

OLD STRATFORD ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
to be held in the Memorial Hall
TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM

**This is your chance to quiz Councillors on
matters affecting Old Stratford**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2016 AOM (previously displayed nb)**
- 3. Any Outstanding Matters**
(The Swan, Blackhorse Field Housing and other development updates)
- 4. Petitions or Questions from Electors**
(required in writing to the clerk by 12 noon 25th April)
- 5. Adoption of Accounts**
- 6. Report from Northamptonshire Police**
- 7. Report from NCC Highways**
- 8. Report from District Councillor**
- 9. Report from County Councillor**
- 10. Any Other Business**

**OLD STRATFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

Chairman's Report

Chairman's Spring Report

Let me start the Spring Report by welcoming our new Councillor Mrs Murgatroyd and a welcome return to our Parish Council Mrs Tate who has returned to our Council after a short break. At this point I would like to say that we do still have a vacancy for a Councillor, so any one who may be interested please, you are welcome to come along to one of our meetings and introduce yourself, meetings are held in the Memorial Hall every second Tuesday of each Month with the exception of August; Alternatively you may contact our Parish Clerk and pass your interest on to him.

Village tidy:

Parish Councillor's, residents and children helped with the village tidy-up in December; once again it was a really good event and all those who took part enjoyed the experience, so much so they all those who attended the last clean up suggested that we made it a quarterly event. Those involved managed to collect 26 sacks of rubbish and some scrap metal and wood. Once again thank you to Residents, Parish Councillor's and children who all helped.

Spring Clean Up

As part of our on-going Village tidy campaign the Parish Council are organising another village tidy up. This is to take place on the **Saturday 29th April 2017**; the tidy up will take place between 9.00am and 11.00am. All materials and equipment, needed for the tidy up, will be provided.

Anyone wishing to help please meet at the Memorial Hall at the above time, equipment will be provided. More information to follow please see Notice Boards and Parish Council Web site

www.oldstratford.org.uk

APRIL 2017

Heavy Goods Vehicle Problems:

The Parish Council carried out a heavy goods vehicle traffic survey' many thanks to Councillor Carey for his sterling work on this project. From this survey we contacted many of the transport companies whose vehicles were travelling through Old Stratford. To date we have had three responses and they all say that if residents see any heavy goods vehicle passing through Old Stratford at speed they should take a note of the vehicle number and the name of the transport company and report that information to the Parish Clerk. Once again I like to say a big thank you to Councillor Carey.

Street Lighting

Street lighting, or lack of, in Towcester and London Road appears to make the area very dark, the Parish Council, initially, were informed, by the County Council, that those street lights that were on, would be replaced with new ones and those that were switched off would be removed and at the time the Parish Council requested that two lights on the right hand side of Towcester and London road to be switched back on, at which point they were. However, the Parish Council was not informed and/or consulted when the County Council and their Contractor's Belfour Beatty removed all the street lights on the right hand side of Towcester and London Road, subsequent the Parish Council asked the County Council for a meeting to discuss this issue, a meeting was held and from the discussions which took place, it was evident that the lights on the right hand side of the Towcester and London road would not be replaced. Representatives from the Parish Council requested if it would be possible to reinstall two lights at their own expense as well as the running and maintenance cost; the reply was somewhat stark, yes but; was the reply. Unfortunately 'the but'; was that the Parish Council would have to pay for a new lighting survey and they would have to use the County Council's contractor to carry out this new lighting survey. If this new showed that the installation of our two reinstated lights disrupted the designed lighting pattern, then the Parish Council would have to pay, not only for the new lighting survey, but if the survey showed that the lighting pattern had been disrupted by the installation of the Parish lights, the Parish Council would have to pay for all the existing lights to be moved to conform to the County Council's lighting pattern. It was felt that this would incur high cost which the Parish Council could not justify. It was

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:

Tony Pateman **32 Mounthill Avenue** **01908 567907**

Vice Chairman:

Nicky Lawrence **11 Chapmans Drive** **07967756988**

Council:

Colin Carey **71 Dickens Drive** **01908 569171**

Alan Holloway **45 Willow Grove** **01908 562761**

Karen Morris **95 Deanshanger Road** **07532161875**

Lynda Murgatroyd **19 Towcester Road** **07713622328**

Linda Ritson **The Old Rectory, Passenham** **01908 566014**

Noeleen Ryder **96 Mounthill Avenue** **01908 263244**

Ray Smith **18 Deanshanger Road** **01908 564815**

Susan Tait **9 Willow Grove** **01908 563182**

Vacancy

Clerk:

Derek Everett **10 Deanshanger Road** **01908 569053**
(clerk@oldstratford.org.uk)

District Councillor:

Kenneth Pritchard **The Barn, Puxley Road** **07764939070**
(ken.pritchard@southnorthants.gov.uk)

County Councillor:

Allen Walker **17 Porters Close, Deanshanger** **01908 260302**
(awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Old Stratford Council website : www.oldstratford.org.uk

home-made soup - I'm afraid the recipe will remain a secret! If you are over the age of 65, you are welcome to join us - just contact the Community Hall on 01908 307461 and we will add you to the invitation list. If we don't know about you, we can't send you an invitation! The date for this year is **Saturday 9th December**.

Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

These will continue to run on the last Friday of every month (except December), between 2pm and 4pm in the Memorial Hall, offering hot drinks, sandwiches and cakes, as well as alternating monthly between Bingo and a Raffle. For those of you who enjoy our Christmas Party, why not try out our afternoon teas - you'll see lots of familiar faces and will be made very welcome.

And finally, we would once again like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council for the generous support that we receive from them every year. We know their budgets are extremely tight but they continue to help us with a yearly donation that allows us to subsidise the groups and events at the Hall. Without their support we would find it very difficult to hold our Fireworks Display and Christmas Party, so we are extremely grateful to them.

Please don't forget that we offer discounted hire rates to village residents so when you are thinking of where to hold a child's party or some other special occasion, not only are we offering very competitive rates to other local halls, you are also supporting your community as well.

The Old Stratford Community Hall Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the above Committee will be held on

**Wednesday 26th April, 2017 in the Memorial Hall
commencing 7.30 pm
everyone is welcome**

felt by those at the meeting that the issue of Old Stratford Street lighting was, as far as the County Council Engineers were concerned it was a done deal. We have also got to obtain a license to temporarily install the Speed Indicator Devices that the Parish own.

Regarding the upgrade to the street lighting around the village; a full specification and business plan has now been completed and an application for funding has been submitted to claim money from our ring-fenced new homes bonus fund. This is money set aside for our village from new developments within our village, we should now see an upgrade shortly.

News in General:

The Blackhorse Field development is now moving at a pace and I believe that phase one is almost complete and phase two is now well on its way. I am not certain when the village will take over the allotments but at present the sites store area is still in the allotment allocated area. Once we are able to take them over the Parish Clerk will contact those who have expressed an interest in running or wishing to have an allotment plot.

The quarry at Passenham is still on going, the good news is that ham meadow has now been taken out of the mineral plan and at present is now no longer under threat.

I have to remind all residents; once again, regarding the need to be vigilant with regards to property burglaries and thefts from vehicle, most recent incidents have been thefts from vehicles or damage to vehicles. Any resident feeling that they have spotted something suspicious they should telephone the Police on 101 and/or our Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinator Mrs Jackie Ibell, telephone No: 01908 562677.

As stated in my autumn report the Parish Council were investigating the installation of planters around the village. Once again it is thanks to Councillor Carey and his tireless efforts to steer this project that we have now applied for grant funding to assist paying for these. I would also like to ask any local business who would like to sponsor one or more of these planters, their help would be much appreciated. All sponsors would be able to place their name on the planter advertising that they have contributed towards the planter.

Any Villager wishing to help with the regular up keep of these floral displays please forward your name to the Parish Clark via the Village web site. www.oldstratford.org.uk

We still have problems with dog fouling; it's a regular complaint from residents regarding dog mess contaminating the grass verges and play areas. The Parish Council have installed many dog waste bins around the village. **SO PLEASE BAG IT & DISPOSE OF IT IN THE PROVIDED BINS.**

Once again I would also like to thank the Parish Clerk for all the work he conducts on behalf of Old Stratford and Passenham, as I previously stated; it may seem that sometimes he is taken for granted, but, once again may I say "please do not feel this way" because the Parish Council and myself would struggle without your support and all the effort you tirelessly carries out on our behalf.

Before I close my report I would just like to congratulate Mrs Gill Tee (MBE) on her retirement from our Primary School. Mrs Tee has worked for many years at the village school, the Parish Council and I hope she has an enjoyable retirement. Since my original report, we are also sad to learn that Mrs Tee's husband Cecil has unfortunately passed away after a long illness bravely borne. Cecil was once a long serving member of the Parish Council and at one time he was also a serving District Councillor. Our thoughts go with Gill and her family.

Tony Pateman
Chairman

Next Village Litter Pick

Saturday 29th April 2017; the tidy up will take place between 9.00am and 11.00am.

Just turn up if you can

Old Stratford Community Hall News.

Saying Goodbye To..

After nearly 17 years working at the Community Hall, we are saying goodbye to Lesley Peach who has managed and looked after the Hall for the village. She has worked many an unsocial hour without complaint and we can't thank her enough for all her hard work and dedication, not to mention the laughter and calmness that she so often brings to us all! All the committee wish her and Kevin our very best wishes and hope they enjoy their travels! We hope to see her popping in now and then to say hello to us, or enjoying a cuppa at our afternoon teas!

We are delighted to welcome Lesley's replacement to the team - Gerry Scovell - and look forward to working with her. Tracy Fields who has been covering Lesley's day off and holiday cover for quite a few years is also standing down as Relief Caretaker, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in taking up this position, please contact the Hall for more information. We would like to thank Tracy for all her help and hard work supporting us and Lesley. Adverts for the Relief Caretaker position will be around the village and in the local shop.

