



## Stanstead Abbots Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10th February 2022 at 7.45pm  
In the Ashlea Room, Parish Hall, Roydon Road

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Mike Dormon (Chairman), Sarah Chapman, Mariesa Howlett (Vice-Chairman) George Cassidy, Julia Davies, Robert Pulford, Julia Witting

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr John Hickford

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sarah Neighbour (Parish Clerk)  
Sergeant Thomas Prior - East Herts Police  
PC Dean Watson – East Herts Police  
PCSO Megan Dacosta - East Herts Police  
Tony Harding - The Oak, Fullers

### 110/22 PUBLIC FORUM

Tony Harding from The Oak Public House in Stanstead Abbots High Street spoke to the council about running a street party event in the village to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June. The Oak could provide food and alcohol. As the police were in attendance, they advised that closing the High Street could cause major problems if the A414 was closed for any reason. The village car park could be used to host a street party style event. Need to ensure licensing is in place. Individual streets are applying for road closures, so we need to gauge how many other events are being organised. The Stone Valley Festival is Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and there is a comedy event on Sunday.

### 111/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr John Hickford, Cllr Joseph Dumont (East Herts District Council)  
Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Hertfordshire County Council)

### 112/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None. The Chairman thanked councillors for updating their Declaration of Interests forms.

### 113/22 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

### 114/22 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th of November 2021 were agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

**Cllrs are reminded that minutes circulated are taken as read at the next meeting. If they have any comments, they should contact the Clerk prior to the meeting.**

### 115/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Community Wood Update -  
The Chairman has sent a letter of support for this project on behalf of the council.
2. Defibrillator Update  
Police confirmed that Ambulance Control which is 999 couldn't previously find the code for the Defibrillator so Cllr Howlett will pass the code on to the police who will ensure the right people who need it have it. Cllr Howlett will find out who she is able to pass the code on to.
3. Update on new bins – no progress at the moment.

## 116/22 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Reports were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Witting discussed response from Cllr Buckmaster regarding latest update on flooding investigation. The Clerk will contact Cllr Buckmaster requesting more specific feedback. There are still ongoing issues with irregular street sweeping of the High Street and missed bin collections. The clerk will follow this up with the Chairman.

## 117/22 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Sergeant Tom Prior of East Herts Police advised that Officer Dean Watson and PCSO Megan Dacosta now cover Stanstead Abbots and are both dedicated points of contact. Dean is looking to arrange a surgery in Stanstead Abbots that the public can attend, the clerk will liaise with Dean to arrange this.

### Statistics

- Overall crime in Stanstead Abbots is 2.8% lower than this time next year.
- Burglaries down 76.9%
- Drugs down
- Public Orders down 33.3%
- Theft - 50% down on bike theft, 60% down on normal theft 33% down on shoplifting.
- Up 100% on theft from motor vehicles which is catalytic converters, mainly Toyotas and Hondas. You can get them converted at some garages for free but nearest place in Bishops Stortford. Tom will ask if there are any future to get local garage to convert for free.
- Violence up 84.6% but once broken down its all domestic related and majority is non-injury common assault which has nationally gone up during lockdown.

There was a recent spate of burglaries in Hertfordshire, 31 in 2-week period which was the same organised crime group who targeted Herts Essex Cambridge and now Sussex targeting houses in darkness where no one is home. Targeting jewellery. Recent attempted rape along the tow path in Ware, no suspect identified yet, police are still reviewing the CCTV footage and tracing individuals. Cllr Witting concerned about drug use in Marsh Lane, Officer Dean Watson is monitoring this area on a regular basis

Only 15.6% of residents in Stanstead Abbots are neighbourhood watch registered – we need to try and increase this as registered residents with CCTV and ring doorbells can be added to a database which is useful for evidence gathering during crime investigations. Clerk will promote OWL app on social media and a regular surgery will help sign up.

## 118/22 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

1. **APPROVED:** the payments and bank reconciliations for November 2021, December 2021 and January 2022.
2. **APPROVED:** grant application of £500 to the Citizens Advice Bureau\*. The clerk will ask the CAB for more promotional material on which services the CAB are offering locally to share on notice boards and social media.
3. **INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT** - this item will be moved to the next meeting for noting.

**\*This grant payment relies on the 'Power to Support' Local Govt Act 1972 s142**

## 119/22 GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Chairman updated the council on the progress of the funding application for £15,000 from the Welcome Back Fund. These monies (if the funding is approved) will be used for painting the bollards and the railings in the High Street, replacing the damaged wet pour in the playground, and installing a metal fence around the outdoor gym area. Ringway have provided a quote for the painting works which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman urged councillors to inform him and the clerk if they become aware of any funding or grant opportunities. Cllr Witting advised that Ensum Brown estate agents may have some funding available.

**120/22 PLANNING**

The planning applications submitted where the deadline had passed, and the planning decisions were noted. Cllr Chapman will comment on the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the Parish Council.

**121/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE**

The NP steering group are waiting on the AECOM report, and it will be brought to a special council meeting as soon as it is ready in order to approve the policies to go ahead for consultation. The Chairman will investigate the possibility of a weekly doctor surgery like Hunsdon's by speaking to Dolphin surgery in Ware and Hailey View Surgery.

**122/22 CCTV UPDATE**

Stanstead Abbots had 2 incidents in the last month.

**123/22 PLAYGROUND AND MEADOW**

Cllr Pulford advised the parish council that his son in law is willing to fit a new metal fence free of charge around the perimeter of the outdoor gym if the council purchases the fence which will save the council money.

**124/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

The Chairman and the Clerk will set a date for the event and continue to plan weekly involving other businesses and organisations within the village where possible.

**APPROVED:** delegation to the Chairman in conjunction with the Clerk to purchase bunting etc up to the value of £500 without full council approval.

**125/22 POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

The post office hours in the Co-Op in the High Street are very erratic, this issue was raised a while back by the parish council and we were advised that plans were in place to improve the situation, but it hasn't improved. The Chairman will write to the Co-Op Area Manager to express our concerns.

**126/22** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.45pm to be held in the Ashlea Room at the Parish Hall Roydon Road, items to the clerk by Wednesday 2nd March 2022 please.

**The meeting ended at 21.16pm.**

Signed ..... Chairman      Date.....