provide weekly services at All Saints Stisted to which all are welcome – especially those new to church and those with questions. We try to ensure that we do makes sense and is relevant to everyday life, which includes making use of projector, screen and modern worship songs.

We regularly enjoy and welcome Stisted Academy for their end of term services at church, and our curate Revd Melanie Shillito thoroughly enjoyed spending a week on placement at the school and taking Godly Play into school.

Special thanks go to all who contribute to the life of the church, whether it be cleaning, through regular giving, by providing refreshments, reading or leading intercessions, running mums and toddlers or helping with a fund raising event, arranging flowers or verging for funerals and weddings. Particular thanks go to our wardens Pat Bash (responsible for Health and Safety, Fabrics and Treasurer) and Barbara Thoires (Holy Trinity Bradwell), to our PCC members and in particular Graham Boreham, who helped us progress our journey towards the Bronze Eco Award, and to all who continue to support the work of the Foodbank.

Looking ahead we'd like to change the prevailing narrative that church is only for Christmas, Easter and for religious people – because spirituality is an important part of our humanity, of each one of us, every day of the year. We need your help to grow church and to make it relevant for a younger generation, and we hope you will come to check us out during the next twelve months, and not wait until Christmas!

Revd Heike Prentice

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024 @ 7.30PM

STATED COMMUNITY SHOP REPORT

Late in 2023, the Partnership that had been running the shop voluntarily for many years decided it was time to step down and look for new people to take it over. A meeting was held and a few of us, maybe unwisely, stuck up our hands.

The core group consists of Lesley Collins, David Cruickshank, Julie Gariazzo, Anthony McGrath, Louise and David McGurl, Robert (Bob) Powers and Carol Shaw ably assisted by a group of volunteers who help in the shop (who we would like to take this opportunity of thanking very much).

We reopened in early January 2024 and started the reinvention. More stock to make it more of a 'convenience store' and the go to place for basic essentials. It has grown since then. We now have a large fridge, purchased with the assistance of a large donation from The Hawthorn Trust, to keep fresh produce and we are proposing to purchase a freezer so that we can stock lollies, ice cream, peas, bread etc. None of this would have been possible without the Grant money received from the Parish Council which has enabled us to increase the range of stock hugely.

We have also had new shelving made (thank you David McGurl and team) and turned the shop around to make it more user friendly and inviting. Plus our lovely banner (thank you David Cruickshank).

We also like to highlight local produce and eggs and honey from Karen and Michael Keepance have been very popular. And we will stock surplus produce from the village allotments when available.

One of the great successes has been the introduction of baked good on Saturdays (made by Cheryl Hindle who was a chef at The Onley) and the sausage rolls, quiche and tarts have flown off the shelves when they are in. We have also expanded our opening times (including some evenings) to try to make it more convenient for the village and will look to increase this if it proves popular and we can find volunteers to cover.

We now have a card machine linked to the bank account which is proving very popular now that cash is no longer king.

We are running with a healthy overall balance which covers all costs.

And FINALLY, we would like to say a big THANK YOU to Jennie Alderton, Doreen Digby and Simon James (and posthumously Ron Sanderson) for starting this project all those years ago which proved such an asset then, now and hopefully, in the future.

Annual Parish Assembly.

From: pc.bobpowers@btinternet.com (pc.bobpowers@btinternet.com)

To: stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Monday, 22 April 2024 at 22:55 BST

Stisted Annual Parish Assembly 2024 Public Footpath Report.

The extreme weather of the past months has been the major cause of hazards and problems on our Public Right of Way network. Flooded routes have largely subsided, but a few of the reported fallen trees have yet to be cleared. Caution is still required.

The major improvement has been the re surfacing of a section of the Byeway between Moat Wood Rd and Lordsland Lane. Now the only section of pot hole free highway in the Parish. The 4 X4 off roaders will soon sort that out and return to their liking.

The footpaths across arable fields are now affected by late ploughing etc but can still be walked on and used while remaining unmarked.

Residents who have hedges or bushes that border our Public Footpath Network are reminded to keep them maintained and trimmed to ensure a clear passage for walkers.

The biggest threat to 4 of the Parish's Public Footpaths is the possibility of a future 4 sand and gravel quarries.

