

Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th May 2022
At Stoneleigh Village Hall

PRESENT:

Chairman Cllr R Hancox
Cllr A Bianco
Cllr J Astle
Cllr S Matthews
Cllr D Jack
Cllr L Rolli
Cllr T Wright
Cllr P Redford
Cllr W Redford
B Maoudis (clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

1. Attendance and Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

No apologies received.

2. Appointment of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman

R Hancox proposed for Chairman by Cllr Bianco and seconded by Cllr Jack. This was unanimously agreed.

J Astle proposed for Deputy Chair by Cllr Bianco and seconded by Cllr Jack. This was unanimously agreed.

3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Hancox read and signed a formal Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman.

4. To receive all Councillor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Astle read and signed a formal Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Chairman.

Cllrs Jack, Matthews, Rolli and Bianco signed the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. Declaration of Interests

Councillor's received new Register of Interest forms, provided by WDC, to be completed and returned to the clerk at the next meeting.

6. Chairman's Allowance

It was unanimously resolved that the Chairman's allowance for the year would be £80.

7. Committees of the Council

It was agreed that there would continue to be no committees of the Council.

8. External Committees

To appoint members to serve on the undermentioned committees:

- a) Stoneleigh Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust: Cllr Hancox
- b) Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses, Stoneleigh: David Franklin and Suzanne Crofts were appointed in 2019 as Trustees for a period of 4 years.
- c) The Leigh Educational Foundation: Cllr Astle
- d) Trustees of the Stoneleigh United Charities: Cllr Hancox

9. Reports

To receive reports on:

- a) Stoneleigh Village Hall & Playing Fields Trust: Cllr Hancox informed the meeting that the Village Hall was doing well and had been generously donated to by WDC. The funds had helped projects such as installing the Hearing Loop system and the projector.
- b) A written report was received from Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses, Stoneleigh, appendices 1.
- c) A written report was received from The Leigh Educational Foundation, appendices 2.
- d) A written report was received from Trustees of the Stoneleigh United Charitie, appendices 3.

10. To confirm that the Parish Council continues to hold General Power of Competence

It was confirmed that the Parish Council retains its General Power of Competence, fulfilling the criteria:

- at least two thirds of the council hold office as a result of being declared elected; and
- the Clerk held a recognised professional qualification (Certificate in Local Council Administration) at the time of the election.

11. Calendar of Meetings

The dates listed below for meetings of the Council for the Council year April 2022 – March 2023 were approved, appendices 4.

12. Closure

The meeting was closed at 19.48

Appendices 1

TRUSTEE'S REPORT – Activities during the year 2021

During 2021 the Charity continued to provide accommodation for residents in the ancient parish of Stoneleigh and whilst six of the Almshouse properties remained fully occupied throughout the year, we had four vacant properties during 2021

No 2 Almshouse was vacant from 18th February 2021 to 13th May 2021.

No 3 Almshouse was vacant from 28th February 2021 to 14th May 2021.

No 4 Almshouse was vacant from 30th April 2021 to 13th August 2021

No.9 Almshouse was vacant from 14th May 2021 to 19th August 2021

The new resident of No.2 subsequently gave notice to leave the Almshouse on 31st December 2021

Trustees have continued with day-to-day repairs as well as remedial and modernisation work to the Almshouses, as best they could, whilst still under COVID-19 restrictions and government lockdowns. The minor indoor repairs continue to be carried out as and when required, albeit with a slight delay due to illness in the Handyman's family.

Croft Construction carried out remedial repairs to the lead flashings, chimneys, and roof tiles. The ongoing issues with damp are being closely monitored and have largely been brought under control in the bedroom area at No9, however, it is now thought to possibly be rising damp or water retention from the outside, via the sandstones and/or mortar which is causing the water ingress to several of the properties, this is being kept under constant surveillance by the Clerk and further investigation is due to begin in the new year.

Brad Steele, a Master Stonemason carried out repairs to the stonework on the Almshouse outbuildings, as highlighted in the last QQR Report of 2020. This included repairs and repointing to the brickwork and guttering of the outbuildings, along with the removal of foliage and moss from around both the outbuildings and main Almshouse building.

Urgent electrical maintenance was carried out as and when required, along with the annual PAT testing of all resident's and charity owned electrical appliances and again for all new residents own personal appliances shortly after they moved in.

Urgent plumbing repairs were carried out under strict COVID19 rules whilst lockdown was still in place. However, due to the four properties being vacant, the Plumbers were able to carry out the refurbishment of all four shower rooms whilst the properties were empty. The showers and shower trays were replaced, and water heaters installed to replace outdated immersion tanks.

It was also necessary to replace the carpet at No.9, prior to new occupancy and the carpets at No2, 3 & 4 cleaned, along with oven cleaning at No2 & 4, prior to the new residents moving in, along with the re-decoration of all four vacant properties.

