

STANWICK PARISH MEETING

Date: 19th April 2012

Venue: Village Hall, Stanwick

Time: 7.15pm

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

9 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and introductions

Councillor Michel opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the Parish Meeting of 21st April 2011.

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

The Chairman altered the running order of the meeting as PCSO Taylor had not arrived.

3. District Councillor Ms Eloise Lucille

Councillor Lucille advised that East Northamptonshire Council was no further forward with the Local Plan, so it is very important that Stanwick puts a lot of effort into a new Parish Plan. Planning continues to be one of the biggest issues at the District Council.

She advised that since the new waste collection system had been rolled out, recycling rates had sky-rocketed.

Councillor Lucille reported that Ms Davies, the East Northamptonshire Council funding manager, had secured £300,000 of external funding last year.

Comments were made from the room that the wheelie bins had been a success and that it was good to have a greater range of recycled items.

4. Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Taylor advised the meeting that he works out of the Thrapston station.

During the past twelve months, there has been a 1% increase in reported crime in Northamptonshire but a 1% decrease in reported crime in East Northamptonshire. Stanwick has benefited from an 11% decrease.

There has been an increase in burglaries in the general area, especially Raunds. The prime time for burglaries is the afternoon, particularly 5 p.m. onwards.

Theft from motor vehicles continues, particularly catalytic converters from 4x4s. Stanwick has not been badly hit from this crime. Vehicle owners can mark their vehicles catalytic converters.

Anti-social behaviour reported crimes are down on previous years. Stanwick has seen a reduction of 15.9%. PCSO Taylor gave a breakdown on the types of anti-social offence committed in Stanwick.

PSCO Taylor advised that there has been a reduction in funding for Police Community Support Officers. However the East Northamptonshire area has not lost any of its officers.

In response to a question PCSO outlined the procedure for parking and obstruction issues, particularly in Church Street. He also explained the impact of the de-criminalisation of double yellow lines. PCSO Taylor was advised of an increasing problem with cars parked on the corner of High Street.

A concern was raised that the Police website did not show any 'hear you views' surgeries for Stanwick in the next 3 months.

5. County Councillor Lawson

Councillor Lawson advised that in November a Police and Crime Commissioner would be elected and the Police Authority will be disbanded. This is a new system for the UK. It is not known who the candidates will be.

Councillor Lawson spoke briefly about the new street light arrangements.

With regard to the A45, he advised that there is no government funding for improvements. However there may be options with the development of Rushden Lakes. The Highways Agency is looking at the possibility of putting traffic lights on Chowns Mill Roundabout. The previously suggested option of a grade separation (under or over pass) would be too expensive.

Northamptonshire County Council has not increased the precept to secure a 2.5% grant from central government. However further savings must still be made within the County Council budget.

The number of County Councillors will be reduced from 73 to 57 before the next elections. It is mostly likely that Stanwick will be grouped with Raunds.

A comment was made from the room regarding the lanes on the Chowns Mill round about.

Councillor Michel thanked Councillor Lawson for his services for Stanwick over the past few years and said that Stanwick would be sorry to lose him as their County Councillor.

6. Parish Council Financial Report

Councillor Michel reported that the Parish Council's Accounts for the financial year 2010/11 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. Councillor Michel thanked the Parish Clerk for her work in this area.

For the year 2010/11 the council had a total income of £65,372 and total expenditure of £94,046. Both of these totals are down on the previous year. The expenditure figure is inflated by £25,500 paid out of the village hall fund towards the building of the new hall and £20,000 for the new play equipment at the recreation ground.

The accounts for 2011/12 are yet to be finalised. The Accounts will be available for inspection in June and submitted for audit in July.

It is expected that the accounts will show expenditure for the past 12 months to be in the region of £66,000. The final tranche of funding for the new village hall was paid out in May.

The Council did not undertake any major projects this year. Money has been spent on costs associated with the Parish Fields such as the planning permission fees and an asbestos survey. Taylor Wimpey, as previous site owners, has agreed to remove the asbestos.

The Council gave careful consideration to the budget for 2012/13. In order to minimise the impact on household finances a number of budget areas were trimmed. Some areas of expenditure were examined to see if the costs could be reduced. It was accepted with rising inflation certain costs would increase and the Council has no control over these. The agreed budget for 2012/13 requires an increase of the precept of 3.36% which equates to £2.36 per household for the year.

Councillor Michel went on to outline the developments at the Pocket Park, including the new ponds. All of the hard work is being done by volunteers. The work to remove the asbestos should commence on 30th April. Once this has been completed, then it should be possible start on the allotment project.

Councillor Michel informed the meeting that the Parish Plan is being reviewed. The 2007 Plan has been invaluable. She encouraged everyone to complete and return their questionnaires when they are sent out in May.

Finally, Councillor Michel informed the meeting that the Parish Council had entered Stanwick for the Northamptonshire Village of the Year competition.

7. Stanwick's Jubilee celebrations

Councillor Munday outlined all of the events due to take place in June.

8. Any other business

It was suggested that Stanwick should have a flag pole with a variety of flags. Various locations were suggested, including the village hall, and it was noted that there used to be a flagpole on the church.

Meeting closed 8.10 p.m.