

**STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**The meeting was held in person in the village hall.**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Neil Pyman (Chair) Wendy Anderson  
Martyn Fall Andrew Drysdale (arrived late)  
Val Kerrison Nathan Robbins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Richard van Dulken (Braintree District Council)  
5 members of the public  
Debbie Hilliard – Clerk

**25/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**25/26 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed.

**25/27 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022**

None.

*Andrew Drysdale arrived at the meeting.*

**25/28 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Neil Pyman reported:

We come to the end of another year with Stambourne Parish Council and, of course, I want to thank all councillors, old and new, for their hard work.

A special mention and thanks to Vanessa and Michael who have resigned from the Parish Council this year. Their work has been greatly appreciated, and it goes without saying that they will be greatly missed. We must also acknowledge the support of the District Councillor, Richard van Dulken. Thanks also to Michael Turner for cutting the grass on the playing field, Steve Platt for his work with the website and Karen Crago for editing the newsletter.

One ongoing issue this year has been that of dogs on the playing field. This has led to lots of discussion, but I hope that after the trial period and the debate and vote at the last meeting amongst sitting councillors this has been resolved.

Happily, this year we were able to hold our very successful bonfire and firework display. Record numbers of people attended causing some problems with parking which we have made plans to rectify this coming year. Last of all I must thank Debbie, our very industrious clerk for her support and guidance over the year.

**25/29 VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

It was noted that Vanessa Young had resigned as a parish councillor and no replacement had yet been appointed. However, Wendy Anderson who was a member of the Village Hall Committee was invited to report.

Wendy reported that several events were under consideration and would be discussed at the next committee meeting. At the recent VE Day celebration, a survey was carried out of attendees to ask what they would like to see at the village hall in the future. There were 153 responses. Events such as bingo, indoor bowls and a jumble sale were popular and these would be discussed in detail at the next meeting. Wendy also reported that there would be discussion with the Deputy Chair of the village hall committee to include the survey in the village newsletter to enable all parishioners to respond.

**25/29 EMERGENCY PLANNING REPORT – MR CRAGO**

It was noted that Michael Crago had resigned as a parish councillor and no replacement had yet been appointed.

**25/30 PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPORT – MR DRYSDALE**

Nothing to report.

**25/30 FOOTPATHS REPORT – MRS GRANT**

Not present.

**25/31 PLANNING REPORT**

It was noted that all applications were seen by the parish council.

**25/32 BDC REPORT – CLLR VAN DULKEN**

Richard van Dulken's annual report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was received and accepted.

**25/33 ECC REPORT – CLLR SCHWIER**

Not present.

**25/34 GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Neil Pyman invited members of the public to submit questions and make statements:-

Many other villages are putting together a neighbourhood plan, what are Stambourne Parish Council doing?

There was a discussion around the benefits or otherwise of having a neighbourhood plan, particularly given the Local Plan Review. It was noted that having a neighbourhood plan did not guarantee that building could not take place and views of parishioners and the parish council could be overruled by the District Council or higher. It was noted that there had been 2 small sites put forward within the parish. It was noted that Parish Councillor Nathan Robbins would be attending Braintree District Council planning committee on 25 June 2025 when the Stambourne sites would be considered. It was agreed that:-

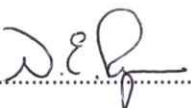
- The link for the Call for Sites on the Braintree District Council website would be put in the newsletter.
- The Clerk will explore what was required to put together a neighbourhood plan.
- Nathan Robbins would report back at the next parish council meeting.

What about removing the ash from last year's bonfire and the mesh matting on the playing field is rippled on the edges?

Bonfire – the ash has been heaped up and there was no metal to be seen. The plan was to screen it by sowing some wildflower seeds, but the lack of rain had prevented this. The ash was usually removed every 2-3 years, not more frequently due to cost. Thistles have been sprayed off.

Mesh matting – it was noted that this had been worked on very recently by Neil, Martyn and Andrew but they did have additional pegs if needed. It was agreed that this will be reviewed after the tractor run on 1 June.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.00pm.

Signed:  .....

Dated:  .....