

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday March 14th 2018 at 7.30pm in King's Stanley Village Hall

In attendance:

Parish Cllrs Carol Bell Pearce, Lawrie Hall (Chair), John Graham, David Hauser, Wendy McNamee, David Owen, Symon Parsley. Residents: Richard Page, Barbara Hale, Jean Edwards, Marian Charwood, Patricia Iliadou, Jonathan Harding, Brian Culver, Pam Culver, Jeremy Warner, Dave Earle, Helen Earle, Jenny Matcham, Frank Nicholson, Martin Carslake, Mike Stapleton, Julie Stapleton, Vanessa Hall. District Cllr Steve Lydon., County Cllr Steve Robinson Neighbourhood Warden – Andy Beamish Frances Ashfield (Parish Clerk).and Paul Hackman – Natural England

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Cllr Hall welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Lesley Williams, Wendy Weaver, District Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy and Alan Ford (SCG)

2. To agree minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held in March 2017

Minutes agreed and signed.

3. King's Stanley Parish Council - Chairman's report - Cllr Lawrie Hall

The Chairman presented his report outlining issues and progress made in the parish over the past year. Road closures had regularly featured. The new system at Ryeford would be reviewed and results of the speed camera work would be published. He explained that 106 monies would pay for a new path by the rear of the school and for new play equipment for which the community would be consulted. A new PC/SCG noticeboard had recently been installed in Selsley and a new board was to be installed on the Green In King's Stanley. Next year's budget would stay the same which means a decrease in precept for 2018/19. He thanked everyone involved in fundraising for the defibrillator and thanked Tea & Chat for their work in fundraising for equipment and for running the book exchange. He also thanked his fellow councillors, Neighbourhood Warden (Andy Beamish) and Frances Ashfield – Parish Clerk for all their hard work.

(see appendix 1 for report)

4. District Councillors' and County Councillor reports

Cllr Steve Lydon presented both his and Cllr Nigel Studdert Kennedy's report:: The new housing development in Dyehouse Field was nearly complete but there were on-going issues with power cable work to Mankley Field development; Re new housing,SDC is building sufficient housing therefore can't apply to build on greenfield sites; Lack of affordable homes is a big issue; Brunsdon Yard was being monitored by Compliance; Central Garage was still being disputed with an appeal in June 2018. There's still a need for the footway to be adopted as a ROW; HRH Prince Charles visited Stroud to open new stretch of canal; Merrywalks is going to be developed with a LEP loan for a new shopping centre; Planning for ALDI and LIDL to be discussed at next week's planning committee; The SDC budgets would be restricted for 2018/19.

Cllr Lydon thanked Cllr Studdert Kennedy and said they worked well together. He also thanked Frances Ashfield as Parish Clerk, Lawrie Hall as Chair and all members of the Parish Council for the support they have given him and the work they had undertaken on behalf of all residents.

(See appendix 2 for copy of Cllr Lydon's report)

County Cllr Steve Robinson was elected in May to cover the Nailsworth area which includes The Stanleys. He tries to respond to queries as quickly as possible but sometimes is unable to agree issues due to the cost eg painting the word 'slow' in the road is too expensive. The emails he's received and comments he's seen re the new road system in Ryeford have all been favourable. The pavements outside the Co-op were an improvement. He tried to get the bus diverted when Broad Street was closed but was unable to so he worked with Ring & Ride Connexions service where needed. Cllr Robinson recommended residents visit the County Council's website to report any issues such as potholes and had cards with details to give out. He reported that Council Tax would increase by 2.5% + 2% for Adult Social Care. He finished by thanking the District Cllrs, Chair, Clerk and parish Cllrs for all their support.

Questions raised: A pedestrian crossing is needed by the Co-op. Cllr Robinson agreed to meet with Jean Edwards to discuss. (Jean and Barbara Hale were willing to paint white lines in the road).
(See appendix 3 for copy of Cllr Robinson's report)

5. Local organisations' reports and updates

St George's Church

The church warden reported that St George's church is one of 15 churches managed by a team rector and 2 vicars. Things are changing re C of E and St George's is currently trying to deal with a difficult issue of 'churtyard obligations' which relates to what type of tribute can be left on graves. Notices will have to be displayed explaining what can be allowed to be left ie cut flowers and annuals/bulbs. It is stressed that this is a directive from the Diocese not St. George's PCC.

6. Presentation from Natural England on Selsley Common's status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest Paul Hackman (Team Leader for Natural England - Gloucestershire)

Paul Hackman gave a very interesting and informative presentation about SSSI's and the importance of Selsley Common which was notified as a SSSI in 1986. The Common is made up of almost 40 hectares of calcareous grassland which makes it a national asset. This unimproved, species-rich grassland is home to rare species of orchids, butterflies and birds. The 6 orchids species and various wildlife were detailed during the talk. Leigh's quarry is of particular significance, showing important expansion of rock laid down over centuries. Paul outlined the plan for scrub management which included grazing with Dexters and Belted Galloways, scrubbing out cotoneaster and aiming for a diversity rich grassland. A grant had been awarded called 'Back from the Brink' which provides support and advice on management of the Cotswold's limestone areas.

