

North Stifford Village Community Group - Public Meeting North Stifford Village Hall - 20th January 2010

Present; 28 members including:

Committee members - Chairman: Dennis Brockhurst; Vice chair: Gordon Roberts;
Treasurer: Graham Butterfield; Secretary: Maureen Nicholas; Lee Fullbrook; Martin Thurgood;
Andy Higgs; Kevin Brett; Cliff Cowin.

Apologies;

Ward Councillors - Neil Rockcliffe and Garry Hague.

Committee members - Treasurer: Graham Butterfield; Ron Covill; Pat Dance; Catherine Hooton;

Dennis welcomed everyone and opened the meeting;

First speaker;

Oliver Pendered from the national Grid, who explained, that they were refurbishing the overhead lines in the area from Tilbury to Lakeside. This is to ensure there will be sufficient electricity supplies due to the major planned investment in regeneration of housing and employment. Scaffolds and netting have been erected to protect roads, footpaths etc. Certain roads need to be closed overnight, signs put up to inform motorists of when, the next closure that will effect the high road leading onto the A13 roundabout/flyover (end of February).

The Constitution;

Andy went over the changes made to the previous document, explaining the reasons for the changes. Members who were in attendance voted unanimously for the new constitution.

Treasurers Report;

In the absence of Graham, who was attending the Chafford Hundred Forum meeting to represent the committee for North Stifford, Dennis advised that the North Stifford account stood at £1351.83. Recently, another £30 had been donated by The North Stifford Allotment Society to which thanks was expressed. Further monies to cover administration had been requested but we were waiting for this to be passed by the council.

Stifford Green Housing Development;

Dennis reported on the hearing regarding Mr Bottomley's second appeal, for another 80-150 dwellings. Dennis attended and was allowed to represent the village to put the objections forward. It was now up to the inquiry to make a decision. The outcome of this is awaited. If the outcome is favourable, then Mr Bottomley could then take an appeal to the secretary of state.

Second Speaker;

This was Wendy from NGAGE who advised of various free training courses that were available through A.C.E. If there wasn't a particular course that was required then you could approach them to see if they could accommodate. Leaflets were left for the members of the meeting.

Dennis announced that Wendy, along with her colleague had worked with the village residents to form the present committee and guided them through the early days to get them established. As Wendy was at the end of her employment with NGAGE sincere thanks were expressed for her involvement.

Social events;

Gordon informed the meeting of a Race Night planned for March 5th and explained that as the Thurrock Lyons would be running the event for us, some of the proceeds would go to their charity. The evening would be limited to 100 persons and the entrance would be £3.00 per person. It was confirmed that as usual, participants would bring their own food and drink.

Another event for the end of March is to be a family walk on the wild side in Davy Down. The warden Steve would be guiding the walk and there would be refreshments available. The event would be advertised on the notice boards and website.

Starting in mid February, every Thursday there is to be a coffee morning from 10.a.m. until midday in the village hall, for villagers to meet and get to know each other.

Another event that appeared to be popular last year would be a summer barbecue; it would again be on a Friday evening, earlier in the year as to have more evening light. Ideas for a live band and entertainment would be welcomed.

PCSO's;

Dennis welcomed two representatives from the community police, who advised that soon there would be available free means of identification for property markings in the area.

Concerns raised by a member of the meeting of the car racing in the early hours of the morning in Lakeside. The noise can be heard in Clockhouse Lane and Stifford Green, causing a disturbance and waking people up from their sleep.

Advice given was to phone the Essex police number on 033 3334444. After two warnings vehicles can be taken away.

Gordon enquired who he should approach for residents to be trained on speed cameras. He had been waiting for previous PCSO's to arrange this.

The meeting was reminded that the police van is in the village again on Wednesday February 17th.

Neighbourhood Watch;

Dennis explained that Martin would now be taking over this project and would be contacting the people who had already offered to be designated soldiers. He had about 300 calendars to give out plus stickers etc; and would deliver these to villagers.

Village in Bloom;

Lee updated on the spring planting that she and Maureen had completed so far. With the help of volunteers from the village, bulbs had been planted from the pub all the way down Stifford Hill to Pilgrims Lane. They had also removed quite a bit of rubbish from Stifford Hill. As well as further summer planting of flowers, a village sign and stocks for the village green were still a project on the agenda.

To improve the village environment it was suggested that a clean up of the village could be arranged. The date of Saturday, February 13th was put forward and agreed and volunteers can meet at 10.00 a.m. outside the village hall. Committee members would contact the council and community police for loan of equipment and support for safety on the highway.

A.O.B.

The subject of the Thurrock Gazette not being delivered to Stifford Green and the cottages on the hill was raised. It was suggested that the committee could write to the gazette to inquire if these areas could be included.

Lee congratulated Cliff for his DVD of the village in the snow that he gave to committee members as a Christmas Card. She had asked Cliff, to which he had agreed, to make further copies to sell to villagers to raise money for the village gardening funds. Lee said there had been a good response from residents.

Meeting closed; 9.05 p.m.

Date of next meeting; Annual General Meeting; 21st April 2010