There are 50 Public Footpaths in our Parish. Enjoy them.

Bob Powers Foot Path Officer.

Neighbourhood Plan Report for Annual Meeting May 2024

At long last it feels as though real progress is being made towards 'Making the Plan'.

We have engaged the services of Chris Bowden of Navigus Planning to assist us in the drafting of the Plan.

The first public consultation on the Plan (Regulation 14) commenced on Monday 22nd April closing at Midnight on Friday 7th June.

A leaflet has been delivered to all villagers seeking their feedback and contact has also been made with all other internal and external stakeholders requesting their feedback

Once the consultation period has ended and provided no major alterations are required to the Plan, it is then submitted to BDC for screening i.e., compliance with BDC's Local Plan. This should take no more than 6 weeks.

If there are no major issues raised by BDC, the plan moves on to scrutiny by an external independent examiner, once again this should no more than 6 weeks.

If all goes well and no major alterations are required to the Plan, BDC will then organise a referendum on the final plan. We hope this will take place in the autumn. Only a simple majority is required to 'Make the Plan' provided there at least 3 votes cast.

Dave Willingham and Alan Routledge

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Re: Invitation to Stisted Annual Parish Assembly 1st May, 7.30 Village Hall and request for report from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

From: stistedneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com

To: stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Saturday, 6 April 2024 at 13:01 BST

Hi Ruth,

In my diary and I'll get something over to you !

Nick

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2024, at 15:21, Stisted Parish Council <stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hello Nick

I am organising the Annual Parish Assembly in place of my predecessor Mel who may have emailed you last year

I would like to invite you to attend the Annual Parish Assembly which will be held on Wednesday 1st May from 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The meeting immediately precedes our monthly Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Assembly is an opportunity for members of the public to learn about activities the various organisations in the village carry out during the year. All residents of the parish are welcome to attend to hear what is happening

Please let me know if you can attend and would like to say something about the Stisted Neighbourhood Watch and what has been happening over the last year

Alternatively, you may prefer to write a report of the past year and any plans for the current year. We will then be able to read this out at the meeting on your behalf. Reports will also be put onto our website and potentially in the next parish magazine, space permitting. As we are putting the reports on the Parish Website, please include photos as well if you would like them on there

I look forward to hearing from you.

Written reports should be emailed to me no later than 19th April please, so that I have time to issue an Agenda, upload reports to our website and to print copies to be available in the room on the night

Regards
Ruth

Ruth Jubb
Parish Clerk
Stisted Parish Council

email: stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk
www.stisted-pc.co.uk

Clerk Hours: The clerk role is part time, so you may not receive an immediate response to correspondence; although I do try to be flexible and spread my time through the week.

Stisted, Bradwell and Pattiswick Parish Magazine

The magazine has ten issues a year. Approximately three hundred and fifty copies are printed for each issue.

It is printed in glorious colour by John Bedford in Bradwell, which means photographs and advertisements are more interesting.

It is funded by subscription (£7.50 a year) and advertising, £10 for a full page per issue, £5 for a half page. Some advertisers subscribe as a gesture of good will towards the cost of the magazine and all advertisers have something to offer the readers.

It carries up to date news about the three parishes, council minutes, contact details, and times of church services. Events are also advertised, for example, the village hall events, clubs and whole village events. These are included free of charge.

We are fortunate to have regular subscribers, Howard Hollands, who has been an enthusiastic contributor with his archive articles, CANs reports, WI and we get bell ringing updates from Terry Earle, to name a few. Occasionally, we have a one-off contribution, always welcome.

Yvonne Crane keeps us up to date with news of events in Bradwell and our parish clerks send the parish council minutes after meetings.

For those parishioners without an Internet connection, it provides a valuable lifeline.

We try to deliver the December and January combined issue to every household in the parishes and from this we often get a few new subscribers. We also send an e-version to a few folk who live outside the parishes. We are extremely grateful to the kind people who deliver the magazine, come rain or shine, without them there would be no magazine!

I have edited it for more than 25 years. If anyone knows how long the magazine has been going, please let us know, at one time it was typewritten, before the days of word processors and the joys of cut and paste.

Changes are in the air for the magazine ...

Eleanor McMillan

Stisted C of E Primary Academy

The school has had a wonderful year engaging with different parts of Stisted and wider community.

