

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 – COUNCILLORS REPORTS

## Parish Council Chair's Report – 2019 Parish Meeting

During the course of the year the Parish Council has met at 6 week intervals and in addition to regular items on planning, New Pavilion Working Group (NPWG), playing field committee and traffic issues, has received regular reports from County and District Councillors. We have kept a tight control on the budget but with CIL payments, there is considerable reserves but these have a time limit and restriction on use in which to use these monies. Unfortunately, we experienced severe technical problems with our website which has necessitated extra work for our Parish Clerk and the setting up of a new website.

Being mindful of the time limit to access monies, the NPWG have worked hard to make a planning application for a new pavilion. More information is in their report but thanks to Charles and Glyn, a planning application was submitted before the new Council takes over.

The village survey in 2014 indicated parishioners wanted a new pavilion and a footpath. The Parish Council in 2018 approved forming a Footpath Action Working Group along the same lines as the NPWG and a public meeting was held last month which was attended by over 20 people. Six parishioners have indicated a willingness to take forward the project of linking upper and lower Stoke Holy Cross with some sort of safe foot/cycle path. It is my hope that the path will come to fruition but it will take considerable effort and engagement with all stakeholders (landowners, parishioners and Parish and County councillors) for this to be achieved. It has been indicated that the Parish Partnership Scheme should be able to contribute considerably to the cost of the path but this will no doubt also necessitate some funding coming from the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council were committed to seeking to provide both a new pavilion and footpath to improve our community.

We have continued to lobby Highways for moving the speed limit and improve the signage for St Georges Hall and the Parish Church and have paid for the signs so we hope they will be installed shortly. I am pleased to report that the bus stop near Broomefield Road/Long Lane junction is nearing completion as I write this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all councillors for their attendance and contributions over the last year and wish those councillors who have decided not to seek re-election a happy retirement but not non-engagement with the parish community! I also thank Anita our parish clerk, for her enthusiasm and hard work in her first year of holding that position – you have done well, carry on the good work.

Lyn Marsh

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## Stoke Holy Cross Planning Committee Report April 2019

This Year has seen the most activity for some time.

There have been the usual applications for extensions and alterations throughout the village.

The main activity that has taken up a lot of time and effort by the planning committee has involved the planning applications that we have responded to and these have either been amended, approved, refused or result in an appeal.

Those that go to appeal mean that we have to relook at the report that we originally sent to SNC to see if circumstances have changed and if so there are any further points that we can raise with the planning inspector.

There are currently two application under the appeal procedure, Poringland Road and a Bungalow on the border with Poringland. We have recently added further comments to the Poringland Road application to strengthen our concern with this application which we did recommend for refusal.

The Land West of Norwich Road which has been the subject of much discussion with the public is currently with SNC waiting a decision.

You may remember that there was an application for a change of use of land behind The Spinney. This application was withdrawn.

Harrold Place is on the point of completion and phase two of Broomefields is due for completion later this year.

We have after several months of discussions with Hopkins Homes built a new Bus Shelter for the benefit of the residents of both Broomefields , Harrold Place and Long Lane.

I would like to thank Vic Thompson, our Count Councillor, for his generous contribution to the project including his effort in getting the siting agreed with the County Council Highways and confirming that planning Permission was not required. The land that the Bus Shelter is built on will be transferred to the PC when Hopkins have completed their site.

I had hoped that Hopkins Homes would have assisted with a contribution of materials for the Bus Shelter but all requests were met with refusal every time.

I will be relinquishing the roll of Planning Chair at the election so this will be my last report.

I would like to finish by thanking the subcommittee members for their helpful contributions over the year with a special Thanks to Glyn Davies for some of the more technical responses.

That concludes my Report

Please feel free to ask me any questions.

Charles Bussey

25thApril 2019

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## REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 25 APRIL 2019

I reported to the last APM, that the New Pavilion Working Group (NPWG) had been evaluating the outcome of a professionally produced feasibility study into options for a replacement for the existing Pavilion on the parish playing fields. This study concluded that a replacement building would be the most cost effective solution but that there was a large range in potential building costs, depending on the size and type of replacement pavilion.

