

STANWICK PARISH MEETING

Date: 15th April 2010

Venue: The Old School Rooms, Stanwick

Time: 7.00pm

Councillor Amanda Michel, Chairman of Stanwick Parish Council, was in the chair

11 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and introductions

Councillor Michel welcomed those in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor MacGovern who would be late in arriving and from County Councillor Lawson who had to attend another meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Parish Meeting of 16th April 2009.

The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the previous meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. East Northants Safer Communities Team (Police)

Unfortunately due to operational commitments the Police were unable to reach the meeting in time.

4. Progress report by the Village Hall Trust

Mr Phil Crooks, Chairman of the Village Hall Trust reported that since the October status report sent to all households, the Trust had received an offer of additional funding, giving the Trust all the money it needs to complete the project. He hoped that the Trust would take ownership of the site within a week of this meeting and progress on the new hall would be visible within a few weeks. It is estimated that the project will take 30 weeks to complete.

The Trust is now looking to make contact with user groups and individuals who are interested in hiring the hall. Further information is available on the Trust's website: stanwickvillagehall.org

Councillor Michel thanks Mr Crooks for his report and particularly thanked him and Mr M Berry for all their work on the new village hall project.

5. District Councillor Ms Eloise Lucille

Councillor Lucille praised the efforts of the Village Hall Trust.

She reported that, unfortunately, there were still problems with the planning department, particularly with the Local Development Framework and the formulation of the Raunds Area

Plan. Due the length of time that has elapsed since the research behind the Raunds Area Plan was undertaken, the Raunds Area Plan Working Party is reviewing everything again rather than relying on previous research. This may mean that there will be development on the Stanwick side of Raunds. Stanwick will need to voice any concerns strongly when the matter comes for consultation. It is probable that it will be 3-4 years before a Local Development Plan is in place.

Councillor Lucille reported that waste collection had been re-tendered and that tenders were being obtained for kitchen waste collection. This waste could be used for energy creation via anaerobic digestion. Unfortunately the recycling of plastics is still limited because there is limited demand from manufacturers that use recycled plastic.

Councillor Lucille said that East Northamptonshire Council had few grants available as money is still tight due the constraints of the economy.

On a positive note, she commented that the water infrastructure was being upgraded despite the housing downturn because these types of project have a five year lead in period.

Councillor Lucille answered a question about which planning policy/guidance should be used.

6. Future use of Parish Fields

Councillor Michel gave a brief background to the purchase of the site and the invited the meeting to make suggestions for how the site could be used. It was suggested that specialist advice should be sought to determine the best land use. It was also suggested that it could be offered to an agricultural college as a project. Another idea was to ask the children at the primary school for their views.

7. Parish Council Financial Report

Councillor Michel reported that the Parish Council's Accounts for the financial year 2008/09 have been audited by BDO Stoy Hayward who completed the audit on behalf of the Audit Commission.

For the year 2008/09 the council had a total income of £58,905 and total expenditure of £39,397. Both figures are lower than the previous year.

The accounts for 2009/10 are yet to be finalised. It is anticipated that the accounts will have been audited over the summer and members of the public will be welcome to inspect them at this time.

The accounts will show significantly higher figures. Income will be in the region of £160,000. The income figure has been inflated by the loan of £77597 from the Public Works Loan Board used to purchase Parish Fields. In addition the Council has secured £18520 grant funding for new play equipment, £12300 of which has already been received into the bank account.

The Council's expenditure will be in the region of £134903 and £79342 of this relates to the purchase of Parish Fields plus professional fees and fencing for the site.

Loan from the Public Works Loan Board will be paid back over 50 years and the interest rate is fixed for that period. The loan covers the purchase price of £75,000 plus professional fees. The loan payments for 2010/11 will be £4717.97 and because of the way the loan has been arranged the amount made in repayments each year will decrease year on year.

Overall annual expenditure, excluding the purchase of Parish Fields, is expected to be within the budget estimate.

The single largest category of expenditure continues to be grounds maintenance and the final total for the year will be in the region of £16,000, which is lower than previous years because of a new contract.

The Council has undertaken repair work to the church path and improved drainage around the entrance to the recreation ground car park.

The Precept for the coming year has been set at £52500.00 which represents an increase of £1936 or £2.58 per household. Last year the precept was not increased.

8. Any other business

The Parish Council was thanked for acquiring Parish Fields as a community asset.

Meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.