

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

7 North Street Workshops,
North Street,
Stoke sub Hamdon
TA14 6QR
clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk



Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 2024

7pm 29th May 2024 at Stoke Memorial Hall

Cllr Paul Gould (Chair) Welcomed the public to the meeting and outlined the councils wishes for the next year. Working together, recognising what we all do and develop a working village plan.

John Allan chair of the Sports and Recreation Trust, gave a brief history of the Trust working for the Parish Council since 1996 registered charity 1997, PC are lease holders own all facilities. **Facilities** : PC gives £4K grant balance raised by SSRT budget this year £21,250 to maintain the grounds. **Future Projects** : identifying project, fund raising, 5 year strategy updated 2 years, eg. new floor pavilion and skateboard project, safety netting. **Charity Shop** : to, from and for the community by raising funds by volunteers. 2023 turnover £39,764.00 operating costs £10,425 they make grants 50% of the profits. **Events** : Fund raising £15,811 operating costs of £7609 they make grants 25% of the profits. **Stoke Performing Arts Group** : use the trust as an umbrella organisation, their activities meet the criteria of the trust objects.

Since 2011 to end 2023 the trust has raised and spent £255,906 on project to improve the recreation ground, car park, adventure play area and out door gym, pavilion porch, defibrillator. Made grants to individuals and organisations of £68,265 all published on the trust's website. £100,000 to support maintenance and upkeep of the recreation ground. All volunteers.

Peter Hulett gave a brief update on the skateboard park, planning and contract all in place, fund raising complete £169,000 plus £21,000 from section 106 for maintenance over the next 10 years. Design complete, on site work planned 8th July 2024, 6-8 week build. More information on website and FaceBook.

Jackie Poole Chair of the **Hamdon Youth and Family Centre Trust**. Venue owned by the parish Council on West Street. Venue for organised groups of young people such as Gymnastic, Martial Arts, Irish Dancing, Star Dance and Brownies groups, Pop Up Play Village and private hirers for parties etc. Hamdon Youth Group has had it's funding significantly reduced which has had an impact on the facility and is a concern. They would like to see a positive action. They reported a working group with the Parish Council going forward, looking at grants and expertises from other organisations going forward. Thanks everyone for help with Easter Extravaganser, a real boost and would like to repeat and asked for support.

Cllr Paul Gould (Chair) reiterated that our children are our future and if we can help them early on we can save society 100's of pounds. Parish Council has a positive view about HYFC and looking to help making it viable for the future.

Sarah for the **Brownies**, they are doing well and increasing in numbers. Brownies come from this village as well as surrounding areas. Last year they took 15 girls and spent the night at Dartmoor Zoo with some funding from the SSRT/Charity Shop to do this. They have interacted with Village Artists. They requested help if anyone wanted to share their skills. A fantastic group of girls!

Andrew Toosey chair of **Village Art Group**. Cater for young people to not so young people. Started 25 years ago as a registered charity to help children. Group of about 25 artists of all abilities, no tutoring all like minded individuals who meet and help each other. Meet Tuesday evening and Friday morning in term time. No Criticism other than Positive Criticism.. moto. Workshop three times a year and annual show, they meet at the Memorial Hall, to whom they are very grateful.

Rebecca Merrick chair of **Memorial Hall**. The Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground is an unincorporated Trust, registered charity, the Parish Council act as Custodian Trustee, it's under managed by 7 committee members. Hall booking showing a rising trend of 27% in 2023. Ground maintenance, hall insurance, operating costs is supported by the Parish Council. Projects : decoration, lighting (with the help of SPAG), rear stage curtains. Future project is kitchen refurbishment, roof insulation, Also looking at wedding packages. Regular fund raisers, profitable Film Nights, looking at grant applications, looking at more social events, Ceilidh Dance, indoor car boot sales, Bingo and tribute bands. Looking for new trustees and committee members.

A member of the public asked about hiring costs and was directed to the website.

A member of the public asked how they could get hold of all the documents the Memorial Hall has that suggests that the hall owns the rights to the recreation ground, they would like to see everything. The trust is an unincorporated trust and is hopefully becoming an incorporated trust, so the committee members are not held liable. The person then asked if the Parish Council who would be looking at those documents in minutiae, the Chair answered that he had no idea. The member of the public stated that the grounds historically were owned by the Parish Council, they wondered how the tenure had been changed. RM said that nothing will change without Parish Council approval.

Katherine Rake secretary for the **Stoke Community Shop**, a stand alone organisation a community benefit society with members, every member has 5 shares, open 364 days a year, closed Christmas day only. Aim is to serve the whole community as a community hub, supporting other village organisations. Host the outreach Post Office, 3 times a week. Payzone facility, they also do a delivery service for people. They support 2 part time employees and 32 volunteers. They are looking for new directors and the present ones are tired. They would like to attract funding.

Tricia Toosey from **Stoke Garden Club** started in 2000, self funding, 40 members meet once a month in the Memorial Hall. The club is for villagers who are interested in gardening, you don't have to have a garden. They have had help from the SSRT and they in turn help other organisation, ie flowers at the Memorial Hall for Jubilee and Coronations events also look after the telephone kiosk with flowering plants.

Min Hodges from **Stoke Performing Arts Group**, started in 2016 with a very successful play in the Priory tythe barn, about the Battle of the Somme, since then events twice a year, latest was a pantomime in February this year. there is going to be a murder mystery in November then a play about the people who lived in the Roman Villa on Ham Hill and then another Pantomime. The Village has been brilliantly supportive of us in return SPAG has been supporting other organisation within the village.

Denise Burton - Chair of the **SSRT Events Committee**, a group of villagers who set up the May Fayre. Even the weather was not brilliant people came out and they feel it was a success, but waiting to hear final figures. They would like to show their appreciation of everyone who made cakes in support of the day.

Helen Frances, voluntary editor of the **Village Newsletter**. Enjoys the role, in touch with all the village ordinations and creating beacon of everything that is great about this community. What's to keep the community newsletter content fresh. New comers to the village are delighted to have information on their doorstep promoting village organisations. Funded by the Parish Council and should have a PC input informing the village of what the PC is doing along side all the fantastic achievement by the village. A member of the public asked how to change a contact, it should be the clerk but copy in the Chair.

Questions:

Whirligig Lane overgrown with stingers plus the overgrown bank outside the allotments - a working group formed to cut back the following Sunday.

Litter picking managed beautifully.

Few people do a lot of things, we need to encourage new people to get involved.

Allotment 8a, total disgrace, someone interested in it but hasn't been used since September.

No contract agreement no charge what's going on. Response Clerk's job to do this.

Speedwatch seem to have fallen into a black hole again. SW co ordinator response who knows, 4 people applied, general apathy.

End of Meeting 8.02pm