

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018  
7.30 PM AT THE ELLESMERE CENTRE

Present: Lily Whymer, Chair of Stetchworth Parish Council, Parish Councillors Wayne Bell, Sarah Breen, John Puddick, Piers Saunders and Alan Sharp. Also, Marilyn Strand, Clerk to the Parish Council, District Councillor Chris Morris and County Cllr Mathew Shuter

Apologies: Parish Councillor Alastair France.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Lily Whymer, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Approval of Minutes – Annual Parish Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were signed as a true and correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Lily Whymer, Chairman of the Parish Council, read out her report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Councillors thanked Cllr Whymer for her report and for her continued commitment to the role of Chairman.

4. District and County Councillors' Reports

District Cllr Chris Morris gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

County Cllr Mathew Shuter reported the following:

- It has been a tough financial year for the County Council and Council Tax had been raised by 4.99%. Of this, 2% is ring-fenced for adult social care with the remainder going to general funds to make up the shortfall between income and expenditure. In addition, savings of £30m will have to be made over the coming year.
- Currently, County Farms are a good source of income and also play a useful role in the environment of the county and bring young families into farming. The farms give a return of around 3.5% on the Council's investment which is better than the return currently given on bank deposits.
- For financial reasons, the County Council is to sell or lease its current offices at Shire Hall. This will raise a considerable amount of money for the council. The offices will be moved outside of Cambridge

itself, possibly to Alconbury. The new offices will be multi-functional and more efficient than on the current site.

- Three new libraries will be opened in the county this year and, following a complete review of the county's library service, mobile libraries will continue to operate. Libraries will offer a much wider range of services including adult social care and interactive screens showing works of art so that residents can view these locally.
- Cllr Shuter, as Chairman of Highways, apologised for the great number of potholes which had appeared over the first three months of this year. Roads had been weakened by cold, wet weather and a lack of maintenance. A roads maintenance programme will now be re-introduced. East Cambridgeshire has been selected by CCC for an experiment into the type of patching carried out on potholes. A 'dragon-patcher' has been purchased allowing potholes to be filled much more quickly and effectively than conventional methods and it is expected that all potholes will be under control by the middle of summer.
- CCC is looking to reduce its use of single-use plastics. Disposable cups and straws will no longer be used in its offices and measures to reduce single-use plastics across the county are also being looked into.

Parish Cllr Lily Whymer said that there are a couple of areas in the village where the roads are particularly bad – Jubilee Court and Church Lane. Drains on Church Lane had been blocked leaving lying water but these had been cleared. County Cllr Shuter said that all these matters could be reported to CCC via its online fault reporting system.

#### 5. Presentation on the Ellesmere Centre

The Centre's representative had not arrived at the meeting.

#### 6. Matters raised from the floor

None.

The meeting was closed at 8:18pm.

Signed: Approved and signed by the Chairman

Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019