

North Stifford Village Community Group
Public Meeting
North Stifford Village Hall
October 20th 2010

Present; 24 members, 5 non members and;
Committee members; Chairman; Gordon Roberts: Vice chair; Ron Coville :
Secretary; Maureen Nicholas: Treasurer; Pat Dance: Lee Fullbrook; Andy Higgs;
Cliff Cowin; Darren Jones; Kevin Hooper; Catherine Hooton;

Welcome and Treasurers report.

Gordon welcomed everyone and announced that a committee member, Martin Thurgood had resigned from the committee due to work commitments, so there would be a vacancy. Gordon announced a thank you to Martin for his contributions and hard work during his time on the committee, which was very much appreciated.

Due to our treasurer having lost her voice, Gordon read out a breakdown of the income and expenditure over the summer months. This including a small loss on the summer barbecue, the cost of planting perennials in the village and box hedging for the Stifford Green War Memorial. On the later subject, Gordon advised that the committee would appreciate help with planting the hedging on Saturday (23rd Oct) at 10 a.m. This would be in time for the remembrance service on Sunday 14th November.

Also, high visibility vests had been purchased for the regular village tidy ups. The council has given a sum of £500 for the purchase of barrels. This amount would also have to include the cost of soil and plants. This project still had to be assessed as to how many and where they could be put around the village.

Speakers:

Alan Twine, Crime Prevention Officer.

Alan gave an interesting talk and very useful tips on securing your home and belongings, rogue traders and personal safety. He supplied the forum with 'goodie bags' that contained information on all the subjects he had discussed. Alan also advised of the 'No cold calling' scheme. This is where 50% of the villagers would have to agree to go on the scheme. Thus, with a notice in windows it would warn off doorstep traders. If they ignored the sign they could be reported to Trading Standards and action could be taken. The contact for this scheme was given as Terry Everett.

Police; P.C. James Preston, community police.

James said that the village appeared to have a low crime rate. He gave crime figures for Thurrock that suggested that crime and anti social behaviour was down. However, James needed to advise and warn residents that there was a major scam in Thurrock where bogus, but very convincing phone calls are made, claiming they were from a bank and requesting the last three digits of card details as a check.

On vehicle thefts he said that new Ford cars were being targeted. A gang of thieves are using very high tech equipment to override alarms. The Ford Company are aware of the problem and are looking into it. Also, thieves are stealing number plates, so be aware and check the number plate on your car each day.

A resident of the forum commented that it was good to see police vehicles driving around Stifford Green.

The problem of car racers at lakeside was raised again, and James advised that the police operation only stopped them for a while and it appears that they have come back. He will look into the matter again.

Village sign;

Gordon referred to the leaflet given to each member of the meeting that outlined the proposal for the village sign. The proposed positioning of the sign, on the corner of the village green and entrance to Sherwood had not met with any objection by the manager of the cricket club, who lease the green. We would have to consult with the council to this effect as well. We are in the process of finding an artist to paint the scenes that would be scanned onto the sign.

Gordon went on say that the village sign would cost in the region of £2000. Cliff had been in contact with Oliver Pendered from the National Grid, who are doing maintenance work locally. They have kindly donated a sum of £500 towards the project. In addition a local charity, who Ray Smallcombe, a village resident was involved with, was prepared to consider a donation. In speaking to other residents, Gordon had been promised other donations including £25 by one of our retired residents. If anyone else were to make donations they would be gratefully received, but in the meantime the committee would continue to raise funds towards the project. Although, raised and agreed at previous public meetings the committee wished to have a final vote recorded. A formal vote to proceed with the village sign took place which was unanimous, and no objections were raised.

Social Events;

The Halloween quiz night 29th October, bring your own food and drink. £30 would be spent on prizes for the raffle but any additional gifts would be welcome.

A Christmas party for the children would need a minimum of 20 children and it was to include any grandchildren of the village residents as well. The date is December 11th in the village hall 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. up to the age of 11 years. The cost would be £2.00 per child and it would be expected, for legal reasons that they would be accompanied by an adult. Food, presents and an entertainer were also planned.

Another Race Night is planned and would be held in the village hall in February, details would be advertised later.

Dates for Remembrance Day services were confirmed for 11th November at St Mary's Church and 14th November at Stifford Green. The British Legion would attend the service at Stifford Green cenotaph, where some of the standard bearers would represent the Stepney boys, significant to those Stepney men who died in the war and whose names were on the memorial.

The Village Fete would be later next year on the 25th June.

A.O.B.

Mike Murphy suggested that when the village sign was erected, a time capsule could also be buried. This suggestion would be considered by the committee.

Next Public Meeting; 19th January 2011