

STANWICK PARISH MEETING

Date: 21st April 2011

Venue: The Old School Rooms, Stanwick

Time: 7.00pm

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

9 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Michel welcomed those in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Dainty and Kitchener and members of Stanwick Race Group.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Parish Meeting of 15th April 2010.

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

The Chairman agreed that the order of the next two agenda items could be switched.

3. Village Hall Trust

Ms Moody, the manager of the village hall addressed the meeting. It is expected that the hall will be handed over from the builders to the Management Trust within a week once the snagging issues have been resolved.

The hall will be in use from early May and the Grand Launch with a showcase of events will be held on 21st May.

Ms Moody said that the hall is almost fully booked and described the uses. Full details will be available on the village hall website.

4. East Northants Safer Communities Team (Police)

Police Community Support Officer Dickerson addressed the meeting. She discussed the Stanwick crime figures for March and advised that there may be a lead on the arson attack on the Round House at Stanwick Lakes.

Police Community Support Officer Dickerson advised that there is a current problem with the theft of catalytic convertors and with shed break-ins.

A comment was made from one of the attendees that the messages supplied to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators were not as good as information previously provided, which had had more detail.

Police Community Support Officer Dickerson described the NPYD project

(Northamptonshire Police Youth Detectives) which is scheme that is being taken into schools.

Councillor Michel raised issues regarding anti-social behaviour at the recreation ground. She asked that people report anything suspicious.

Police Community Support Officer Dickerson advised that she had been sending letters to vehicle owners where cars had been causing an obstruction on Church Street. The East Northants Safer Communities Team will be having pro-active days focusing on parking issues around schools.

5. District Councillor Ms Eloise Lucille

Councillor Lucille said that over the past year she had been trying to secure funding for the village hall. East Northamptonshire Council has a diminishing funding pot for communities. The District Council is looking at funding stream issues.

Councillor Lucille described the changes to the waste collection services and the benefits to overall recycling levels.

She reported that there had no changes to the planning department and there is no date set for the final Local Plan for this area. The Core Spatial Strategy has reduced the new build requirement for the district. East Northamptonshire Council is looking to apply the Localism Bill to the principles of planning especially in villages.

Councillor Lucille answered a number of questions on the new waste collection system, particularly about those whose houses may be unsuitable for wheeled bins or may have another reason that wheeled bins are inappropriate.

6. County Councillor Lawson

Councillor Lawson outlined the difficulties currently facing the County Council. By not increasing the council tax and implementing cuts, the County Council will receive a 2.5% payment from central government.

All areas of the County Councils functions will be reviewed including transport, highway maintenance, grass cutting and street lighting.

In response to questions raised, Councillor Lawson said he would find out more information about the possible changes to street lighting and the bus services.

7. Parish Fields

Councillor Michel said that after many years of campaigning by residents for the Chettles land to be secured for community benefit, Stanwick Parish Council purchased 10 areas of the site in 2009. The hope is that the site will be given over to allotments, a playing field and a pocket park.

Volunteers have already formed themselves into a pocket park group, known as SPPark. They are currently devising a vision for the future and this will encourage the diversity of wildlife.

In April STEP and SPPark joined forces and cleared a significant amount of rubbish from the site.

8. Parish Council Financial Report

Councillor Michel was pleased to report that the Parish Council's Accounts for the financial year 2009/10 have been audited by BDO Stoy Hayward who completed the audit on behalf of the Audit Commission and that they did not identify any issues of concern. Council Michel thanked the Parish Clerk for her work.

For the year 2009/10 the council had a total income of £145,748 and total expenditure of £120,468. Both of these figures are inflated by the purchase of Parish Fields as they include the receipt of the loan money and the expenditure of the purchase costs.

The accounts for 2010/11 are yet to be finalised. The Accounts will be available for inspection in June and submitted for audit in July.

For the past eight years the Parish Council has been setting aside funds towards the village hall. Last year the Council paid out £25,500 from the fund to the Village Hall trust towards the cost of the works. Further payments will be paid in the current year.

The Council also paid out just under £20,000 for the new piece of equipment at the recreation ground. However 94% of this cost was met by grants secured from external funders.

The swings and slide at the recreation ground were painted and it is disappointing to note that deliberate efforts have been made to chip off the paint on the swing frame by persons unknown.

The Council paid to repair the church wall after a 'hit and run' incident.

The single largest category of regular expenditure continues to be grounds maintenance and the final total for the year will be in the region of £19,000.

The Precept for the coming year has been set at £54180.00 which represents an overall increase of £1680 or £2.24 per household.

9. Any other business

No further items were raised.

Meeting closed at 8.09 p.m.