STOKE & HURLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

held at Nantwich Vets, Hurleston 7.30pm 17th May 2021

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| **Present:** Cllrs: | Christine Bowen | Valerie Pickford (Chair) | Helen Exley(Clerk)  |
|  | Mike Kosh | Ken Hough | Robert Darlington |

1. **Introduction & Welcome by the Chair.**

The Chair welcomed the Councillors to the meeting**.**

1. **Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman.**

A strange 12 months with COVID - who would have expected it but pleased to see that we have all survived.

Delighted to get back to face-to-face meetings. Virtual meetings  have been ok but we have struggled with some IT issues and not all councillors could access properly, which caused a few issues.

Some of the Parish Council achievements include --clearing paths/hedges, spraying dog poo, handing out hand sanitiser, circulating flyers to the parish about issues, such as those who may need help in the pandemic. We celebrated Christmas in the Parish with a larger than ever Christmas tree!

The Parish Council has recently invested in dog poo bag dispensers in the hope that those walkers without them will use them and then put the bag in the bin, not hang it on a tree.  These will be erected in the next few weeks.

We have had some planning applications to review, all of which have been in order &  they have not had issues; there are some still outstanding.

SIDs are an on-going issue, the one thing that we are still struggling with and not getting any positive action from CEC Highways.  We continue to fight the cause!  Thanks to Mike Kosh for pushing on with this, as he has attended face-to-face meetings and virtual ones to no avail but hopefully with Sarah Pochin’s support we may get a positive outcome in the near future. Very disappointed with CEC lack of action, as the s106 monies was paid to them in January 2020 for this specific project.

We lost Fred West as a councillor after a lengthy contribution of 38 years, as he decided to resign.  We are hopeful in the recruitment of a new Councillor to the PC.

Overall we have had a good year in that we are all still here and as a Parish we have done alright from a pandemic point of view.

Thank you to all Councillors for your contributions, as well as Helen, who has kept us to the helm.

1. **Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2021 by the Clerk to the Parish Council.**

We have ended the year with a healthy reserve of £5995. Partly due to restricted expenditure during COVID restrictions.

We have invested in further dog fouling measures with the recent purchase of Dog bag dispensers in the hope that this will encourage dog walkers to use the dog bins in the parish.

Litter picking costs slightly exceed the Parish Compact grant of £1150 with Peter’s annual cost being £1270 but he now cleans the bus shelter on a monthly basis -an added cost.

We had the additional cost of making the website government compliant this year, which had not been budgeted for.

The Clerk’s salary was reviewed in April 2020, bringing it more into line with other Parishes, as was the litter picker hourly rate.

The Clerk thanks the Chair and Councillors for their continued support during what has been a challenging year.

1. **To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.**

No Members of the public were present.

Signed………………………………………………………………….Chair

Date…………………………………………………….