

**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 vocal 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.

