



# Long Stratton Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 20th May 2019

6.30pm

Long Stratton Methodist Church

- 1) Welcome to the meeting from the Parish Council  
Councillor Lansdell gave a warm welcome to all in attendance.  
  
The minutes of the last meeting were proposed, seconded and signed as a true record.
- 2) Apologies for absence  
Councillor Woodham and Worsley gave apologies as well as District Councillor Josh Worley.
- 3) To receive reports from
  - a. County Councillor  
The County Councillor was not present at the Annual Parish Meeting.
  - b. District Councillor  
The District Councillor was not present at the Annual Parish Meeting.
  - c. Parish Council delivered by Steve Adcock; chairman for 2018-19

Little did I imagine when I spoke at this meeting last year that I would be again giving the report as Chairman on behalf of Long Stratton Parish Council. Of course, this will be that last report of the workings of the Parish Council as Stratton is now a town and has a Town Council. As I said last year, I was elected Vice-chair with Kevin Worsley being Chairman. Since his operation in April 2018 progress has been unfortunately slow for him but I am pleased to say that he is now back to his old self and was last week re-elected as Chairman of the Town Council. I wish him every success in this role.

So, what have we done over the last year? Again, reading last year's report I can say the same that we have attended to the Poo Bins, we have attended to problems with streetlights and kept the playing field up and running and in good order. On the subject of the playing field and the park the old pavilion was demolished, and the outdoor gym equipment moved to get ready for the new community pavilion to be built. Work was started but unfortunately the company went into administration and so work is currently on hold for a short while. We have discovered that we did all the right financial checks on the company and the administration order was not expected and beyond anything we could have discovered. Hopefully a new contract will be awarded soon, and our community pavilion will be a great new asset to the Town.

Again, as I reported last year, we are forming a Neighbourhood plan and the end is in sight. We are hoping to have it before an inspector by the end of the summer. Consultations have taken place at various times throughout the year and responses have been very helpful enabling us to make good progress. All the information and the latest draft are available to view on the website.

Every year planning throws up different issues from the small change to major ones. This year the Orbit Application for St Mary's Road has been through SNDC and was rejected and is now up for appeal, so we await the result of that. The new application for the Norfolk Homes houses on the North West of Stratton and the outline planning application of the 1200 and the by-pass on the East should be in any time now. One to watch out for.

Christmas, if I'm allowed to mention it in the middle of May. We added to our display of lights but unfortunately the Christmas event had to be cancelled. There are plans afoot for this year so keep in touch with the council for more details.

Getting down to giving our thanks for this year. Thank you to Councillors at County and District level who have supported us this year. Thank you to Councillor Caroline Francis who has decided to stand down after fulfilling her term of office. Thank you to Tom and Derek for their hard work outside and around the village, Thanks to Jess for her admin support but a huge thank you to Becky for all her hard labour. I don't know if any of us realise the pressures and the stick that Becky gets while doing a job, I know she loves. Thank you.

As many of you will know I decided not to put my name forward for election this year, although there were not enough candidates to have an actual election, so I am no longer apart of this fine group of councillors. It leaves just to wish them, and our new District Councillors, every success in all they do for Long Stratton and I ask that we as residents give them all the support we can as they do this thankless task.

d. Neighbourhood Plan – delivered by Councillor Mackenzie

Over the past 12 months the Neighbourhood plan committee have carried out several consultations. It became apparent that it was the same demographics that were attending and therefore the committee changed locations and carried out consultations in the schools and leisure centre to reach out to all of the community and have comments that derived from a wide group of people and ages. Rachel Hogger from Modicum planning is the Neighbourhood planning consultant, she is; by using the research and consultation comments; drafting the Neighbourhood Plan which is available in its draft format on the website. Comments are continuously invited as the plan continues to evolve. The committee are hoping to have a final draft in the coming months with consultation in the summer.

e. Nicholas Porter Charity – delivered by Councillor Lansdell

Councillor Lansdell gave a breakdown of the accounts of the Nicholas Porter Charity, he advised that there had been 1 recipient who had received oil in the winter months.

Question was asked whom does the charity support. Councillor Lansdell that it is a charity that was set up many years ago with the sole purpose of assisting families in financial hardship. The Charity is made up of 3 trustees, Councillors Lansdell & Baker and Reverend Heather Willcox. The Charities income derives from rent of a small piece of land. It was discussed how the Town Council could assist the Charity and how the Charity could become better known in the village. Councillor Baker will look to write a piece about the charity in the local magazine.

f. PCC – delivered by Reverend Willcox

St. Mary's and St. Michaels churches are just two of the churches in the Long Stratton and Pilgrim team Ministry of which I am Team Rector. Across the 8 churches in 2018 we had a Parish Share request of £87,509 which we had to pay to the Diocese. For St. Mary's that meant a request of £29,207 and for St. Michaels £6,754.

Despite common misconceptions about the church and money, churches are not supported by the state, your taxes do not go towards the church, local churches are supported and funded by the local community and any financial reserves they may have. St. Mary's has no reserves, whilst St. Michaels does have the Revd John Cowall trust, which maintains the allotments in the village.