Questions raised:

- How can car parking areas be contained so they don't encroach onto Common? (Neighbourhood Warden to speak to SDC Officer and follow this up).
- What can be used on Cotoneaster to prevent regrowth? (Speak to BRB project officers for advice).

The Chairman thanked Paul for his very informative talk.

7. Open Forum – general comments and discussions

- Dave and Helen Earle reported that 11/11/2018 is the 100th year since Armistice Day and commemorations would be taking place across the UK. After a recent meeting was held to discuss ideas for King's Stanley it was proposed that: 25 pairs of boots will be carried through the village in a procession from the church to the war memorial; knitted poppies will go around the perimeter of the King's Head pub, memorial and church; a radio play in the church; a display in the King's Head.
The next meeting would take place in May and requests for help were made.
- The issue of cars parking by the mini-roundabout by Shute Street was made. Cars were preventing lorries being able to go the right way around the roundabout. Cllr Robinson said that a traffic order would be needed for yellow lines to be considered. Such an order costs £15,000 and isn't feasible in the current financial climate. The Clerk reported that Highways would look at the roundabout once all building work was completed.
- A query was raised about Stanley Mill's progress. Reported that stage 1 had started.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

KSPC APM 2018 - CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

I would like to welcome you all to the 2018 Kings Stanley annual parish meeting (it is good to see some of our new residents who live in Dyehouse Field).

The last year seems to have been dominated by road closures. Firstly it was the Bath Road for the installation of water and sewage services to Mankley Field, then a long period as the work on the priority system at Ryeford Road was undertaken, made longer by the necessity to renew parts of the bridge. Either side of Christmas it was Broad Street – although this was completed in a shorter time than planned, then in Leonard Stanley, Severn Waters and Bridgend. The priority system in Ryeford Road was not without some controversy, and some doubts to its effectiveness. The Parish Council is due to review it with County Highways soon.

A group has recently been formed to check the speed of vehicles at several locations in the parish. They will be reporting back to the parish council regularly, and we will publish findings in the Parish Magazine.

The work of the Parish Council continues and in the last year we have updated our register of assets. A resources advisory group has been formed to consider this and other essential financial items so that our budget, and therefore our precept (what you pay us through your council tax) is robust. We have reviewed our insurance policy to ensure that it meets current needs, and have been able to make a saving on the premium. The parish precept for the financial year beginning in April will show no increase over 2017.

As to small parish projects, following the successful adoption of the Kings Stanley telephone box, serving as a library, we have now acquired the box in Middleyard, which is to be refurbished and then become a source of information for residents and visitors. Thanks to T&C for their work on KS and Jeremy Warner who is to lead the development in Middleyard.

Benches have been replaced on the Green at KS and also the Green at Selsley. Also a new PC notice board on the green at KS after the old one started to fall to bits. A jointly funded NB is to be installed soon at the Bell in Selsley

Thanks to fundraising by the T&C group and Claire Neary, and grants from the Parish Council, the KS&ST and Stonehouse Rotary, a defibrillator was installed on the wall of Images Salon in Bath Road in November. Many thanks to Lin and Brian Mayo for making the space for the defib available.

Following the near completion of the Dyehouse Field development, the parish has available what has been known as 'section 106 money'. This is a contribution required to be made to the local community by the developer. We spent some – on account – over a year ago when we had the footways either side of the green resurfaced. The footway which connects the play area on Marling Field to the bridge over the stream leading to the school is to be resurfaced and improved soon.

Much of the rest of the funding will be used to renew and improve the play equipment on Marling Field, and we will be starting consultation with users and potential users over the next few months.

In the last year we lost one valuable parish councillor, Nina Rogers, when she resumed full-time teaching, and have gained one to replace Nina, Carol Bell Pearce. Carol will be known to many of you as she works at the Post Office in the Co-op here in KS. It is good to have a councillor who is in daily contact with parishioners.

We have continued to have the support of our District Councillors, Steve Lydon and Nigel SK who work hard for our interests, and County Councillor Steve Robinson who took over from Dorcas Binns following the May 2017 election. Steve has involved himself in a number of areas in the parish, particularly highways. We look forward to continuing to work with all three of our councillors.

Andy Beamish took over as our neighbourhood warden last year, and has been visible and active in the Parish.

Finally, my thanks to fellow councillors, who stop me going off at tangents at meetings, and our Parish Clerk Frances Ashfield, who professionally battles with mounds of correspondence and emails whilst keeping us councillors legal.

