

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

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STRETE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2017 AT 6.30 P.M.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Police

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD**

On 20th April 2016. 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
- **Maritime and Coastguard Agency** - No report
- **Melroe de Smithes Woodland Trust** –

Wood is in good heart and the wild flowers are flourishing and the ferns are beautiful.

- **St Michaels Church – Reverend Alison Shaw**

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church.

I was licensed as priest in charge of the Coast and Country Mission Community on 26th September 2016 and my report is therefore largely based on the Annual Report of the Church.

Let me give you a flavour of your beautiful parish church and all the activities we share, and our thoughts for the future.

We offer an open building, every day during day light hours. Please, if you don't already, come in for a few moments of peace.

Weekly Sunday worship , led by either the Vicar or a Reader, always followed by coffee and conversation. You are always welcome.

A Visiting Group offering friendship to all in the local community, including Home Communion at Hyne Town House, and in peoples' homes. If you or someone you know would like to see a friendly face, please tell us.

Christians Together in Strete meets fortnightly for fellowship, prayer and Bible Study. Anyone interested in this would be very welcome. And if you would like us to pray for you or someone you love, leave a note in church or contact the Vicar.

For local schools in Stoke Fleming and Blackawton we are part of the teams that offer the wonderful 'Open The Book' which children enjoy very much.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact the Vicar if you have any enquiries.

We are part of Woodleigh Deanery where Christians from Church of England churches in the area meet to share what we do and enjoy speakers from leaders in the Church.

Christians Together in Dartmouth and District where we meet together with Christians from all denominations and traditions, learning from each other. We share together in special services and in Mission.

During the past year special services were held for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Rogation, Christian Aid, Sea Sunday, August Songs of Praise, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christmas. Many of these were ecumenical being held jointly with the Chapel. Organised by the Chapel, we offered hospitality in July and August to the young people from Devon Christian Youth and two church groups visiting Southwood Farm Camp. Nearly 200 attended each Sunday, and several adult baptisms took place at Blackpool Sands.

There are 24 people on the church electoral roll, so as you can see, a few people do a great deal. We are always delighted to welcome offers of help towards the cleaning, decorating and maintenance of your parish church- the church is there for everyone in the parish. Thank you to everyone who already does that.

We have a great team of organists who support our worship, and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for your continued support towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

And what of the future ?

We would like to be able to meet need where it happens - what, if anything, do you think is missing in the village ?

We also want to share our Christian faith and why it is important to us. Maybe you have questions to explore - we are planning informal occasions for this.

Finance is always an issue - our regular giving- i.e. Collections, does not cover our costs so regular fund raising activities are necessary. In the past year we have met our costs and have ensured that all financial controls are in place and met. Our Sunday congregation are all incredibly dedicated and hard working, but none of us are getting any younger ! I know from what I have been told, and from the plaque in the church that when closure was

a possibility some years ago, the village community rallied round and kept the church open. So, I am asking you to support your parish church, not just financially, but with your physical presence at services and events. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

As your Vicar, I'd love to know your thoughts and your ideas - St Michael's is your parish church too.

- **Strete Chapel - Derek Harris**

The fellowship of the Chapel has remained strong over the past year with an increase in numbers attending the Sunday Morning Services at 11am. We have many excellent speakers come to lead our Sunday Morning Services which has been such an encouragement to us. On the first Sunday of the month the Service is followed by a "bring and share lunch".

Prayer for the Nation – meets on Monday morning at 10am

Wednesday at 7.30pm we meet for Prayer and Bible Study – usually in a home.

Young Searcher's - The Young Searcher's children's club continue to meet on a Thursday Evening.

Appointment of a New Pastor:

We are still looking for a New Pastor to come and support and lead the Strete Chapel Fellowship.

Shared Services with St Michael's Church, Strete

On Remembrance Sunday the Chapel met with St Michael's, Church. Over the Christmas period the Chapel and St Michael's Church meet together for the Carol Services. We also support each other for the Harvest Services. In the summer school holidays the Church welcomes the Camps from Southwood Farm for an evening service at 6.30pm.

Celebration In October last year we held a Saturday afternoon celebration in the chapel as the chapel had been purchased 50 years ago from the Methodists Union. Over 80 people came to join us and afterwards we had a tea provided for us in the Parish Hall, where they were a few funny reminiscing speeches and one camp leader came with his Olympic Torch, which he lit for us to see.