Hence, as is often the case up and down the country, it is up to 1-2% of the village population to try and raise all the money needed, through generous giving and fundraising, to ensure the building is there for everyone

in the village at their time of need. The Parish share which covers the costs of ministry, housing and training amongst other things, is by far the largest expenditure the churches face, with insurance also being a considerable expenditure and in the case of St. Mary's electricity – our December bill can often be over £900!

In 2018 both churches failed to pay 100% of the parish share request, St. Michaels paying 93% the first time in 5 years they haven't been able to pay the full amount, St. Mary's 77% which was still an incredible £22,500!

Whilst we have our own financial commitments, as Christians we are committed to serving others, and we support a CMS Timothy partner in DR Congo, working in Lumbumbashi to support street children through day centres and short-term residential care. We commit to giving at least £1000 a year to support this work, we also raise money for Christian Aid (849.61 in 2018) and Children's society (£518.82 in 2018) regularly and send money to the British Legion from the Remembrance Sunday service and a charity of our choice for Harvest, with food items going to the local foodbank.

St. Mary's church runs a foodbank distribution centre, which sadly is very well used, volunteers at the food bank are a mix of church members and volunteers who would otherwise have little involvement with the church.

As a church community we seek to serve the village in a variety of ways, we work closely with the schools, I take collective worship in Manor Field and St. Mary's regularly, and we have an Open the Book team that goes into St. Mary's weekly. The schools visit the church regularly for curricular activities and events, and we have 3 foundations governors at St. Mary's school. I also help to run a More2Life lunchtime club at the High school on a Friday, and recently helped lead a Prayer spaces week.

Our fundraising events are often more about building community than raising money. We see community as being our first priority. Flower festivals and Christmas tree festivals in the last few years have been very successful and have led to the formation of a Let's chat group in the church on a Tuesday morning, where people simply come to chat, enjoy tea and coffee and homemade cake. It's a very popular group for many people.

We have a commitment to maintain the church buildings. In 2018 in St. Mary's we have removed the step into the chancel, levelling the floor to enable better disabled access. We have some significant work to do to repair the nave, chancel and North Aisle roofs, and in the next year will be applying for funding of over £250,00 to begin this work. Whilst repairing the roofs, we will be able to do some work reordering the inside of the church, to make it more suitable for a growing population and for the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with plans to make the floor completely level access, have more flexible seating, whilst preserving our amazing and rather unique heritage.

St. Michaels is in a good state of repair, with some remedial works done on the electrics this past year to comply with current legislation.

The churchyards are well maintained in both churches, and we are grateful to the Parish council for their support with covering maintenance costs for the churchyards.

I could go on, there is a lot that happens in the churches, if you would like to know more, I have brought a couple of copies of this year's annual reports for St. Mary's which may be of interest.

g. Fireworks – delivered by Ian Hetherington

This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year we have put fireworks on for the community. It is a completely free event for the community with any money raised through charity buckets goes to the Church. Last year the police estimated that there were between 2500-3000 parishioners attending. All the stall holders present keep all their profits to help support their community group. The event is funded through sponsorship and the fireworks are delivered by Titanium who supply the fireworks on the Thames in London. This year's event will hopefully be bigger and will occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

h. WI – report delivered by Councillor Baker on behalf of Di Woodham, Chairman of WI

Long Stratton WI meet monthly at the village hall every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. We have a range of speakers i.e work of the Norfolk Rescue Service, Oxford University in the 1940, how music stopped my life, drawings of a life model, Lachasse of London Fashion House but to name a few so our programme is very varied.

This year we celebrated our Norfolk Federation centenary with a service at Norwich Cathedral where over 200 members sang Jerusalem which was a very moving vocal.

Our WI is affiliated to the South Norfolk group and we meet up every year, this year our speaker was Keith Skipper, a columnist for the E.B.P; to say he was very funny would be an understatement. Although we are small in number, we are an established group, a few more ladies would be welcome.

i. Health (Patient Participation Group; PPG)- delivered by Councillor Mortimer

Did you know that most GP surgeries in your area have a Patient Participation Group (PPG)? These groups of volunteer patients work with the practice staff and their fellow patients; each PPG is unique and determines their own activities according to their local needs and the practice itself. Patients have long valued the relationship with their GP and general practice. However, the dynamics of this relationship have changed over recent years – patients today rightly want more say in their own healthcare, they are better informed and expect to be treated as whole people, not just as a condition or ailment. PPGs have an increasingly important role to play in helping to give patients a say in the way services are delivered to best meet their needs, and the needs of the local community. They can identify changes that the practice may not have considered, allowing resources to be used more efficiently. On behalf of the PPG at Long Stratton Medical Partnership we are looking for younger patients (16-35), carers and those with long term chronic conditions to join our group so that we can continue to represent our patient population. We have held many health information events on Wellbeing, Diabetes, Dementia, Mental Health and Stomach/Bowel Health to support patients to look after themselves and will continue to deliver these. If you are not able to volunteer, you can still support us by talking to us. Regular feedback either via the surgery website or by writing to us care of the surgery is invaluable, your experiences, comments (positive or negative) will help us shape the future of our local service. Thank you LSNFPPG

j. Brownies & Guides – delivered by Josie Thurston

Long Stratton Guides last year used grant money to purchase a gazebo and shelving to store tents on. The girls went to NORJAM; August 2018 camp at Norfolk Showground and a report was in the Sextons Wheel. The girls had a fantastic time at the 1940's sub camp. In Long Stratton we have approx. 85 girls over 4 groups; Rainbows ages 5-7, Brownies age 7-10 (2 groups), guides ages 10-14 and rangers ages 14-18. Scouts and guides are still looking for suitable premises/ own building for their own headquarters. Scouts also have approx. 85 members.