Garden maintenance has included regular lawn mowing, hedge trimming and the pruning of several trees, in addition to moss and weed spraying.

The Almshouse Trust has continued its support of local charities with donations being made to the following charities at the beginning of the new year, January 2022 to:

The Shakespeare Hospice
Warwickshire Vision

Waverley Day Centre
The Ups of Downs

The Trust also made charitable donations to support needy people living in the Ancient Parish of Stoneleigh through the Together for Change initiative and the Coventry Children's Boot Fund.

Together for Change (TFC) is a joint venture charity between the Diocese of Coventry and the Church of Urban Fund. Together for Change is working with churches and other public & private sector groups to transform the communities of Coventry and Warwickshire and tackle systematic poverty. In the five years since the inception of this project, the Churches in Tile Hill have set up and grown a range of projects supporting needy people in the community. The Job Club and Make Lunch project are among notable successes. The previous project that the Trust donations have help support has been the recruitment of a Youth Worker at St Andrews Church who provides youth activities in the community. Although no donations were made to Together for Change during 2021, the Trust requested proposals be put forward for future funding and it was agreed that the Trust would donate £5,000 in January 2022 to the Good Neighbours project.

The Coventry Children's Boot Fund started in 1893 with the object of providing boots to children in poverty so that they could attend school. The fund has served Coventry's poorest children through two world wars, the depression of the 30's and the ups and downs of the 20th century. Even today, many children attend school wearing worn out leaking shoes in winter, because their parents cannot afford to replace them, which makes you realise that the Boot Fund is as relevant today as it was over a hundred years ago. The Coventry Children's Boot Fund received a donation of £3,000 in 2021.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Appendices 2

2022 Annual Report from the Leigh Educational Foundation

John Astle
Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Councillor

The LEF continues to work for young people under 25 from Stoneleigh, Ashow, Leek Wootton and Burton Green by providing financial support and assistance for school/educational trips both home and abroad, school uniform and equipment, university/college/training expenses and grants to schools, teams and youth groups of all kinds.

The Foundation has granted over £23,825 to such causes during the year 2021.

The LEF continues to update its own website throughout the year: www.leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk.

Applicants can now find application forms to fill in and submit online or the clerk can still be contacted by phone and asked to post out application forms.

Contact details of the clerk:

Email: admin@leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk

Telephone: 01926 419300 / 07831 816638

Appendices 3

STONELEIGH UNITED CHARITIES 2022 Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting

The ancient charities of Stoneleigh were combined in 1970 to become Stoneleigh United Charities. Details of the original bequests can be seen inscribed on the balcony in Stoneleigh Church.

The purpose of the charity is to provide financial assistance to those in the villages of Stoneleigh, Ashow and Stareton who are in need.

The United charity receives its income from interest on its long-term investments and two generous donations each year from the estate charity of Duchess Dudley.

The Charity is administered by a Clerk to the trustees and a board of five trustees. In the past the charity has helped towards costs such as hospital visits, emergency property repairs, winter heating costs and emergency advances. Every Christmas the charity makes donations to elderly local villagers and those who have come to their attention as being in need, or perhaps having had a particularly hard year. The charity also makes annual contributions to larger local charities as a way of supporting residents who may have use of these. In 2021 the charity supported the following local charities: Air Ambulance, Myton Hospice, The Addington Fund (supporting farmers in need), The Friends of Warwick Hospital and The Salvation Army (Leamington Branch). In the past year the charity has also provided funds towards equipment to maintain the churchyards of Stoneleigh Church and Ashow Church.

The charity welcomes requests for support from the residents of the three villages, or perhaps from their neighbours on their behalf. These requests will be considered at the biannual meetings, or more quickly if there is an emergency. The Clerk to the trustees is Hannah Watts, to whom initial enquiries for assistance should be made. Hannah can be contacted by phone on 01788 890618 or by email: stoneleighunitedcharities@gmail.com.

Appendices 4

SCHEDULE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 2022 – March 2023

Meetings commence at 7pm unless otherwise stated.

April 14th 2022 – Stoneleigh Village Hall

May 12th 2022 (to include the Annual Meeting)– Stoneleigh Village Hall

June 9th 2022– Stoneleigh Village Hall

July 14th 2022 – Ashow Village Club

September 8th 2022– Stoneleigh Village Hall

October 13th 2022– Ashow Village Club

November 10th 2022– Stoneleigh Village Hall

December 8th 2022– Ashow Village Club

January 12th 2023– Stoneleigh Village Hall

February 9th 2023– Ashow Village Club

March 9th 2023– Stoneleigh Village Hall

Please note due to the summer recess, there will be no scheduled meeting in August.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

A notice to residents with the final time and date together with the agenda items will be published on the Parish Council noticeboards at least three days before each meeting. The agenda, including all planning applications, will also be published on the Parish Council website.