

STANHOE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 8th May 2025 7.30pm

Clerk: Nicola Smith

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The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for Parishioners to discuss parish affairs (Local Government Act 1972. S9). The Meeting has the power to discuss parish affairs and pass resolutions thereon, but such resolutions do not bind the Parish Council.

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Present and apologies – All Parish Councillors attended plus the Parish Clerk. Ten residents attended. Cllr Sandell, Borough Councillor ,gave apologies. Cllr Chenery, Borough Councillor attended.
3. Chairs report -the Chair gave a comprehensive presentation on the work and activities of the Parish Council over the last year based on the key strategic themes. Rachel Wilson updated on the changes to Stanhoe.org. To contact the team for items to go on the website contact stanhoecontact@gmail.com.
The archive will continue to be run by Charles Butcher and available at stanhoearchive.org.
Residents gave their thanks for the work undertaken by the Council.
Residents requested if for future events the War Memorial could be decorated.
Village Survey – residents asked about feedback and results. The Chair referred back to the presentation and that the Council would continue to update and progress any actions.

4. Reports from village groups

4.1 Stanhoe and Barwick WI

In April 2024, we started the year with 44 members, unfortunately only 3 m3mbers are from Stanhoe itself. We continue to draw members from a wide area; currently from 20 local towns and villages. We were delighted to present Rosemary Brown, a Stanhoe resident, with a certificate to recognise her 35 years of membership of our WI. We have had a variety of speakers at our meetings. We have also had three meetings that were organized 'in-house' – "Taste the Difference", a Beetle Drive and our annual Summer Meeting. Due to the growing membership, we can no longer hold a Garden Party, so we met in the hall for afternoon tea, a plant swap and a plant-based quiz. The Book Club continues to be successful holding quarterly meetings at The Kings Head, Bircham. For our charity Women Walk World in April, members visited Holkham Hall to walk and enjoy refreshments afterwards. We held a crafting sessions and several members enjoyed 'having a go' at Docking Angling Club's Open Day. Members visited Houghton Hall gardens, Langham Dome and Norwich Theatre Royal to see Calendar Girls. Visits continued for morning coffee and afternoon tea and brunch. Committee members attended the Federation Annual Meeting in March and also the National Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, at which our President was delegate for our group of local WIs.

4.2 Speedwatch

Statistically, the Stanhoe team is the longest serving team in Norfolk, having been invited to join the scheme in its early stages under the auspices of the Parish Council.

We started with twelve volunteers and gradually the number has dropped to the current team of just five elderly residents. Our current objective is to deploy for one hourly shift per week (and a team must have a minimum of three members to operate) either on Tuesday mornings or Wednesday afternoons. The Wednesday shift has recently been introduced to accommodate different availability patterns and this shift has certainly seen a marked increase in the number of speeding motorists, perhaps because the shift time is close to the end of some motorists' working day. We don't operate in the rain or if visibility is impaired and we have been known to shorten the shift length if it's cold/windy – it's no fun at our age!

The team's presence does have an effect on most motorists, though not all and repeat offenders will eventually discover that the police do have sanctions. Indeed, Norfolk Constabulary is very supportive.

The team is enthusiastic, but it desperately requires some fresh blood, preferably younger, men or women. The commitment is limited to no more than one hour per week, less than that if we had more volunteers. The consequence of having no new volunteers can only be a reduction in the number of shifts and ultimately a disbandment of the team. The village will be the loser.

Please think about joining us.

4.3 All Saints Church 2025

Firstly, thanks must go to Revd Peter Cook for his leadership of The Church as part of the Docking Benefice and to members of the Stanhoe Parochial Church Council for their management of the Church. New, occasional and regular Church goers are always warmly welcomed at services. We generally have a morning and evening service every month. The dates are published on the Church Noticeboard, Saints Alive and Stanhoe.org. It is fair to say that the last 12 months has been a very busy time for the Church. We held two fund raising events during the year, a talk by Nick Lyons, former Lord Mayor of London and a Christmas Concert led by Charles Hattrell. Both were very popular and very successful in raising funds. We need to continue to raise funds because the church is an historic building that the PCC is committed to protect. In the last year we have had to undertake repairs to the roof and upgrade the internal lighting, together the cost of these was almost £15,000. We have also held the annual Open Gardens a much-needed regular fund raising event. This is a key focus of the Church and as usual was very successful. This year Open Gardens will take place on Saturday 7th June – a date for the diary! We are working on promoting our Stanhoe Friends initiative. The aim of this is to allow those in the village and elsewhere to support the church as an historic asset by regularly donating. If you would like to get involved, please let us know. We now have a Treasurer in place and have been able to reclaim three years historic Gift Aid from HMRC in addition to that due for 2023. This has helped us fund some of the maintenance work. Looking forward we need to focus on new and existing fund raising to ensure we can continue to keep our lovely Church in good condition for future generations.

4.4 Report from Cllr Sam Sandell, Borough Councillor

Over the last year I have attended many Borough Council meetings and Parish Council meetings. In my schedule of meetings, I had 53 in my diary purely Borough without Parish Council meetings and outside body meetings I attended over 75% of them. Bearing in mind to be a Cllr you only have to attend one meeting every six months. Some Councillors do this. I have been the Vice Chair of the Licensing Panel and standards Committee, chaired the Homeless and Housing task group. I am also a member of the Environment and Community Panel, Corporate Performance Panel, Local Plan Task Group- which has finally been adopted. This is many years of hard work by officers, and members. I have also sat on the Appointments board which this year has been very busy. We appointed Kate Blackmore our new CEO who has stepped into a very challenging role with the Devolution Deal and unitary. Kate has experience in Local Government. She is very keen on working with Councillors and residents. You will have seen the Your news this is something Kate was very keen to do. I have also sat on the CIL Spending panel. This has seen some great local projects delivered.

I have also sat on the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Girls School Trust. It is an outside body of the Council, but I sit on it within my role as a Councillor. This is a trust aimed at girls living in the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. It is there to fund education projects, books, laptops, university fees and afterschool clubs. We have funded girls who have achieved great results in music and dance. We have also funded a girl who goes riding at the West Norfolk riding for the disabled to carry on her learning with horses and carriage driving. If you know anyone who you feel could benefit from this, please contact me.

The Council has seen some changes over the last year. The Independent Partnership is still in control of the Council. There's been some councillors resign from the Labour Group and become an independent Councillor. The Conservative Group has also seen 2 Councillors leave the Group and become the first 2 Reform Councillors at the Borough.

Devolution and Unitary are in the headlines. The Borough is working with all the other Councils, to achieve best outcome for the residents and the services that the Councils provide. There is still time to have your say on the consultation. I always say if you don't vote you can't moan.

The 200% Council tax has been a hot topic of conversation. I have had emails, phone calls and even been stopped when I have been out walking my dog. I can say and many of you know I didn't vote for this.

5. Questions and comments

1. Will the Trod application impact on the application to reduce the speed limit on Bircham Road from 40mph to 30mph. Discussion took place and the Chair updated that he had been in contact with Andrew Jameson re the speed limit.

2. A resident asked about Playground Safety checks. Cllr Girling reported that he undertakes regular checks which are recorded , discussed and minuted at Parish Council meetings. The Council also pays for the Annual Playground Inspection by an external agency.
3. It was noted that any archive material by passed to the MEHM Trust.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm