

STANWICK PARISH MEETING

Date: 18th April 2013

Venue: Village Hall, Stanwick

Time: 7.15pm

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

10 members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome and introductions

Councillor Michel opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Minutes for the Parish Meeting of 19th April 2012.

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

3. Police Community Support Officer Taylor

PCSO Taylor explained the changes following the introduction of Police Commissioners.

Crime on the whole is decreasing including crime within Stanwick and Hargrave. The only increase relates to theft from motor vehicles. This may relate to theft of catalytic convertors.

Police surveys have shown that belief in the police is rising within this area.

Anti-social behaviour problems have been reduced.

In response to a question, PCSO Taylor advised how members of the public could report parking obstructions and how the PCSOs can respond to those reports.

4. District Councillor Ms Eloise Lucille

Councillor Lucille reported on the waste and recycling services. In addition she spoke about recent challenges within the planning department and the implications of the Core Spatial Strategy Review.

5. County Councillor Lawson

Councillor Lawson reported on the progress of the new street lighting strategy and the policy for rectifying potholes. He also touched on procedures to ensure there are sufficient school places available.

The Highways Authority does not regard the traffic problems at Chowns Mill a priority nor the need to dual the A45 from Stanwick to Thrapston.

He said that following a boundary review, this would be the last report he would be making to Stanwick.

Councillor Lawson was asked for Northamptonshire County Council to address a problem with man-hole covers in Parklands. He was also asked for Northamptonshire County Council to use their powers to reduce the amount of traffic that uses Stanwick as a rat run.

6. Parish Council Financial Report

Councillor Michel reported that the Parish Council's Accounts for the financial year 2011/12 have been audited by BDO LLP who completed the audit on behalf of the Audit Commission and that they did not identify any issues of concern.

The accounts for 2012/13 are yet to be finalised. The Accounts will be available for inspection in June and submitted for audit by the end of that month.

It is expected that the accounts will show expenditure for the past 12 months to be in the region of £46,000. This is less than the previous year as the Council has made savings on water rates and insurance. In addition, the Council was no longer contributing towards the construction of the village hall.

The Council did not undertake any major projects in 2012. There has been expenditure on production of the new Parish Plan. The Parish Plan will be offered for adoption by the Parish Council in May and, if adopted, will be available to view on the Council website. Copies will also be available to read in the village lobby.

The Council gave careful consideration to the budget for 2013/14. It was decided that the Council would not request an increase in the amount of precept it receives. However due to the way in which local tax is collected as part of the overall rates bill, some households may show a percentage increase in the amount of precept they are paying. The Parish Council has no control over this. It is a consequence of how the tax base is calculated and has been affected by changes brought in by the government.

A question was asked as to whether the Council had any funds set aside for the village hall. The answer was no.

7. Any other business

A request was made that the Parish Council considers installing a flag pole.

Chairman