

**STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Stradishall Annual Parish Meeting**  
**10th May 2021**

**PRESENT:** Parish councillors Ady Swift (Chairman) Adrian Lee (Vice-chairman), Robert Deeks, Jonathan Masefield, Ian Hutchinson and Ed Hollingsworth.

**Also present:** Joanne Kirk (clerk), District Councillors Nick Clarke, Marion Rushbrook and Karen Richardson and six members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from parish councillor Deborah Gates.

**The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chairman Ady Swift**

**1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

**2. PCC report from Jane Helliwell**

PCC Secretary, Jane Helliwell, sent a written report:

*In February 2020 the Revd Eve Bell was Inducted as a part-time Priest to the Bansfield Benefice. Then like everywhere else, Stradishall Parish Church was closed, and all services, activities and meetings were suspended at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pandemic lockdown in March which in the end continued right through to the end of 2020 and beyond. This meant that the Church had very little income from March onwards, except for the £600 kindly given by the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the cemetery. We were able to advertise that the Church could be opened by appointment for private prayer subject to strict conditions but in fact to date no one has taken advantage of this initiative. The secretary and treasurer did go into the Church on Remembrance Day as advertised and with one other parishioner they read through the short service, laid the parish wreath, recited the list of names on the War Memorial plus the 2 extra names and kept the 2-minute silence.*

*The Rector Eve Bell, started up a weekly Sunday Benefice Zoom service in the summer and then in the autumn it was agreed by the Benefice and Eve to open Wickhambrook Church every other Sunday for a shortened Communion Service when regulations allowed. Each parish took it in turn to host the service at Wickhambrook and with the help of the Wickhambrook Churchwardens it became available for Benefice parishioners who were self-isolating to watch via Zoom. This proved very popular with the regular worshippers in the Benefice and on the other alternative Sunday, the aforementioned Zoom service continued.*

*The PCC are very grateful to Adrian Lee, Robert Helliwell and Philip Rous who continued to keep the churchyard mown and trimmed as well as cutting back branches throughout the summer and autumn. PCC members regularly checked on the Church and occasionally cleaned to keep the bat excrement and cobwebs at bay.*

*Because the PCC was unable to meet to discuss the future viability of the Church it was agreed to keep this under review and discuss it further in 2021. Sadly, the PCC is now reduced to 4 members including the Rector.*

**3. The John Hout Charity**

Balance B/F: £11,759.93

Interest: £66.01

Total: £66.01

Expenditure: £0

Balance as of 31/03/21: £11,825.54

**4. Chairman's Report**

Parish Council Chairman, Ady Swift gave a short report:

*'It has been two years since my last report, which includes a period in which everyone has had to face unprecedented personal challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These exceptional circumstances in mind, I would like to thank my co-councillors for their on-going support, efforts and dedication. Their embracing and acceptance of new ways of conducting our meetings has meant that we have been able to carry on as near to business as usual, as was possible. I would also like to offer my particular thanks to our excellent Parish Clerk, whose ever-efficient work, support and guidance has enabled and facilitated the above, throughout.*

*Whilst many of the normal and planned activities have had to be curtailed or cancelled, the council has effectively kept all parish facilities functioning and maintained, where relevant, and has dealt with any queries raised. In fact, if there is a positive to have come from the current circumstances it is that the different format for our meetings seems to have encouraged a greater number of members of the public to become involved, something that I hope will continue to be the case, as we move closer to normal activity once again, and is very much appreciated.*

*Finally, I would like to thank our County and District Councillors who have actively participated and contributed, which is, again, very much appreciated, despite the very sad passing of one of their number earlier this year.'*

**5. Financial Report**

The parish clerk presented the Council's financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website <http://stradishall.onesuffolk.net/about-us/meetings/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2021/>

**6. Village issues raised by members of the public**

**a) Phone Box in the Street**

It has been suggested that the phone box be adopted by the Parish Council and used as a local amenity.

Possible uses include:

- Using it to house a defibrillator
- Creating a village information point
- Creating a book and DVD exchange
- A seed swap

A resident has cleaned the inside of the phone box. She asked if it would be possible to buy a trough and some bedding plants to put outside the phone box. Marion Rushbrooke and Karen Richardson agreed to provide locality funding for the phone box project, a trough and some bedding plants. This will be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

A question was asked about the picnic tables for the playing field. Adrian Lee confirmed that they would be installed at the playing field in the next few days. The work on the cricket pavilion will be completed at the same time.

A question was asked about the outdoor gym equipment and whether it would be possible to organise some outdoor exercise classes. This will be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm

Signed .....

Dated.....