Cllr Lawrie Hall

District Councillor – Steve Lydon's report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Local Government Finance

The pressure on local Govt finance is growing year on year. Locally Gloucester City Council have dropped from over 300 staff to 180. Nationally we have seen Northamptonshire County Council being declared technically bankrupt with their external auditors reportedly not signing off their budgets. This will happen more and more, as demands particularly for social care and children services rise and Govt funding is further reduced in the name of austerity.

On Thursday February 22 Stroud District Council set its Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. Council Tax is split between the county council, Gloucestershire Constabulary, the six district and Borough councils in the county and the dozens of smaller town and parish councils. I set out below the council tax bills in Gloucestershire

If you live in Gloucester, your council tax bill for 2018/19, in a Band D property, will be £1,655.03.

The bill for a Band D home in Cheltenham Borough will be £1,661.71 , excluding parishes.

In Stroud, a Band D property will pay £1,660.20 , excluding parishes.

Forest of Dean will charge a Band D home there will pay £1,632.53 , excluding parishes.

In the Cotswolds a Band D household will be billed £1,585.10 , excluding parishes.

In Tewkesbury, the average Band D home will be paying £1,573.06, excluding parishes.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

The February 22 SDC full council also approved the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan following a local referendum. More and more of the District is now covered by NDPs.

These have tended to be the larger Towns ie Stroud, Dursley and Stonehouse. I have raised again that for small parishes to be able to produce one they need greater resourcing from Govt. The plans though are supposed to set out where a local community wants development not where they don't want it.

Central Garage Kings Stanley

Some good news on the planning front to this this ongoing saga, ie of the houses built now following the agreed permission. Despite technically addressing the reasons to show they should get retrospective permission, painting the adjoining party wall, white, opening of windows inwardly and concrete capping a part of the back garden which is contaminated the committee turned down the retrospective application. It will now go to a further appeal in June. We are still waiting on the County Council to determine whether the whole pavement can be designated as a public right of way which would further strengthen our case against the current buildings.

Housing and Road Chaos

Primarily because of the new developments at Woodside Lane and Mankley Field, we have had a number of road closures and continuing repairs. These have tested all of our patience and tolerance to the extreme. Not helped by the lateness of notification and

confusion over dates. Also a point of concern is that the recent changes to Woodside Lane took place without any consultation with local residents and the parish council. This is something I know Steve Robinson is raising with the County Council. In terms of future developments, the current SDC Local Plan is being reviewed, Nigel and I will certainly continue to argue that the Stanleys have taken more than their fair share of large scale developments. Of course we still face a desperate shortage of affordable homes throughout the District.

Good News

The recent visit by HRH Prince Charles to formally celebrate the opening and completion of Phase 1 a of the canal project was a great day. The canal project has benefitted Stroud in many ways, an example being the increasing numbers of people walking and cycling along the tow path. It's a great credit to the countless hours of work that the volunteers have undertaken. A bid has been submitted to the heritage lottery fund to support the linking up of the canal to the national network at Saul , it would be great if this was to happen.

Thanks

I wish to record my personal thanks for all their hard work to my fellow District Cllr Nigel Studdert Kennedy and County Cllr Steve Robinson. Also to Lawrie the Chair and to Frances the clerk for all the work they undertake on behalf of the Parish.

County Councillor's Annual Report -Kings Stanley Parish Council – March 2018

Prior to being elected I decided that if I was fortunate enough to represent you at county level I would respond to residents' queries and concerns as soon as possible. I have endeavoured to do this even though, on occasions, residents may not get the responses they were looking for. I feel that this is important when you represent the community as a councillor and residents do appreciate their concerns being addressed.

When I was elected the repairs and traffic calming at Ryeford Bridge were about to commence. The comments I have received have mainly been positive for the alterations. We knew that it would take time to 'bed in' and it has been particularly difficult when other roads have been closed locally.

I did receive several complaints regarding the area outside the Co-op in relation to parking on the pavement and also the state of the paved area but working with the Co-op I believe the situation has improved.

The road closure in Broad Street was the cause of concern particularly among the elderly. Even though pressure was put on Severn Trent to lay on a mini-bus due to the 66 being diverted this was not successful. I was though able to organise Connexions, through the County Council, to provide a Ring & Ride service to Sainsburys and then on to Stroud, including Stroud Hospital.

There have been the usual issues regarding potholes, grit bins, street lighting etc. I would encourage residents to report these issues themselves online to gloucestershirehighways.com report it or ring 08000 514514.

Residents may be aware that at their budget meeting last month the County Council agreed to raise their share of council tax by 2.49%, plus 2% for Adult Social Care.

During the last year the Childrens' Services in the county has received a damning report from OFSTED. There is a great deal of work to be done to bring this service up to an acceptable standard. A new Head of Childrens' Services has recently been recruited from Essex.

I would like to thank my District Council colleagues, Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy and Cllr Steve Lydon, also Chair Laurie Hall and Frances the Clerk for their support during my first year as your County Councillor.

Cllr Steve Robinson