The NPWG has therefore been working this year on the type of replacement pavilion that would meet the likely needs of the village in the future but crucially, also realistically be affordable. A key element of this assessment was the need for bespoke accommodation for the pre-school. This presently uses the Pavilion and is rapidly running out of space to meet the demand to accommodate additional toddlers as the village grows.

Much work has been undertaken by the NPWG to design a floor layout that could accommodate the pre-school as well as a hall to host community events and activities, parish meetings, and possibly a cafe. Chaplin Farrant Architects (CF) were therefore appointed to take the project forward in September 2018 and held an exhibition of their proposals in February 2019 using the boards displayed at this meeting. The outcome of the exhibition was carefully analysed and CF subsequently applied to South Norfolk Council for planning permission for the new hall at the end of March of this year.

We hope to receive planning permission for the new hall by the beginning of June. The NPWG will then be seeking funding to supplement the substantial amount of money already collected by the Parish Council in connection with the recent housing developments in Stoke Holy Cross. This is still likely to be in the order of £300,000, which will require some finding, particularly given the current economic situation and the availability of grants.

We are confident however that the money for worthwhile local projects such as community halls is potentially available. We therefore require the assistance of a person or people with fund raising experience to help the NPWG access such funds, and take the project to the next stage.

Anyone who would like to get involved in this exciting project, particularly if they have any experience of fund raising or community hall development and management, would be most welcome to join us. Please contact Anita Rose, the Parish Clerk if you would think you might be able to help.

Glyn Davies - Chair - NPWG

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## **TRAFFIC ISSUES AND STOKE HOLY CROSS SPEEDWATCH REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 25th APRIL 2019**

The Parish Council has continued to rely on the use of fixed vehicle activated signs (VAS) and a mobile speed activated machine (SAM2) to address and raise awareness of the speeding problems affecting the village. The data regarding volume and speeds collected by the SAM2 have been regularly shared with partners, including the Police, NCC and the Highways Dept. However, this has not resulted in a significant response in terms of additional enforcement or traffic management initiatives, financial restrictions, competing priorities and prevailing criteria playing their part. The Parish Council has also regularly published this data on the Parish website to inform parishioners and raise their awareness of speeding.

The Parish continues to be supported by the Stoke Holy Cross Speed Watch team which now has members in both Upper and Lower Stoke and which remains, through the issuing of warning letters, a major element in Norfolk Constabulary's speed reduction activities, given the ongoing funding issues faced by the Police.

At the time of submitting this report a meeting is planned to be held by the Strategic Six Plus Group of Parishes, including Stoke Holy Cross, with NCC, Highways Dept. and other partners, to address the shared traffic issues affecting the local area, including the impact of development, reduction in public transport and alternatives to the use of cars, such as footpaths and cycle ways. In relation to the latter Stoke Holy Cross Parish Council is supporting the formation of a sub-committee to pursue the creation of a trod path/cycle way between Upper and Lower Stoke. Other neglected criteria that affect the rural traffic network such as quality of life and air and noise pollution will also hopefully be introduced into the discussions undertaken in the forthcoming meeting.

Ron Wright

Parish Councilor

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## **REPORT OF PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING APRIL 2019**

I am pleased to report the playing field and parks have continued to be well used this year.

The football club is thriving and continues to use the playing field for both training and matches.

During this year we replaced the three picnic benches in the playing area and re-seeded the playing field.

We have continued to receive support from Councillors and the community in helping to Keep the playing equipment in good working order. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for their support and hard work.

In this coming year we have allocated a budget to add to or replace some of our playing equipment. Details will be discussed in future meetings.

I would like to inform you of my decision to step down as a Councillor for the Parish and also Chair of the playing field committee however would like to remain as a member.

Christine Cann – Chair – Playing Field Committee