

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

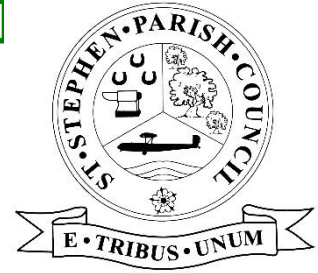
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD

ST ALBANS HERTS AL2 3PJ

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 18 May 2023 at 6.30pm in Tennyson Hall, Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, AL2 3PJ

Present

Cllr Wendy Berriman

Cllr Yates

Cllr Tyndale

Cllr Bill Pryce

Cllr Ajanta Hilton

Also present:

Sue Hake, Clerk

Matt Huddleston, Senior Grounds Person

Diane Hunt, Finance & Administration Assistant

Amanda Feron, Assistant Clerk

Dani Medlin, Centres Manager

District Councillor Nuala Webb

4 Members of public and 1 member of the public from item 8.

1. Welcome by the Chair

Councillor Pryce, the Chair, welcomed members of public, councillors and staff to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors Kerry, Whittaker, Jacob and District Councillors Cavinder and Fry.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May

2022

Resolved: Councillor Tyndale proposed approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2022, seconded Councillor Berriman.

Votes: For, unanimous

Motion Carried

4. Chairman's Report on the last year- Councillor Bill Pryce

Councillor Pryce noted that after the Covid pandemic, the Council has moved on in a positive way to serve the community. Two new members of staff have been appointed and have been supporting the Clerk, the Grounds team and the community. The devolvement of Woodbury Field and Park Street Recreation Ground is progressing, the next step will be to draw up the agreement.

A survey was recently commissioned and completed of the Parish Centre building, to produce a schedule of repairs and ongoing maintenance for the next 5 years.

5. Response to Questions received

None received

A member of the public asked if a coach company had moved to Chiswell Green. The councillors present did not have information to answer the question.

6. Report by the Planning Committee Chairman-Councillor David Yates

Councillor Yates reported that this has been a very different year in planning. In the past St Stephen Parish Council was a statutory consultee, we now have a Neighbourhood Plan in place so that the District Council know what we want and our role is to keep an eye and monitor.

Developers are also taking note and reading our Neighbourhood Plan. Generally speaking the Neighbourhood Plan has been well observed. Save St Albans Fight the Freight campaign is ongoing, there will be a meeting on Sunday 21st May in Radlett.

Planning Enforcement continues to be a problem, in particular Butterfly World and the Large Compound on the Radlett Road side of Moor Mill Lane. There have been 6 enforcements this year 3 related to Butterfly World. St Albans District Council has amalgamated planning enforcement with Watford. Overall things are settling down.

7. Parish Events- Councillor Ajanta Hilton

Councillor Hilton noted that The Jubilee Festival in 2022 with food stall, music and fireworks was a huge success, 2,000 plus people attended.

At the recent Coronation Event, despite the rain, approx. 1,500 people turned up and all the feedback was positive. Now we have a blueprint for running a successful festival for the community, we are keen as a council to explore the possibility of holding an annual festival. One thing we have learned is that volunteer help and support is crucial.

The next event will be Armed Forces Day in June, the council is grateful for the time and efforts of John Drinkwater in organising the event.

The council's aim is to work towards a programme of regular events throughout the year, these are:

Armed Forces Day in June
Car Boot Sale September
Remembrance Day in November
Christmas Market last held in 2021

In addition the council was pleased to award a grant of £1,000 to each of the 3 Resident's Association to assist with their own events and to support Grow Chiswell Green with a grant of £500 to hold an Autumn Wildlife Festival.

Overall there are exciting times ahead.

8. The year ahead - Councillor Bill Pryce

We have lots of interesting and exciting events for the community to look forward throughout the year planned for the community.

The council has long been considering its premises and how best to utilise them. Place Services has been engaged to undertake an options study and consultation and will be reporting back at the end of the summer.

New trees have been planted in Greenwood Park Play area thanks to a donation from a Parishioner. The council is grateful to the donor for the gift.

After the recent election, we now have new councillors. St Stephen Parish Councillors are the point of contact for parish residents for issues relating to the Parish directly or to signpost to the District or County Council.

9. Closing Statement form the Chairman

Thank you to everyone for coming

Meeting Closed at 7.05pm

Signed

Date

DRAFT