



# Stonham Parva Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021/2022



**Membership of the Parish Council** – Has been stable over the period with just one Councillor stepping down Gill Davison who served on the council for over fifteen years, thanks for all your contribution. We have a new Councillor Matt Sealby who has now joined us.

**Your Current Parish Councillors are:** - Ivan Richardson Vice Chair and Cemetery, Kate Dawson – Fundraising, Juliet Baldwin – Protected Trees and Neighbourhood Watch, Martin Goodrum – Play Area Siobhan Dinc and Matt Sealby.

**Financial** – The Precept (which is collected as part of Council Tax) is the main source of income for the Parish. For 22/23 the precept is £6692 (This represents a 1.5% increase or 6p per month for a Band D property).

Summery for the last year is as follows: -

Year	<b>2021/22</b>
Income	12,599.72
Expenditure	8,288.29
Precept	6,582.00
Grants	0.00
<b>Current Account</b>	
Opening Balance	6,447.49
Closing Balance	9,296.83
<b>Savings Account (fund raising)</b>	
Opening Balance	314.17
Closing Balance	1,776.22
<b>Savings Account (reserves)</b>	
Opening Balance	1.00
Closing Balance	800.04

**Magpie Sign** – The loss of the Magpie sign has had a huge impact on the village, it does not feel the same anymore and many motorists who pass by daily have also made the same comment. The sign was a Grade II listed monument, and we believe it was one of only two existing in the UK. The sign has been stored for safety and every effort is being made by Stonham Parva Parish Council to work with the owners to see this re-erected as soon as we can. We are looking at ways to raise money for the project which we expect will be tens of thousands of pounds. So need the likes of the National Lottery, English Heritage Etc.

**Village Survey** – We conducted a survey in January in response to a resident's feedback. We had 15 respondents and will publish a summary of what people felt and their comments on our website.

Overall, the majority felt the Parish Council was doing a good job and using its resources to the best interest of the village. One respondent felt we are unapproachable and did not deal with issues raised. There were two who suggested a second defibrillator would be beneficial suggesting St Marys Church as a location.

**St Marys Church** – Repairs to the roof are progressing well with a target completion of June. Several members of the parish council were fortunate to visit the repairs and have added pictures taken to our website.

**Fundraising** – Has increased still further this past year thanks to the hard work of council lead Kate and several volunteers within the village. Coffee Morning in December raised over £900. We received £400 from Asda's Green Token Scheme and plant and other sales over £300.

**Quiet Lanes Suffolk** – Clockhouse and Church Lane – You will have noticed that we now have 'Not suitable for HGV's' signs at the north end of Clockhouse and east end of Church Lane. Whilst only advisory we hope it will reduce the number of unsuitable lorries using the lanes as a detour when there is a problem on the A140. Also, our application to have Clockhouse and Church Lanes designated as 'Suffolk Quite Lanes' has moved to the next stage. A traffic volume monitor was used in the lane to check our daily volume is less than 1000 vehicle movements per day.

**Planning Applications** – The Parish Council continues to review all planning applications within its curtilage as well as those from neighbouring parishes. We endeavour to reflect what we believe the village would want. And on larger developments such as the recent one on Norwich Road call a meeting to seek the views of the village.

**Village Newsletter** – We have moved this to low cost / carbon footprint but there remain times when a mail drop to all households is still required. Maybe overtime more households will opt into an e-mail-based distribution.

**Focus for coming year 2022/23** – As the outgoing chair it would be inappropriate for me to suggest what the direction of travel should be going forward. So, I will leave that to the new incumbent of the Parish Council Chair.

### **Closing**

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their contributions over the past year. I will be stepping down as chair at this month's Annual General Meeting having held the post for 4 years, I feel it's now time for someone else to bring new energy to the role. My measure of success was to not have money sitting in a bank account when it should be used for the benefit of the village. I have failed at that as despite moving several areas forward and spending more than £65,000 over that time I ended up with even more money in our bank accounts than when I became chair!

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 2022

Our website is <https://www.stonhamparvpc.org.uk/welcome-to-our-website/>  
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