

# ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

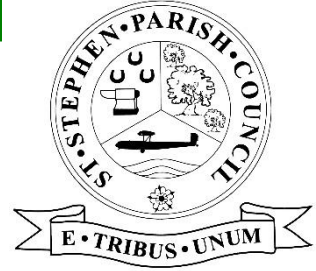
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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 7pm in Greenwood Park Community Centre, Sports Hall, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW

### Present

Cllr David Brannen

Cllr Martin Doyle

Cllr Dorothy Kerry

Cllr Ajanta Hilton

Cllr David Parry (Chair)

Cllr Bill Pryce

Cllr Skelton

Cllr Whittaker

Cllr Yates

### Also present:

Sue Hake, Clerk, Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk

County & District Councillor Stella Nash, District Councillor Richard Curthoys

5 Members of public

## 1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair (Cllr Parry) welcomed members of public, councillors and staff to the meeting

## 2. Apologies for absence & Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2019

Apologies received from Cllrs Berriman, Tyndale

**Resolved** Cllr Parry proposed approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2019, seconded Cllr Pryce

All Parish Cllrs who were present at the meeting approved the Minutes

## 3. Chairman's report on the last year - Cllr David Parry

Cllr Parry confirmed it has been two years since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 due to the COVID pandemic.

He explained some of the challenges of the Pandemic, including

30% loss of income from hirers, very limited support from government, no events being held, and arranging for poppies on lamp posts and the individual laying of the wreath as no memorial service was permitted.

Unexpected popularity for Greenwood Park in all weathers, with the newly opened café assisting with this.

No meeting was held last year and the Council were not able to formally commemorate John Bell who was an exceptionally dedicated councillor. An area of trees have been newly planted to create a copse in his memory at Greenwood Park between St Julian's Wood and the A414.

Council meetings have continued to be held virtually, on Zoom, and the convenience of these has meant The council are able to hold more meetings and more members of the public are engaging with them.

The Parish Council have managed its expenditure to ensure we are in a good position going forward.

Cllr Parry expressed his thanks to the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Centres Manager for ensuring our venues were kept up with changes in legislation and staying safe and to the Groundsman and Maintenance Man for all of the work continuing to maintain the grounds. Also to fellow Councillors, pushing things forward in difficult circumstances. Cllr Pryce especially has worked

with HAPTC & other councils and thanked Cllr Pryce for his immense experience and support and for being kept in line as much as possible.

#### **4. Response to Questions received**

Cllr Parry was asked if anything can be done to support the Burstons planning application? Cllr Parry stated he was not sure if Burstons will be submitting an appeal. Comments were made about some of the information being factually incorrect. People were advised to write to the District Council Chief Exec.

#### **5. Neighbourhood Plan Update - Cllr Bill Pryce**

Cllr Pryce explained working on the Plan has been long, hard and frustrating for the Steering Group and expressed thanks to them and Planning consultant, Alison Eardley, for the hard work to create the 85 page document. Reg 16 consultation has been completed and District Council making comment before going to an independent assessor. The referendum is likely to be May 2022. Site allocations had to be removed from the Plan due to the District Council not having a Local Plan in place.

#### **6. Vision on the coming year - Cllr David Parry**

Cllr Parry confirmed the Parish Councils wish to work more closely with the Community and Resident Associations.

Some of the changes proposed are to have a Community and Leisure committee to incorporate reps from the Resident Associations, make significant change from running events with the hope being to facilitate the community running events, provide facilities and expertise plus change Planning Committee to include Environment.

Greenwood Park has become a go to destination from further afield with users now travelling from Enfield and Harrow that is now adding to a degree of overuse.

Aim to set up working parties to oversee the projects for Woodbury Field and upgrades to Park Street rec.

The Community facilities at the Parish Centre are deemed not fit for purposed and the Parish Council would like to improve provision of good facilities in Bricket Wood as well as at Park Street.

There is insufficient activities for teenagers in the community and the Council intend to set up a working group to the young people and encourage involvement in decisions of the Council.

#### **7. Closing Statement from the Chairman**

St Albans District Council have declared a Climate Emergency and the Parish Council would like to make their facilities more sustainable, more responsive and more involved with the entire Community.

Cllr Parry expressed his thanks to everyone attending the meeting and invited everyone to stay for the Annual Council meeting

Meeting Closed at 7.40pm