And now for a quick update about our two events at the end of last year, as well as some information about this year's dates.

Fireworks Display

We had a record number of visitors last year and hope you all enjoyed the evening. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change the date of our display this year. So please make a note in your diaries that our display is on **Saturday 11th November**. Gates open at 5.30pm with the display starting at approximately 6.30pm. For the first time since we started this event we have had to increase our admission fee for adults to £2.50. Children under 16 are still free of charge! We hope this slight increase will not deter you from coming along and enjoying the evening.

This is the main fundraising activity for our pre-school so please do come earlier than the display to treat yourself to some of their delicious cooking!

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

It was lovely to see some new faces at our Christmas Party last year, whilst sad that some are no longer with us. But, we all had a fun afternoon and we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped, especially Sheila Shepherd who did all the cooking. We had some lovely comments from the guests, especially for her amazing

TADD

(Towcester Area Door to Door)

How much does it cost?

Annual membership is from £15.00. In addition to the annual membership, there is typically a 'per journey' cost. Some schemes accept concessionary bus passes to cover the 'per journey' cost.

You will be required to pay the service provider directly and will need to contact the relevant service for further information

Voluntary car schemes operate with volunteer drivers using their own vehicles to take passengers to pre-booked destinations. These must be medically related appointments.

E –Mail : tadd@btconnect.com

Phone: 01327 810300

WHALLEY'S APPRENTICING CHARITY

(Stony Stratford, Cosgrove & Old Stratford)

Applicants of 16 years and over, can claim up to a maximum of £100 towards Books and Equipment required for their chosen profession.

For more information or application form:
please contact

Derek Everett the Parish Clerk on 01908 569053

Old Stratford Craft Club

Meets on Mondays 2—4.30pm in the Memorial Hall,
Deanshanger Road.

Highways issues

A reminder that **highway defects** such as pot holes, blocked drains and other highway defects can be reported to Street Doctor 0300 126 1000 (Option 4) or via the Northants County Council website (www.northamptonshire.gov.uk).

However, the best course of action is to contact the Parish Clerk Derek Everett on 01908 569053 or via the website www.oldstratford.org.uk who will do it for you and can keep tabs on repairs or works required on behalf of the Parish Council. This also applies to any **street lighting** defects.

Dog Fouling Continues to be a messy issue, especially on pavements and verges. The football field and areas around play areas are already designated 'poop-a-scoop' areas attracting heavier fixed penalty fines. As a former dog owner myself I would like to think that everyone picks up after their dog (even on public rights of way across fields) but, I'm not that naive. In Oxfield Park can we at least keep it off the mown edges to the paths because children play there. Falcon Drive open space is now becoming a serious issue again..

The Parish Council have dog bins installed and you can also use the Litter bins (normally with a bin liner so if double wrapped there should be no excuse)

Litter The thorny issue of litter around the shop and the route to Elizabeth Woodford School and other areas continues to attract adverse comments, even where we have installed new litter bins. With national campaigns to 'Keep Britain Tidy' a kindly word or thought could help, or show by example and make Old Stratford a more attractive place to live.

Please do not park on or opposite bus stops

Neighbourhood Watch Report

It looks like Summer is almost here so there are a few things I should remind you about, as most of us will be enjoying the Garden.

Sheds and Garages.

Sheds are easy targets. To secure the doors and windows invest in strong locks and key operated bolts. Garages Never leave a garage unlocked especially if it is connected to the house.

Garden

Store all ladders out of sight and lock all garden tools in the shed or garage. Don't make it easy for anybody to break in. Make sure your ladders are padlocked to a wall. Consider keeping hedged shrubbery below one metre high to maximise visibility from anyone Passing by. Installing PIR lights wherever there is access to doors and windows at the front and back of property is also a good idea.

Holidays

When a property is going to be empty for a night or more, speak to a trustworthy neighbour. Tell them how long you will be away and ask them to remove all mail from the letter box and if possible to park their car there for a few nights.

Have a lovely Summer.

PHONE SCAM ALERT.

There are several scams around where people have lost thousands of pounds. The Police and Banks will NEVER ask you for banking details or PIN number on the phone or on the doorstep, similarly they would never send a 'Courier' to collect bank cards or money. Any such occurrences should be reported by phoning 101. ***Please be aware of this.***

Jacki Ibell
Neighbourhood Watch 01908 562677

Passenham United Charities

Passenham United Charities exists to give small grants to local people who live in, or have connections with the parishes of Passenham, Deanshanger, Old Stratford and Puxley.

Grants can be given to any in need; they are most frequently given in the event of a funeral and to voluntary groups. The Trustees will also give grants to parents of schoolchildren for school trips and other expenses. This would normally be arranged through the School.

The Charities' income is quite small and so grants will normally be in the region of £50 though the Trustees will consider requests for higher amounts. The Charity is unable to assist in cases requiring ongoing support.

Anyone who thinks that they may qualify for a grant and wishes to apply should contact the following in complete confidence:

Rev Christopher Murray 01908 262371
Clerk to the Charity Sally Willis 01908 561660