1

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.45 PM ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2023 IN THE DAY CENTRE, 72 CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, ESSEX**

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chairman of the Parish Council) and 11 other Councillors

Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

Cty Cllr Ray Gooding and District Cllr Melvin Caton

Sgt Sharma, PCSO Stewart and Sp Const Dale, Essex Police

Paul Chambers – Touchpoint

Des Ashton – Uttlesford Foodbank

Daniel Burford – Stansted Airport

Teresa Buglass – Stansted Surgery

21 Parishioners

**1** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Dean, County Cllr Gooding and District and Parish Cllr Khan although Cty Cllr Gooding arrived during item 9.

**2** **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2022 were received.

1 Parishioner said that he objects to the minutes being received as he had not seen a copy and does not have access to the internet to look at them on the website. He requested that the minutes be made available at the meetings – the Chair confirmed that this request had been noted.

**3** **TO RECEIVE THE PARISH COUNCIL’S AUDITED ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2022**

Copies were distributed at the meeting and there were no questions raised.

**4** **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The report had been printed in The Link, put on the website and copies distributed at the meeting and no questions were raised. Cllr O’Brien added that he was pleased to report that the Parish Council had won a grant of £34,900 towards getting a large number of street-lights converted to LED.

**5** **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

This was printed in The Link, put on the website and copies distributed at the meeting. Cllr Caton read out an update to the report which is attached.

**6** **TO WELCOME GUEST SPEAKERS**

**DANIEL BURFORD – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER – STANSTED AIRPORT**

Daniel gave a presentation to the meeting explaining what his role was and detailing initiatives which are being carried out in the region. He gave details of grants they are giving out, projects they are working on and ways in which they are trying to communicate and engage with the community.

**TO WELCOME PAUL CHAMBERS FROM TOUCHPOINT**

Paul addressed the meeting to give an update on what Touchpoint have been doing since they started in April nearly two years ago. He detailed the

2

different community events they hold weekly, the different organisations they work with, what funding they have been successful in securing and what this has helped to pay for.

He advised that they are currently giving away 1.5 ton of food every week with their food share scheme and that they have an army of 120/130 active volunteers which gives help to approx. 1200 people a week. He outlined future projects they were working on and also revealed that they will be getting a refrigerated van to enable them to take produce further afield which will help even more people.

Touchpoint are hoping to hold an open day sometime in May.

**TO WELCOME DES ASHTON – ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER – UTTLESFORD FOODBANK**

Des started her presentation by explaining that they look at why people come to the foodbank and look at what can change so that the people come to the foodbank less. She detailed the location of their three depots and explained that they take the food parcels to their customers. She explained that this was only possible thanks to their team of voluntary drivers and that they currently distribute 5 tons of food a month and each parcel contains 5 days’ worth of food. She brought along to the meeting samples of the products which often make up the parcels and explained that everyone they helped is referred from organisations such as Citizens’ Advice, Housing, Social Workers, the Benefits team and even from schools.

Des gave details of how many staff and volunteers they have and gave facts on the people that were receiving the parcels, such as 56% are those on Universal Credit and 60% are those living with a disability.

The presentation also gave details of the percentage of people who are helped in Stansted, both in the North and South of the village.

Sue Hitchmough thanked Paul Chambers for everything they do for the community as it had changed her life.

The Clerk read out a statement from District & Parish Cllr Khan regarding Touchpoint, first thanking Paul for the work he does with Touchpoint and also to ask what the District Councillors could do to support Touchpoint and help not only the low paid, but also the middle-income earners who are also being impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. Paul will make contact with Cllr Khan outside of the meeting to discuss.

7 **TO WELCOME TERESA BUGLASS, PRACTICE MANAGER, STANSTED SURGERY**

Teresa explained that difficulty in getting an appointment was a national issue. She detailed that they currently see approx. 12,216 patients a year as well as 204 temporary patients a year. They have seen an increase of approx. 450 a year over the last three years. She also explained that they are funded by the Government on the size of the list from the previous year. Teresa presented the figures on the number of prescriptions they had done in the last 12 months and what percentage of these were online. With regards to phone calls, she explained that they have in the region of 400/500 calls every Monday and then on average 200 calls a day for the other 4 days. This is as well as approx. 85 emails per day and 130 face to-face-interactions. Over the last 12 months they have also done over 3200 referrals.

3

Teresa detailed the number of face-to-face appointments that they have carried out over the last twelve months and explained that doctors are seeing approx. 50 patients a day (25 patients in the morning and 25 in the afternoon) when the British Medical Association advice is to carry out 28 per day. This effectively means that they are working beyond safe levels. She also gave figures of such things as how many covid and flu vaccinations have been carried out and how many blood tests have been done on site, thus reducing the number of people needing to go to the hospital to have them done. Finally, she detailed what pieces of equipment they had bought thanks to the fund raising of the Patient Participation Group.

