

## **STRETE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 P.M.**

**1. APOLOGIES** – Cllr. R. Foss

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD  
On 19th April 2017.** Agreed as a correct record

**3. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS**

Representatives from the following organisations are invited to give a short presentation/report:

- **Blackawton and Strete History Group (BASH)** – No report but the Chair reported that the Group have a very useful archive.
- **Maritime and Coastguard Agency** - No report
- **Melroe de Smithes Woodland Trust** – No report
- **St Michaels Church – Reverend Alison Shaw**

It has been an exciting year for St Michael's Church which has included the first wedding in some years of Jill and Suman , a lovely occasion filled with flowers and happiness. Also the baptism of baby Oscar , another family celebration. We have also enjoyed Music4All 2 which brought together a diverse audience from all over the country and music from all over the world. A Quiz Night with a delicious fish and chip supper also attracted an excellent turnout from Strete and beyond.

Another highlight for St Michael's is the installation of a wonderful sound system to project our voices in worship and to enhance our music. The system includes all 'mod-cons' , incorporating the use of memory sticks, IPADs and clever computer technology generally!

We have held special services throughout the year which are always well advertised and we are always happy to welcome everyone. We have continued to share worship with our Christian brothers and sisters from Strete Chapel which is always a joy.

There are many aspects of the church's life which are not immediately visible - for example , our work in Hyne Town House, and the visiting of parishioners when they are lonely or unwell ( and that can be anyone who wishes it, who lives within the parish, whether regular church- goers, or not !), our involvement with the three other churches in our mission community and in the wider area, working with the Stoke Fleming and Blackawton 'Open the Book' teams that go into our schools and Christians Together in Strete who study and pray together.

So, I would ask you a question - we may be small in numbers, but big in responding to Jesus's call to love our neighbours and serve our community - how can we serve and support you ?

None of this could happen without the love, support and hard work of a small number of dedicated men and women. I would like to thank them all for all they are and all they do, and also to thank the Parish Council for their support of the church and churchyard.

### **Strete Chapel - Derek Harris**

Thank you for inviting me to report on the activities of the chapel.

During this last year we have lost Jim Carver, John Tydeman and Ken Parnell.

Two of their widows are suffering the effects of old age and can no longer join us. Dynice Carver has made her home in Wales with her daughter.

We have services each Sunday, with a visiting speaker and on the first Sunday of the month we have shared lunch together.

We are blessed by visitors to the area, even during the winter months. Many locate us through the website "Find a church".

On Thursdays we have a Young Searcher club for children and the ages range from 7 to 16 years.

We have a men's breakfast bi-monthly and we have had speakers ranging from a Director of Exeter Football club, retired builder with photos of his design and work, a farmer and next time we have a retired pathologist who also gives talks on cruise ships.

We have joint services with the church for Mother's Day, Harvest and the Carol Service.

We hold a conference at Stoke Fleming village hall on Good Friday and provide lunch for the congregation, usually numbering around 100.

- **Strete Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club**

The Strete Short Mat Bowling Club, has been established over many years and has enjoyed much success playing competitively in the South Hams Short Mat League for many seasons.

Our home venue is of course our Parish Hall, where the small but enthusiastic band of members meet each Monday evening to roll-up and practice.

We have two mats that we use and can therefore accommodate up to 16 players at a time, which is currently more than our actual membership; so, if you would like to give it a try, or our returning to the sport, please feel free to pop in and see us from 7pm – 9pm any Monday, you would be made most welcome.

Our Club contact is Bryan Seymour, whose number is in the Village Magazine (01803 770287).

This year the team had a very mixed time of it in the League, where we played in Division 1 and were unfortunately relegated at the end of the season.

We are however determined to re-gain our position back in the top Division and will be fighting hard to re-establish ourselves, when next season starts.

Having said that our Short Mat Bowls evenings are primarily a recreational activity can suit both young and old, does not require any particular strength or mobility and is very much an evening to enjoy rather be taken too seriously; plus, there is always a very welcome cup of tea, or coffee at the halfway stage.

We also try to organise a number of social get togethers during the year, where we generally put the world to rights whilst enjoying a glass of something warming; so why not give us a call, come and join us and you never know you might be the new playing star we have just been looking for.

