



# Stonham Parva Parish Council Chairman's Report 2019/2021



There was no Annual Parish Meeting or Chairman's Report last year due to COVID-19. This report therefore covers two years from May 2019 to May 2021.

**Membership of the Parish Council** - There have been a few changes to the committee during this period. I would like to thank: the following for their help and commitment: - Andrew Harvey who has served as a councillor for 15 years and was Chair for some of those. Sam Baldry who led on securing £20,000 funding for the play area equipment from Viridor. Judy Dean who helped monitor the footpaths.

**Your Current Parish Councillors are:** - Ivan Richardson Vice Chair and Cemetery, Gill Davidson – Planning and Data Protection, Kate Dawson – Neighbourhood Watch and Plant Sales. We are also fortunate to have the following councillors join us during the period: - Juliet Baldwin – Protected Trees, Martin Goodrum – Play Area and Siobhan Dinc - Web Site.

**Monthly Face to face Parish Council meetings** - After over a year of holding parish council meetings virtually via Zoom, we are now returning to socially distanced face-to-face meetings in the Baptist Chapel, Norwich Road. They are now held monthly at 8:00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

**Financial** – The Precept (which is collected as part of Council Tax) is the main source of income for the Parish. For 21/22 the precept is £6582 as we receive a grant of £118 (this is to cover the council tax discounts which has increased this year) Thus the true precept is £6700.

Summary for both years is as follows:-

Year	2019/20	2020/21
Income	11,270.57	35,309.73
Expenditure	18,641.52	31,316.01
Precept	6,505.00	6,700.00
Grants	1,250.00	15,000.00
Current Account		
Opening Balance	11,958.14	2,766.94
Closing Balance	2,766.94	6,447.49
Savings Account (fund raising)		
Opening Balance	1.00	1.00
Closing Balance	1.00	314.17

**Play Area** – After more than four years of hard work by the Parish Council has obtain funding for the play equipment at a cost of £21,600. This included contributions from Viridor Credit (69%), Mid Suffolk District and Suffolk County Councils (8%), Local Open Garden Event (1%), HMRC (VAT reclaimed) (17%) leaving Parish Council contribution of £1045 (5%) – a small proportion of the overall cost. Feedback "I took my son and new-born daughter to the play park. It was fantastic!! I was able to walk around the fields from my house. My 3-year-old was able to play whilst being supervised by his grandparents and I fed my daughter on the bench. When we arrived, another family were just leaving and as we were leaving, indeed another family were just arriving. Everyone said how fantastic it is to have a park in the village. In the strange climate we are all living in, the park is just what families with children need, to get out in the fresh air and have fun. Many thanks to the parish council."

We continue to develop the play area. Gates and fencing have been installed at the Lambeth Way entrance as well as clearing the brambles along that boundary which will be fenced shortly. The old

slide has been returned on a mound with crawl tubing underneath it. Thanks to the efforts of Councillor Ivan Richardson, we have secured funding from Tesco's to the tune of £1000 for further development of the play area. This will include items for younger children, completion of the fence, the slide, and some goal posts.

**Village Road Safety** - We have been working with our Suffolk County Councillor Matthew Hicks and Suffolk Highways to address several road safety concerns that have been raised around the village following a number of serious accidents.

Suffolk Highways have now agreed to re-paint the road markings which in places have become very faded. We can expect this work to be undertaken in the next few months. There are a couple of other aspects we will continue to pursue, one of which is advisory signs at the north end of Clockhouse Lane and in Church Lane at its junction with the A140 to advise drivers that the lanes are not suitable for large vehicles and are in fact single lane for most of their length. There is also a "Quite Lanes Suffolk" initiative we are looking into.

A mirror has been installed to assist drivers turning right into the north of Clockhouse Lane, which is otherwise blind given the bend and hedge.

**Quiet Lanes Suffolk** – is a nationally recognised designation of single-track road, with less than 1,000 vehicles per day. Quiet Lanes are used by a variety of people and transport modes including walking, cycling and horse riding. Motorised vehicles can use Quiet Lanes, but they need to drive with caution. The Parish Council is proposing to nominate Clockhouse Lane as a quite lane.

**Speed Indicator Signs** – Over the period we have invested in a second device so we can influence the traffic on the A140 at either end of the village. The headline figures show 10% more drivers keeping to the 30mph limit entering the south of the village and a 26% improvement by drivers entering the village from the north. Daily average traffic both ways is circa 13,000 or 4.6 million per year. Some 830,000 additional vehicles will be doing 30mph or below as a result of the devices.

**Defibrillator** – The Parish Council secured funding of £1250 from Mid Suffolk District towards a Defibrillator. The Parish Council funded the remaining (£250 + Installation and electrical work). The Baptist Chapel agreed to have the device attached to the front of their building and to provide power. This location being the most logical in the village. Now if you call 999 for someone who is in cardiac arrest the ambulance service will be able to give you access to the device and you don't need any training to use it as its voice guided.

**Village Newsletter – Distribution** We have now moved to a mostly e-mail based distribution of newsletters, with a small number of paper copies.

### **Focus for coming year 2021/22**

Village Hall (subject to public interest)

Neighbourhood Development Plan (subject to public interest)

### **Closing**

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their contributions over the past two year. Thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting You are now welcome to comment, ask questions or air your views.

Trevor Benjamin  
Chair Stonham Parva Parish Council  
May 2021