Cllr Guney asked how many doctors they have working and Teresa explained that it’s different every day but that on their busiest day, Monday, they have 5 doctors working all day and one doctor working ½ day. Other days they also carry out other things such as care home visits and minor surgery procedures. Cllr Guney thanked the surgery for everything they do.

Audrey Rodgers asked for a vote of thanks be given to Helpline as they help many residents get to the surgery when they need to.

**8 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

Jean Newson commented that she had seen a lot of plastic cylinders put around trees on the new developments around Stansted by the developers. As this is not environmentally friendly she asked if there was anything that can be done to stop this. Cllr Caton confirmed that the Parish Council can consider this when commenting on planning applications and Cllr Barnes confirmed that all of the Parish Council planted trees have biodegradable cardboard sleeves.

Cllr Sell commented that he had recently shown a BBC Journalist around the Elms Farm and Walpole Meadows areas and that their attention had been drawn to all the dead trees. This is something that UDC Planning need to ensure is a planning condition when approving applications.

**9 OPEN FORUM**

Jonathan Fox asked regarding the pothole initiative that he had emailed Cty Cllr Gooding about last September. He had been asked to put forward suggestions but had heard no more and no action had been taken. The Clerk advised that certain potholes would be done but that the low temperatures had delayed they work but we had been advised they should be done by the end of April.

Greg Snow asked how many members of the Parish Council were also District Councillors? He was advised that it was two. He asked if, when they speak on behalf of themselves, they also represent the Parish Council when asked to? Cllr Sell confirmed that he does speak on behalf of the Parish Council when asked to and that he had close links with the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council. Mr Snow then asked if the Parish Council had made any comments on the new booking system being introduced at the Saffron Walden tip. Cllr Caton advised that we had not as we had no pre knowledge and only found out through the papers. No consultation had been carried out.

Cty Cllr Gooding arrived at the meeting.

4

District Cllr Caton advised that it was actually a decision made by Essex County Council and not Uttlesford District Council.

Cty Cllr Gooding advised that it was a waste transfer site actually run by Essex and not the Parish Council or UDC. The decision was made and trialled at a large number of sites where there had been issues such as queues with a 6-hour waiting time. After seeing a positive improvement at the trial sites, it was decided to do this at every site and universally imposed it. The reason for this was that if they did it at some sites and not others, people would travel to the sites where there was no system in place. This is still only a trial and they will consult whilst it’s going on. Cllr Gooding asked for anyone with concerns to write to him and he will pass them on to the relevant people.

Cllr Kavanagh commented that she had read in the papers that sites in Hertfordshire are now requesting proof of ID when visiting their sites as they will only allow people in Hertfordshire to use them.

Ray Woodcock asked how long the trial will be and how will the results be published.

Cty Cllr Gooding advised that the trial will finish in September time.

Greg Snow commented that if you miss your booking slot then you are given an alternative by email – not everyone will have email and due to the amount of roadworks, it’s likely that booking times will be missed. Cty Cllr Gooding advised that there will be stronger restrictions around commercial waste but that it’s a difficult situation as they don’t want to increase fly tipping.

Ray Woodcock advised that he had emailed Cllr Caton as the Chair of the Council and Cllrs Barnes, O’Brien and Sell as Committee Chairs and asked them to explain in no more than 5 minutes what the key issue(s) have been during the past 2 years and what are expected to be the main issues during the next 2 years? All 4 Councillors addressed the meeting to give their answers to this.

Bill Stiles spoke regarding the additional public open space which was promised as a country park by developers when planning was granted for Elms Farm. This was 10 years ago and still it is in a terrible state. Can this be handed over to the Parish Council? The Clerk advised that it cannot be handed over until UDC are satisfied that it is in a fit condition. If it’s handed over before this time then the Parish Council would have to pay to put it right. She confirmed that Cllr Barnes is in touch regularly with the s106 officer but that it would be residents’ money that would be used to pay for it if it was handed over in the current state. She also advised that a meeting took place with the developers last week to discuss this. Cllr Barnes thanked Bill for the footpath reports he supplies for the Open Spaces Committee meetings.

Greg Snow congratulated the Open Spaces Committee and Chair on the improvements to the public open spaces over the years as they are greatly improved compared to how they used to be.

Cllr Khan had asked the Clerk to read out the following statement in his absence:

A word of thanks to the Chair of all the Parish Council working groups who do a lot of work that often goes unnoticed.  Also, a special thanks to the Chair of

5

the Council, the Clerk and her team for their hard work over the course of another difficult the year. It’s very much appreciated.

Ray Woodcock commented that he attends a number of council meetings. He doesn’t always agree on everything said but it is not as easy as you think it may be to get things done. With the amount of work that councillors put in, he thinks they do a very good job. He gave thanks to the Chair and all Parish Councillors.

Meeting Closed 10.17pm