- **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 - Jeremy Swainston**

Over the past 12 months the hall has continued to be used regularly by the bowls club, social club, Parish Council and the recently formed Pilates Club. The Strete Flower show, sadly did not happen last year due to a booking conflict which has now been resolved.

Village Day and Avenue Garden again provided our main supporting income.

Energy wise, the year has borne out our predicted savings resulting from the new efficient heating system and our recent migration from Flogas to Calor as a supplier. Which alone has given us a 40% reduction in unit cost. As a result of our reduced energy outgoings/

savings making us a little more sustainable, it is our plan that at this year's Village Day, we donate all gate monies to a charity, this year Devon Air Ambulance has been selected to be considered, who hopefully will also 'man' the gate.

You all, I am sure will have noticed the new gates, they were donated to us via the now demised Luncheon Club. We thank them for their contribution and the efforts of those helping with their installation.

The porch is a little past its sell by date! It is our intention to replace it with a structure providing us with a little more weather resilience. Again offering more energy saving.

Village Day 5th August will again be held at Mewstone Paddock thanks to Prof Hollis's generosity.

Thanks to Penny Penhale and Julia Makepiece for their time and effort in maintaining our gardens.

- **Strete Social Club - no report**

- **Stretewise Parish Magazine**

This magazine would not exist without the dedicated help and assistance of so many people, and in particular the twelve or so people who help by delivering the magazine to over 130 homes. My grateful thanks go to Chris, John and Shirley, Brenda, Colleen, Joan, Pauline, Rosemarie, Heather, Liane, David, Lynne and Andrea. There has also been help in the collation of the magazines for distribution – and here Jeremy Swainston and Andrew and Monica have counted beautifully.

Parish Magazine Printers produce a fine magazine, now with good colour and photographic reproduction. The cost of each magazine is very close to £1. Subscriptions only cover half that cost. The balance is met by advertising revenue. This year payment has been slow and we still have five advertisers who have not paid, amounting to about a third of the budgeted advertising income. I need to do more chasing and have dropped a number of other advertisers who were not paying their way.

I do not know the extent of our readership (it could top 400) but our circulation is very close to 160 and sales take that figure to about 190. We email copies locally as well as far afield (USA, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Portugal) and provide free copies to a range of people who have helped the village as well as making sure that all new arrivals receive a copy. We have only two people in the parish who have said they do not want the magazine.

We have been very fortunate to receive a grant this year from The Captain Pearson Trust, and have been assisted by those who have been more than kind and have paid in excess of their subscription. We have used any surplus to keep the advertising charges down.

The magazine could not exist without the writing by a wide range of people – talking about their Village and the parish activities, their breaks away from the village, the recipes and cookery contributions, poetry, as well as the activities and proceedings of our Parish Council. We now run two competitions; the Annual Photographic (the 2016 trophy being won by Tony Crawford) and the new trophy for the June Crossword Competition.

The magazine started in 1991, Up until 199 it was four issues a year, and since that date there have been six. The next issue, in our 26th year, should be our 145th.

Special thanks must go to Lesley Kemp for her help with the advertising up and until she left the village.

We need to improve our service to the visitors to this beautiful part of Devon, by advising on local walks, local eateries and local pubs. The magazine should inform and entertain, and the next issue will, as before, aim to do exactly that.

- **Strete Conservation Group** – No report
- **Strete Village Day** – No report

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive a report from Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor.

The County Council has put up council tax by 4% - 2% of which was allowed by government to pay for adult social care.

Highways - £60 million is needed to maintain the roads as they are and the budget is £40.5 million consequently the roads are in a worse and worse state. The situation is unsustainable. Obviously, the road network is the lifeblood of the area.

Congratulations to the Parish Council for bringing about the new coastal footpath.

Due to pressure from the Parish Council, the speed of traffic in the village has been measured and the speed of the vehicles will mean that the Parish Council can go ahead and install reactive speed signs.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive a report from Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor

District Council tax will go up by £1 per week on a Band D property in line with government guidelines. The aim is to maintain services.

Planning is improving.

There have been issues with the new website. This has been caused by the supplier of the new system.

The damage to the road at Torcross was dealt with very efficiently.

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 15th 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 19th APRIL 2018 AT STRETE PARISH HALL



S. Winstanley – Clerk to Strete Parish Council