k. Scouts

There was no representative from Scouts although Josie Thurston advised they have 85 members and are looking for their own land/ building to act as headquarters.

l. Youth Café – Delivered by Councillor Pochin

I have been in charge of the Youth café for the past 8 years and have seen approx. 85 children come along over those years. Currently we have 25-30 children on Tuesday evenings in the Methodist Church. We have recently dropped our age limit to age 9. The youth café operates between 7-8:30pm, subs are £1.50 per child. Volunteers are always needed as need a minimum of 3 per night to keep the youth café working.

m. Bowls Club – delivered by Gill Banks

I am the secretary for the Bowls Club. We are pleased to be developing a relationship with the Town Council as we have had little interaction prior to 2017 and we are keen to move forward. We are a self-sufficient club with 39 members. Peter Smith is our groundsman and thanks to him we have one of the best greens in

Norfolk. We play in 4 different leagues which means that during the season there are often games every evening. The season runs from end of April to beginning of September and membership costs £35.00. The loss of the pavilion has caused a few challenges this season with loss of a light and parking being the main issues however a new pavilion will be welcome, and we have been encouraging car share as much as we can. New members are welcome.

n. Football Club – delivered by Paul Simmons

Its been a rough but rewarding year despite many challenging situations for the club, however it has remained stable throughout, but only because of the hard working committee and helpers from this community which effortlessly and without question, go above beyond all expectations to help the club succeed.

As you know our normal facilities were demolished last July. We, with permission from the Council built some temporary changing facilities for us to continue to play in the Anglian Combination league. We look forward to the new facilities which will lift the appearance of the club along with the latest ground improvements.

First team, Anglian combination premier league

Highest league finish in the clubs history, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and challenged for the title most of the season but only and strong finish from Sheringham held us back from promotion. Our first cup final for many a year see us come runners up to a very strong UEA side but it was still a fantastic season.

Reserves, Anglian combinations, division 3

After last season where we struggled to keep our place in division 3, and now with Steve Race back in charge, the reserves have had an exceptional season, bolstered by and injection of young up and coming players from last seasons successful U19 team. Steve has steered the young reserves to 4<sup>th</sup> place in a very strong league.

U21's, Norwich and District Sunday League division 4

Following end of the NDSL U19 league, we entered a team named U21 specifically for our youth teams when finishing at U16 we a transition team from youth to football.

Ladies, Norfolk Women's and Girls football league division 2

A strong season from the ladies finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 2.

U16, Norfolk combined youth football league, championship

A strong season for u16's finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the championship, and semi finalists in both cups, before most of the team will progress to U21 and reserves football.

U13, Norfolk combined youth football league, division 1.

A strong finish this season with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a tough league. Unfortunately no cup success this season.

U11, Norfolk combined youth football league, development football

Some great progress with the U11's and looking to be strong moving into competitive football next season.

U9, Norfolk combined youth football league, development football

Some great progress with the U8's and with more and more players joining we move to 7 a side next season.

Mini Kickers 5-7

Mini kickers runs on a Thursday evening and now attracts up to 20 youngsters from the local community, from which we will be starting a new U8's team next season.

### Wildcats

Wildcats over the last year has signed on over 40 girls aged 5-11. It's a friendly casual session, where girls can keep active, make new friends whilst learning to play the beautiful game. We will start 2 new girls teams off the back of Wildcats

### Walking football

Catering for the football enthusiast over 40's and regularly getting 15-20 participants.

#### o. Other

Village Hall – delivered by Reverend Willcox

It has been a busy year which has seen the village hall being fully booked for most of the year. There is a committee that meets to look at the maintenance of the building. They are holding a Community fun-day in September and a pamper evening. Regular cinema afternoons have seen a small profit and has led to grant funding being looked at to purchase their own cinema equipment. Maintenance carried out this year includes replacing the heating system and a building rewire, a new ceiling and lighting and currently a repaint.

- 4) The meeting to be opened for discussions and any other business. Any resolutions may be put forward for consideration

A parishioner enquired over the future of the Methodist Church. It is well known that the future of the building is uncertain and where possible could the Town Council seek to keep the building as a community asset. Reverend Willcox advised that conversations had been had regarding the building and that it is her and Tony Colemans intention to have a public meeting to discuss the buildings future.

*With there being no further comments, the Chairman thanked all those for coming and contributing and closed the Annual Parish Meeting for Long Stratton at 19:30.*