- **Strete Parish Hall - Martin Sobey**

This is the second year that I have been chairman of the Strete Parish Hall Management Committee and it is a pleasure to give you a report of the activities of the Parish Hall during the past year. It has been a most encouraging year.

We have a management committee from a wide range of the village activities who have come together enthusiastically to develop the amenities of the hall.

We have started a programme of modernisation and development – you will notice the acoustic system which has made a huge improvement to the sound effects in the main hall this was a major investment which was made possible by the generous financial support of the Captain Pearson Memorial Trust Fund for which we are more than grateful.

We have plans to improve the facilities in the kitchen and to install another serving hatch to the committee room so that it can be used as a bar for functions in the future the back entrance lobby needs urgent attention- in fact it needs to be redeveloped and rebuilt. this is a major cost.

We also have plans to develop the gardens, to redecorate the hall inside and outside, to be more attractive to potential users of the hall. We have even discovered a cess pit which no-one remembers, - it has for the first time since 1951 been cleared and thanks to some errant tree roots was paid for by insurance!! Our treasurer is working closely with a rural development fund to justify the grant of £10,000, if anyone has ideas for the hall development we will be very interested to hear from them.

One of the main objectives of the committee this year has been to have the hall much more frequently used. The committee has arranged a main function in the hall at least once a month during the past year starting with a most enjoyable Christmas Party followed by events such as fish ` chip quiz, curling night, pub night and coming up in may is a ladies fashion show. The posters are already out. The fashion show requires support from a minimum of 60 persons – so please ladies look to the needs of your summer wardrobe – Ascot Wimbledon Henley and of course “that” wedding!!

Sponsorship of parish hall events by local organisations and individuals has played an important part in making these events so successful. We thank our sponsors most sincerely.

Other evening entertainments will be arranged which provide community activity – they are well attended and are enjoyed by those who come - but they also provide regular funding so that we are not dependant on the funds from village day. This brings me on to the subject of Village Day.

Last year, for several reasons, we were not competent to promote or manage Village Day. There has been considerable debate as to whether it should be held in the hall environs or back in Mewstone paddock as kindly provided by Malcom and Andrea Hollis.

it has been decided that we will return to Mewstone paddock but will be much more on the successful style of Manor Farm. The centre of events will be the “ring” as in country shows and the stalls and exhibitions will be round this central area not spread out higgledy piggledy. It should return to the fun day which we all expect on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

There is a public meeting tomorrow evening to follow up on the original meeting held in January. Already there has been considerable interest in the village from new people to the village, and we are looking forward to a great Village Day this year.

To revert to activities in the hall. it is used regularly by :-

Short mat bowls in winter, Social club, the Parish Council, Stretch Club and Breakfast Club -we have enquiries for wedding receptions, christening parties and funeral wakes. we are hoping to re-start the Youth Club and the Luncheon Club.

I hope I have not left anyone off the list – if so I apologise.

My heartfelt thanks are due to the committee. I said at the start that they are an enthusiastic bunch. The secretary is most efficient in everything a secretary should do and in prompting me to get things done in time for the next meeting! The treasurer has kept our financial objectives to the forefront of all we do.

Andrea, our booking clerk, has modified the system to ensure we are paid for the hall use – and she keeps the standard of the hall up to scratch. The members of the committee have all taken individual responsibility to get things done – and this has made my job as chairman so much easier. One special mention of thanks to Andrew and Monica in the shop who are our unofficial ticket box office .very necessary, very efficient and always ready to help. this is a great benefit to the hall.

We are looking forward with confidence to a successful year. I would like to thank the Parish Council for the support you have given us. Thank you.

- **Strete Social Club - Dorothy Teal**

As newly appointed organiser along with Judy Bedgood, I can report that our Social Club is progressing well and attracting a few new members.

There is a full programme of events and speakers on various subjects with lectures and slide shows including Devon Air Ambulance, photography and physiotherapy, along with a home produce stall.

Recently one of our members gave a delightful flower demonstration with prizes in the raffle of her four arrangements which encouraged everyone to buy tickets.

All of our meetings are on alternate Tuesdays in Strete Village Hall at 2.30pm with tea and biscuits to close. All are welcome.

It has been great encouragement for me and for Judy to know that it is going from strength to strength, on average 22 members.

