

# Stonham Parva Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 2017 / 2018

### **Membership of the Parish Council**

We started the SPPC year with 4 councillors (being myself, TB, GD and DM) but were very pleased to co-opt 3 further councillors (TB, KD and IR) to bring the Council up to our full complement. Our clerk has continued as MB. Sadly, DM is resigning from the Council having served since 1985. I'm sure we all would like to thank him for all he's done for the parish over those 33 years.

After this meeting I shall step down as Chairman as it'll be the end of my year in office and I don't feel able to offer myself for re-election, although I will continue as a Councillor; the first item for the PC meeting that follows this parish meeting is to elect two of my colleagues as Chairperson and Deputy Chair. I'm not sure what will be the outcome of that discussion, so I can't offer any further information – that's for the SPPC to consider.

### **Review of the past year**

#### **1. Financial**

The Precept (which is collected as part of Council Tax) is easily the main source of income for the Parish. The precept for 2018 / 2019 has been set at £6,565, an increase of 1% on the figure for the previous year (2017 / 18).

The main items of expenditure were grass and hedge cutting (well over half the expenditure) and the Clerk's salary and expenses.

SPPC has benefitted from funding from District Councillor Morley's Locality Budget to the tune of £1,650, a valuable addition to the fund which we are building to finance the renovation and re-equipment of the playground area

#### **2. Planning applications**

As always, there's been a number of applications. Future developments at The Magpie Inn are hard to predict. There is an ongoing possibility that the owner of the land to the rear of The Magpie will get planning consent for establishing a holiday caravan site. I'll be returning to the subject of The Magpie when I get onto the Looking Ahead section of this report in a few minutes' time.

On a brighter note, as you'll have seen, the derelict buildings on the north side of the village (eastern side of the A140) have been demolished and a new house is currently being constructed on the land.

Otherwise I would say that there is nothing that should have a major impact on the appearance or fabric of the parish.

#### **3. Website**

This is regularly maintained for us by TB. It's a very useful vehicle for communication of what's happening in the parish and you can use it to see the minutes of SPPC meetings and a whole lot more besides

#### **4. Village Directory**

This is ready for its launch and thanks to GD who has put this together. We (the Parish Councillors) will soon be delivering a copy of the Directory to each property in the Parish – we hope it will serve a valuable purpose in setting out local information and services, including doctors' surgeries, libraries, post offices, restaurants, etc (details are provided of addresses, telephone numbers, opening hours, etc)

#### **5. Traffic and speeding on the A140**

Continues to cause concern and SPPC is currently looking into the cost of buying flashing signs – one for each end of the village on the A140. There is quite frequently a mobile speed camera stationed strategically to catch offenders. It must be a deterrent to breaking the 30mph speed limit but this is a tough nut to crack.

#### **6. Allotments**

The arrangements for allotments are working well and the Allotmenters just get on with it. Most of the 29 allotments are taken. There is a section of the village web-site which is dedicated to Allotments. Wendy Brame is the leader and contact for the group.

#### **7. Play area**

Wendy Brame has been very helpful on this. She has met representatives of two separate companies that supply and install play equipment. Disappointingly, neither company came back with figures for consideration and so we were back at square one. One of the matters for discussion at the SPPC meeting which follows this annual Parish Meeting is the latest position on this project (which I think Wendy has been taking forward).

#### **Looking ahead**

1. Distribution of the new Parish Directory is imminent
2. We hope that we can make real progress on the play area and installation of new equipment
3. Bus shelter at the junction of Church Lane and the A140. Faced with the choice between repair to its former glory and removal because of its dilapidated condition, we've decided that removal is the sensible option. We are investigating whether anyone would offer anything for it and take it away; the alternative is to arrange that one (or more) of us demolishes and clears it away

#### **Closing**

You are now welcome to comment, ask questions or air your concerns ...

It then remains for me to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their contributions over the past year. Thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting which I can now declare closed. Unless you are staying to observe our Parish Council Meeting which now follows, I wish you goodnight.