



# Stonham Parva Parish Council Chairman Report May 2024



The first weeks of 2024 and the latter half of 2023 has seen an impact to us all in that we have experience significant weather patterns in the form of storms which have brought high winds and unprecedented rainfall. A huge 'Thank you' to all those volunteers who assisted communities who were affected by these events at a difficult time. This assistance was given at a last-minute notice and demonstrated the community spirit of which is synonymous with living in Suffolk. There is no doubt that, when needed our community comes together.

**Your Current Parish Councillors are:** - Ivan Richardson Vice Chair and Cemetery, Kate Dawson – Fundraising, Lucy Courtenay– Website, Martin Goodrum – Play Area, Wendy Brame - Clerk

**Financial** – The Precept (which is collected as part of Council Tax) is the main source of income for the Parish. For 24/25 the precept is £7140 (This represents a 1% increase or 4p per month for a Band D property).

Summary for the last year is as follows: -

Year	2023/24
Income	£17,982.48
Expenditure	£17,275.88
Precept	£6,840.00
<b>Current Account</b>	
Opening Balance	£8848.52
Closing Balance	£8705.29
<b>Savings Account (reserves)</b>	
Opening Balance	£4508.89
Closing Balance	£5358.72

**Magpie Sign** – Ongoing correspondence and communications with the owners of the magpie sign have concluded with the ownership of the sign being passed over to SPPC in early 2024. Increased media profile and fundraising continue in the form of Quiz Nights to raise the funds to enable the sign to be restored back to its rightful place spanning the A140.

**St Marys Church** – We have undertaken the cutting back of the hedge and large ash tree in front of the church in a hope it will help stabilise the ground to prevent further cracking of the chancel The Church

Conservation Trust have made funds available and have undertaken further repairs to the chancel for the removal of the Heras fencing. This will now allow for theatre performances and specialised talks to be held to raise funds for the church and in support of this SPPC have raised funds for the installation of the compostable toilet which is installed in the bell tower room.

Plans are also being drawn up to install a permanent kitchen area in the vestry which will allow the church to become more available for community type activities.

**Fundraising** – Has increased still further this past year thanks to the hard work of council lead Kate and several volunteers within the village. The village fete held on the playing field, with numerous stalls along with vintage cars, walls to climb, drink and food to eat was a huge success, which raised some £400 with an estimated 200 people in attendance. A big thankyou to Dr Dan Poulter MP for attending and spending time with residents and responding to several questions. The date is already fixed in the calendar for 2024 for the 31 August 2024 which will include attractions and more music acts.

**A1120/A140 survey** – With the increase of several significant accidents at the road junction of the A1120/A140 we raised the concerns at a number of Parish and Council meetings which resulted in an online survey being requested to be completed to enable SCC to utilise this information for central government funding applications for road improvements. We are awaiting the outcome of the survey as this identified several road junction improvements, one of which included the A1120/A140 junction with the hope that future funding is allocated for improvements to this road junction.

**Woods near St Marys Church**– The Parish Council has been approached by David Matthews estate to advise that the wood, located on the left hand side of Church Lane adjacent to the last property on Church lane will be gifted to the parish for use by the Community. We will advise accordingly once the legal process has concluded but in the interim would welcome any thoughts and ideas for any future use of the space.

**Play Area** – With the installation of the additional rocker/springer playing area apparatus we are now currently looking to provide an accessible bench and permanent pathways which are suitable for wheelchair use to enable the play area to be used all year round.

**Allotments** – The continued use of the allotments has demonstrated what a great space this is to improve wellbeing by being outside in nature. Further negotiations continue, to ensure spaces like this are available for people to use if they desire.

**Quiet Lanes Suffolk/ Clockhouse Lane** – The application to have Clockhouse designated as 'Suffolk Quiet Lanes' was approved and the signage has now been installed at either end of the lane warning road users of the intended use of the roadway.

**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 seek the views of the village.

**Village Newsletter** – We continue to move towards a low cost / carbon footprint and encourage households to opt into the email-based distribution. Mail drop to households is being undertaken at certain times as required.

**Focus for the coming year 2024/25** –Seek further funding for the erection of the Magpie Sign, establish and grow the Summer Fete as a 'save the date in the diary' and seek to establish a more robust maintenance strategy for several footpaths.

Closing I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their contributions over the past year. Thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting.

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

Matt Sealby Chair Stonham Parva Parish Council May 2024

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

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