

**North Stifford Village Community Group**  
**Public Meeting**  
**North Stifford Village Hall**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Present;** 30 members including;

Committee members; Chairman: Gordon Roberts: Vice chair: Ron Coville :  
Secretary; Maureen Nicholas: Lee Fullbrook; Martin Thurgood; Andy Higgs: Cliff  
Cowin: Darren Jones: Kevin Hooper:

**Apologies;**

Committee members; Treasurer; Pat Dance:

Welcome and Treasurers report.

Gordon welcomed everyone and, as the treasurer couldn't be present, he gave a brief account of expenditure for the summer barbecue that totalled £902.35 less income from the sale of food and the raffles, £874.00, making a loss of £28.35. This small loss would be covered by funds already raised throughout the year. Gordon explained that the whole idea of the event was to give the villagers and their families and friends an enjoyable experience. Feed back from those who attended was very positive especially for the Elvis impersonator who made the evening go well by getting people involved with the singing and dancing.

Gordon then introduced, Jackie Ball, our PCSO and welcomed her back to our patch from her secondment, as she had been away for a few months.

Jackie spoke of the re-introduction of joint training for speed guns for North Stifford and Chafford Hundred residents. The training would be carried out by Jackie and her colleagues during the daytime. Those who are willing to volunteer should give their names and contact details to Jackie at the end of the evening. This information would also go on the North Stifford Village website with Jackie's email address.

Jackie also answered the question about the return of car racing on Lakeside roads causing a disturbance for residents in Stifford Green and in Clockhouse Lane. Jackie explained that the police do not patrol the area at regular times, but they patrol randomly in an attempt to catch the culprits when they least expect it. Unfortunately they start up again when the police have gone.

Village in Bloom;

Lee reported that Maureen had put summer plants in the planter at the entrance to the village and planted up the beds with more permanent plants outside the vicarage.

There were some dead shrubs that needed to be dug out and she requested volunteers to help. Lee had contacted the council regarding the overgrown area in Marian Close, but was told that the gardeners were very busy at the moment but would do this in the autumn. Instead of another planter, which is very expensive, it had been decided to purchase wooden barrels with the money that Counsellor Neil Rockcliffe had obtained for the group and display them throughout the village. However, once in place and planted up residents living near by would be asked to water them in dry weather.

On this subject Maureen thanked Andy and Sue for regularly watering the beds outside the vicarage every day, thus ensuring that the plants become established in the present very dry weather.

#### Chafford Forum:

Philomena, chairperson of the Forum, advised that the manager of Park Inn had approached her regarding the availability of allotments in the grounds of the Park Inn. Apparently the area was originally a large vegetable garden with sheds and a greenhouse which has been unattended for many years. The manager would like the area to be redeemed at the same time offering the chance for the villages to have an allotment. Gordon advised that the present allotments in the village had a waiting list. Anyone interested to contact Philomena who would pass names onto the Park Inn.

Also, announced was a fun day on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, details are on the Chafford website.

Philomena stated at the last Chafford Forum meeting, they proposed the expenditure of approximately £6,000.00. Funding for North Stifford Village Community Group stationary was included and this would need to be passed by the council. If anything was over it could go to North Stifford, but any project would need to be presented with costs at their next meeting.

It was queried that not enough notice was given for the meeting so it was impossible for anyone to attend. Notification was needed so that all members can be prepared and attend. Philomena said there was a problem of convening the last meeting, but the next meeting would be at the Sand Martin Public House on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. It would be essential for as many members to attend for voting especially as our project for a Village Sign needed funding.

#### Social Events:

Gordon advised that the committee had plans for a Quiz on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, a Children's Christmas Party for children up to 11 years, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. and a Race Night on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Dates would be confirmed for booking the Village Hall. All events would be advertised by leafleting, newsletter and on the village website.

#### Projects:

Another Litter Pick was planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> September, volunteers welcomed.

#### Neighbourhood Watch:

Martin reported that there hadn't been any crimes reported in the village. However, reminded people of the need to be attentive in ensuring that windows and doors were not left open or unlocked when either you go out or when in the garden. Be aware of when your neighbours are out. Call the police if there are any problems of vandalism. A query was expressed that no leaflets had been received by one resident and Martin explained how Neighbourhood Watch worked. One delegated 'soldier' for an area would receive information on recent crimes and then inform their neighbours. It was queried that leaflets had not been received regarding Neighbourhood Watch. To date there wasn't anything to report from the crime reports. Although one resident said that there was a theft of a car in Clockhouse Lane just last week at around 6.30 am. Jackie advised that there was to be a new sign indicating that North Stifford was a Neighbourhood Watch area.

Speaker:

Jonathan Catton, curator and historian from Grays Museum gave a very informative and enjoyable talk. He included a slide show of the history of North Stifford and links to the surrounding areas. JC explained his role working for Thurrock Council in promoting Thurrock through its history. The library has many books on local history including the Stifford Saga, written by two North Stifford residents. More information could be found in the Grays Museum.

A.O.B.

Member of the Fete Committee:

Reported that £1,500 was raised and a presentation would be made to two charities, Help the Heroes and St Lukes Hospice, on the 28<sup>th</sup> July in the village Hall.

Delivery of the Gazette:

Dennis Brockhurst, member of N.S.V.C.G. reported back from a previous issue that not all residents received a free copy of the local Gazette. Having contacted the Gazette office the response was that it was not financially viable to increase the quota for any area.

Reception of the internet:

Andy Higgs reported that as he had experienced a slow internet speed where he lived in the High Road. He had contacted Virgin to see if there was any prospect of them installing their cable system in the village. The response was that they would not be doing so at this time.

Flags in the village:

Query was made by Pat Radley as to when the England Flags were to be removed from the lamp posts in the High Road as they were looking rather tatty and the Fete and world cup was over. Martin explained as he worked full time and needed someone to assist with holding the ladder it would be when he had time to arrange the exercise.

Next Public Meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Venue: Village Hall.

Time: 7.30 for 8.00p.m start.