

STREATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2019

Present: Councillors Mr J Farrent (Chairman)
 Mr I Ormiston (Vice-Chairman)
 Mr A Button
 Mr J Carrington
 Ms S Machell
 Ms L Valentine

Four local government electors

The meeting opened at 7.40 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Donald and were accepted.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12 March 2018 were read by the Chairman. It was agreed that they were a correct record and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report was presented by the Chairman, a copy of which is attached.

4. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM STREATLEY WITH SHARPENHOE
CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

A report by Councillor Ormiston, Chairman of the Trustees, was presented on behalf of the trustees.

A copy of the report is attached.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

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CHAIR

Chairman's Annual Report

Streatley Parish Council

Annual Meeting March 11th 2019

Welcome to our annual meeting and thank you for attending.

It has been an interesting year which has included new topics to be discussed and change of personnel.

This year saw the resignation of Leslie Lodge after many years of service to the Council. She decided to stand down in order to pursue her love of novel writing, I'm sure I am not alone in wishing the very best in this. As a result this left two vacancies on the Council which were duly advertised throughout the Parish. We were fortunate to have two candidates apply for the post and, by coincidence, both from Bushmead. This area of the Parish has been sadly lacking in representatives in the past, so it was with some relief that we welcomed Lesley Valentine and Gentle Donald onto the Council. Since their inclusion they have been actively involved in getting to know the residents of that part of the Parish and their wants. Whilst talking about Bushmead a Parish Council meeting was conducted in a room at Christ Church, thanks to Gentle, but the lack of attendance by the residents of bushmead was disappointing.

Another departure from the Council is that of Darryl Denyer our Clerk. Darryl has been an asset to the Council and it's members demonstrating his wealth of knowledge and understanding of rule, procedures and grasp of the finances, which in the past has been invaluable. I'm sure the Parish and it's Council will wish Darryl and his wife all the very best in their new life in Wooton. As a result of this departure we advertised for a new Clerk and were fortunate to have two candidates apply who were duly interviewed. The panel, after much deliberation as both candidates were of equal standing, we decided to appoint Anne Smith who has had previous experience as a council Clerk.

The main topic of conversation of both the residents and councillors has been the application for a shooting range to be sited at Prince's Corner. The residents have voiced their opinion both to the Parish councillors and through the Nextdoor website. Your Councillors have been active in gathering relevant information regarding noise and traffic nuisance and have been to local shooting ranges for first experience of how these establishments are run. The Council organised a Public meeting to which representatives from the Bedfordshire Smallarm Shooting Assoc. were invited. They were given the opportunity to put their case to a well-attended meeting and to answer questions from the audience. The residents then held their own Public meeting which was a "drop in" forum at which plans, photographs and drawings were displayed to give an overall picture of the proposal. We are now waiting for a response from Central Beds. as to their decision. It was reassuring that when an issue, which is close to residents hearts, such as this they can pull together.

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CHAIR

Highways and Footpaths

The litter picking initiative has been a successful venture. The team, which meet once a month, have collected a vast amount of rubbish from the verges and ditches throughout the Village and has helped to make the Village a little tidier, although I have to say that it is disheartening when a couple days after the pick there is evidence of take-away boxes and empty cans. My thanks go to the team and in particular Sally Machell as our Commander in Chief.

After some long time in negotiation with CBC regarding the hedge/coppice at the bottom of Church Road and who would pay for it the Council “bit the bullet” and asked a local tree surgeon to trim and tidy up that area. Whether or not it is coincidence or not, but the area in the lay-by has seen far less rubbish and detritus since it has been done, a job worth doing.

We have had the usual comments regarding volume and speed of traffic not only in Streatley but from residents of Bushmead. There is not an awful lot we can do about it given the money and resources at our disposal. All comments/complaints are sympathetically looked at and passed to CBC for their comments, which is usually “we can’t afford it, but we would consider it if Streatley Parish Council paid for it”. When you consider road humps would cost £4-5K, which is half of our precept, then at present, they are out of the question. Speed cameras have been suggested, but again they are expensive to install and there is ongoing maintenance and they also require a clear unobstructed view to be effective.

On a positive note Cllrs. Jim Carrington and Adrian Button have ceaselessly pestered CBC regarding the speed limit through Sharpenhoe and were rewarded with a speed reduction to 30 MPH. They are now hoping to have this limit extended all the way to The Mill at Harlington, which is the extent of the Parish. Thank you Jim and Adrian for their patience and tenacity in getting this done.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Council for their time and effort not only at the bi-monthly meetings, but during the interim when a great deal more work has been conducted without recognition, also thanks the members of the Public that make the effort to attend the meetings and for their input to what at times is a lively discussion.

John Farrent

March 2019

STREATLEY WITH SHARPENHOE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES
ASSET POSITION AS AT 31/12/18.

Value of 811.856 units in the Black Rock fund	£1510.06
Value of 556.18 units in Charities Official Investment fund	£7987.19
National Westminster Bank	£1000.14

TOTAL	£10501.39
Less outstanding cheque	£360.00
Less funds owed to trustees	£60.00

TOTAL	£10081.39

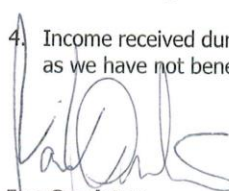
A decrease of £55.83 after distributions since the last report, representing an investment loss of 0.53%.

IAN ORMISTON
CHAIRMAN.

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CHAIR

STREATLEY WITH SHARPENHOE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.18

1. Beneficiaries this year reduced to 16 and it was decided to retain the level of distribution to each person at £20. The decision by the Trustees to defer any reduction in the level of funds kept in the bank current account was justified given the volatility of stock markets during the year. Taking into account distributions during the year, funds decreased by £55.83, which represents an overall level of investment loss of 0.53%, an acceptable return given the circumstances.
2. In addition to the usual beneficiaries we decided once again to donate £100 to the Keech Hospice for which we have received a very appreciative letter of thanks. The trustees have been invited to visit the Hospice, an offer which one or more of the Trustees will be accepting during the current year.
3. The Charity's funds are managed by the Charity's Official Investment Fund and Black Rock Investment Managers as in previous years. The Trustees felt that there was no need to change this arrangement.
4. Income received during the year ending 31st December 2018 is solely from investment as we have not benefitted from any further donations or bequests.



Ian Ormiston
Chairman