- **Strete Stretch Club**

- **Stretewise Parish Magazine**

The magazine continues to provide reliable and independent reporting, entertainment and details of activity and entertainment within and around the parish all in full colour.

Circulation is around 150 in print with a further 15 circulated by email. We pay for 200 copies, and provide copies for retail sales as well as some going free to a number of people.

Sales Income for 2017-18 is projected to be about £450 plus advertising revenue of £750 (provided everyone pays their bills). Printing costs vary with the number of pages, and in the past year have varied between £162 and £245 per issue. Etched trophy costs are estimated at £50 pa. There has been a noticeable slowing down of the advertisers paying for their adverts.

This magazine could not be distributed to the village without a wonderful assembly of people who deliver to the Village and beyond. We shall miss Lynne Swainston who has left the village together with her husband Jeremy. Andrew and Monica have also distributed the magazine when life has kept Andrea and me out of the village.

I would like to pay tribute to Parish Magazine Printers who produce the copies for distribution. Unfortunately, they are faced with rising costs and will be raising their prices from April 2018.

The wonderful contributors have added to the variety of the magazine, from poetry to cuisine, from photography to memories of times past. Each and every one is much prized.

- **Strete Conservation Group** – No report

## **5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Council Tax – DCC element has increased by 5% being 3% for general tax and 2% for adult social care.

Funding is as tight as ever. Two areas of particular concern are adult social care, education and special educational needs.

In the budget the Government provided an extra £6 million for road maintenance but this is for the whole of Devon and Devon has a road network greater than Belgium. Please report potholes on the DC website which is simple.

Slapton Line – no further news on timing. The necessary permissions are in place.

## **6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – No report**

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

We come to the end of our Council Year; it has had its ups and downs.

So far we haven't been able to create a directory of parish Businesses for the website although a call for participants was put into Stretewise.

Photos have been kindly taken by Nick Shepherd also for the website. This ploy is ongoing.

Our efforts in June last year on the speeding front are beginning to bear fruit, we are on the point of acquiring a moveable VAS sign to monitor speed on all our access roads.

Side winding in Strete gate car park has diminished thanks to Harry's film taken on Christmas Day and the finding out of the names of the perpetrators.

Damage still continues on the SSSI, destroying the environment, habitat and picking sea kale for sale in massive quantities. Drug and drink fuelled raves, one of which endangered a young man's life when support services had to be called.

My efforts to provide an Air Ambulance night time helipad are progressing.

The sea defence work at Torcross has now been completed.

The Play Park continues to give problems with moles making grass cutting difficult and the breaking down of the fence into Reservoir Field.

I offer no apologies for recording the following!!

We had an unpleasant emergency at Strete Gate male toilets on 15<sup>th</sup> April, when I had an emergency call from Kim Ryder at the Lime Coffee Kiosk telling me someone had defecated on the floor and then decorated the window above the urinals with their deposit using toilet paper as the transfer medium. Fortunately I went armed with disposable gloves and Blitz kitchen paper and was able to remove the two obvious offending problems. Unfortunately because the automatic flushing of the urinals overflowed regularly and flooded the floor I could not be sure that the place was sanitary – the floor looked decidedly murky in spots - and so I called in the emergency services from Tor2 to sort out the floor. They had done it by 8p.m. thankfully. I checked!!

Let's hope that our next Parish Council Year has some really good ups and no downs!

## **8. POLICE REPORT – by email**

30/06/16 - ABH at THE KINGS ARMS PH, 12/02/17 - Common Assault at Hynetown residential home, 10/04/16 - Criminal damage to motor vehicle, 09/09/16 - Malicious communications at the Rhodrons, 09/09/16 - Section 5 public order Hynetown Road, 18/09/16 - Action fraud relating to a charity night at the KINGS ARMS PH where the proceeds were never given to a charity, 18/11/16 - Burglary at The PLATT, 15/12/16 -

Section 5 public order act at THE PLATT, 02/07/16 - Theft from motor vehicle STRETE GATE car park, 16/11/16 - Drink drive.

**9.OPEN FORUM**

For members of the public to speak and ask any questions relating to any of the reports.  
No comments.

**10. THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE ON 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018 AT STRETE PARISH HALL**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Winstanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

S. Winstanley – Clerk to Strete Parish Council