Our children have been to church for Harvest, Christmas, and Easter services where all families, friends and residents from the village were welcomed to join us. Revd. Heike and Melanie (curate) have been working closely with the school, in church and in school, to support our curriculum as well as our vision as a church school.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils were welcomed into Stisted Hall for a carol concert as well as enjoying some tea and biscuits, which the children made! Our PTA team, FOSA, delivered a fantastic Christmas Bazaar, where families, friends and residents were warmly welcomed.

All of the children have taken part in Historical walks through the village throughout the year for different elements of their curriculum studies. The whole school has also taken part in a Celebration Assembly in Bluebell woods, where the children and adults were in awe of the bluebells in full bloom!

The reception children continue to access Forest School once a week, which is undoubtedly one of their favourite parts of the week!

Each pupil was given the opportunity to support CANS by planting sunflowers for the village as well as creating crowns for the King's Coronation. We have also had some very generous donations of books, crafts and games from residents of the village, which we have been extremely grateful for.

As part of Canonium Trust, we have been very fortunate to offer our experience and support to our partner schools. A few examples of the support we are giving includes supporting literacy and phonics across all six Trust schools, sharing our sports facilities and coaches with Finchingfield and developing Montessori theology and classroom practice in Finchingfield and Kelvedon.

In the future we are looking forward to continuing to develop our links with our partner schools, as well as developing the Forest School Area. We are also looking forward to working more with CANS and creating some posters for the village.

Archive Presentations/Exhibitions/Activity

- Stisted Hall presentation - the history of the hall
- Colin Saunders ceramics: Fairhead Room and Braintree Museum
- BBC visit to Bellringers re Coronation
- Essex Heritage Website now features some of our Oral History projects:

<http://www.essexheritagetrust.co.uk/stisted-archive/>

- Successful opening of Archive Exhibition Trades and Businesses in Stisted Past and Present in the Fairhead Room 31.3.24. Braintree Museum has requested the loan of the show and good to see colleagues from the Halstead Local History Society.

The second Sunday opening of the show was on Sunday 7th April 11 to 3 and a third is now planned.

- Tea and Cake with the Archive in the Village Hall. Friday 19th April Free/Donation
- Archive Bar and Pizza Night in the Village Hall. Saturday 20th April Free/Donation
- In addition to work with bellringers the Oral History programme has continued with an interview with woodsman Graham Norfolk. We are still struggling with the technology of transcription. Any thoughts welcome.

Jane Barnard continues her cataloguing of material from over 100 years of the Parish Magazine.

Derek Pryke continues to manage both the website and the ever-expanding digital archive.

• **Montefiore:**

Howard and Derek met with Montefiore Trustees and discussed the renovation and storage of artefacts from the Montefiore within the Archive. This will require funding.

Agreement for the idea of a permanent exhibition in 2025 on the story of the Montefiore to be located in the meeting room.

Cataloguing and digitising of a wide range of materials - a long and time-consuming process, but essential. The Archive now has a huge backlog of Montefiore documentation to digitise.

Jane Barnard from the Archive team has offered to catalogue what is left of the library, set up in the Institute over 120 years ago.

- **Autumn Show:**

Preparation for the Autumn Photographic show with contributions from the community looking at gardens and the natural environment in Stisted and hosted by the Village Hall is underway with funding being sought.

Loans/ donations

Many small donations/loans are now being made to the Archive, too many to list here.

Of particular note this year have been:

Parish Council Minute Books

Women's Institute Minute Books

Petanque Records from the beginning including trophy.

Owen Harrington's Air Raid hand-bell

Important items from the Montefiore Institute

Dissemination/Publicity

Five key outlets:

- Parish Magazine: monthly contributions
- Stisted Facebook
- Stisted WhatsApp
- Local posters
- Essex Heritage Trust website

Funding

We now have a donation box to use at public events.

Funding applications are currently being made.

We have received funding this year from

Essex Heritage Trust £1600

Hawthorne Charitable Trust £500

Individual donations £544

Thanks to the lovely Archive Team of Helen Hughes, Sue Buffey, Derek Pryke, Helen Remfry, Lynn McCulloch, Jane Barnard and to SVH for the use of the Fairhead Room

Offers of help always welcome....Howard Hollands