

## Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council

Meeting of Annual General Meeting of Stanstead St. Margarets Parish  
Council held on Monday  
28 May 2012 at St Margarets Church, Hoddesdon Road, St Margarets.  
Commencing at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Nigel Copping , Paul Lacey, Mary Hallett, Dulcie Fordham, David Willson, Councillor  
Geoff Williamson, Barbara Lacey (Clerk)  
1 member of Stanstead St Margarets Parish.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Catherine Colhoun

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

Agreed to be a true record, proposed Nigel Copping, seconded Paul Lacey

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Nigel Copping proposed by Paul, seconded Mary, unanimous vote of confidence, Nigel accepted to be chairman again.

Paul Lacey was proposed as vice chairman by Nigel, seconded David, unanimous vote of confidence, Paul accepted the role of vice chairman again.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nigel distributed copies of his annual report (copy attached) and read it to all persons present. Paul requested a vote of thanks to Nigel for his suggestion of the minted coins for the Jubilee celebrations.

Paul will distribute coins to St Andrews school and Busy Bees nursery on Friday 1st June at the 9.00am assembly.

Nigel will distribute to St Johns in Great Amwell on Friday 1st June at 11.30am.

The member of public requested to know how the minutes of this and all meetings would be published and the clerk confirmed that copies would be forwarded to Stanstead Abbots online, the editor of the Parish magazine, together with names addresses and e-mail addresses of the parish councillors, also advising that copies of minutes can be obtained from the clerk.

If the editors of the parish magazine and website print all the information that would be at their discretion.

AGM ended at 7.55pm

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PRESENT: Nigel Copping (Chairman), Paul Lacey, David Willson, Mary Hallett, Dulcie Fordham, Councillor Geoff Williamson, Barbara Lacey (Clerk),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Catherine Colhoun

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
Paul Lacey, in respect of relationship to Clerk  
Nigel Copping - St Margaretsbury Trust, Parish Hall

AOB -

Nigel - plaques for trees  
Paul - parking,

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
Agreed to be a true record, proposed Nigel, seconded David

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) **Parish Hall**

Progressing, soon to go out to tender

(b) **Yellow lines in Sanville Gardens**

Commuter parking does not seem to be a problem; David was given advice that yellow lines need to be removed by Persimons, before the council can adopt the road.

Since the meeting David has had a reply from Howard Cook from Persimons, who has advised that an order has been placed with their contractor to remove single yellow lines and also the poles that were in place to carry "no waiting" times, this should be completed before our next meeting.

(c) **Land Registry**

No further information

**ACTION; Paul**

(d) **Lampost, Cul de Sac, Hoddesdon Road.**

Because of residents pressure regarding the placement of the lamppost, it has been decided that this idea be cancelled, Clerk to write to all residents to advise them of this.

**ACTION: Clerk**

(e) **Parish Plan**

As the information at the moment is still very vague, this will be left at the present time.

**(f) Standing Water- Hoddesdon Road bus stop**

County Councillor Roger Beeching is to be contacted as the flooding has not been resolved and it is felt a new drain should be installed in Hoddesdon Road, at the bottom of the hill (B181).  
 roger.beeching@eastherts.gov.uk or roger.beeching@hertsc.gov.uk, copy of the email requesting this to be copied to Councillor Rosemary Cheswright.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**(g) Sanville Gardens-Landscaping instead of playground**

Geoff has advised that Persimons has still not handed over monies for landscaping, it is believed that it is currently waiting for EHDC legal dept. Geoff will continue to monitor and chase.

**ACTION: Geoff**

**(h) Publicity of Council**

Paul looked into the costs for contracting a professional company to set up the website in a way that it could be changed by the parish council, the initial costs would be in the region of £400 to-£500.00 and an annual upkeep fee of £50.00 approx. In the meantime Paul has been given information about an independent website "Stanstead online" and Paul has spoke to the person who controls this website and they are interested in us using this site, to publish our minutes/agendas and any information about the parish. This looks like a very good option and Paul will contact them and offer a financial contribution from the parish for the upkeep of the website. The minutes and names and addresses and email of the parish councillors and clerk will be forwarded to the "webmaster"

**ACTION: Paul & Clerk**

**(i) Celebrations in 2012**

Nigel has requested that we purchase plaques for the 2 Oak trees planted in St Margaretsbury. It was suggested that Timpsons in Hoddesdon may have the correct type of thing and Paul and the Clerk have been given a limit of £100.00 for the 2 plaques.

Plaques to say "Planted by Nigel Copping Stanstead St Margarets P.C. for the Queens Jubilee 2012".

Nigel has 4 pots planted with red, white and blue flowers to place outside the church for the Jubilee weekend; he also has some bunting that could be hung round the green hoarding opposite the church.

**ACTION: Paul, Clerk**

**(j) Dead Trees**

No action

**(k) Missing sign for Stanstead St Margarets**

No further action

**(l) White Lines Lawrence Avenue**

No further action has been carried out clerk to add this to Roger Beeching's email

**ACTION: Clerk**

**(m) Towpath sign for cyclists**

Nothing heard from British Waterways

**(n) B1502 signs**

The "slow down " signs are now working both ways

**(o) Notice board St Margarets Road**

The notice board is usable but still difficult to open; it may be past reasonable repair, Paul to ask Handy man Roger to have another look

**ACTION: Paul**

**(p) Signal Box St Margarets Station**

Stanstead Abbots historical society were showing an interest in using the building as a museum. Dulcie contacted Network Rail who was advised that Greater Anglia had the responsibility to repair the building, she is waiting for their reply.

Geoff will contact EHDC to advise that a listed building is not being kept in good repair.

**ACTION: Dulcie, Geoff**

**5. COUNCILLOR GEOFF WILLIAMSON - communication**

Geoff has been contacted by a resident of Rush Close regarding the parking problem in Lawrence Avenue, he has referred the problem to the parking team who have advised that county council are responsible for yellow lines.

Highways used to have a joint panel half county council and half highways, who used to look into this kind of issue. The budget for these kinds of works has now been given to the various county councillors to allocate funds, where they see fit.

Geoff to go back to parking team as the parking in Lawrence Avenue is a bigger problem than Geoff first thought, due to commuter parking as the car parks in the village and station are stopping commuters from parking because of cost.

The Parish Plan is designed as an overall view of the neighbourhood and what the residents see as the future for the area in which they live.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a formal document, which only involves planning for development etc. This would require a minimum of 21 people from a broad spectrum of residents and this has to run alongside the District Plan. The District Plan is still in the melting pot, Geoff will try and untangle all information and advise further.

**6. CLERKS MATTERS**

Various papers received from the District Council etc. were distributed to councillors.

**7. POLICING AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

No information

**8. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Annual fee for HAPTC (Herts Association of Parish & Town Councils) £677.46

Annual fee AON Insurance £677.18

Contribution to Flower Festival St Margarets Church (restoration committee Gt. Amwell with St. Margarets PCC no 5 account) £300.00

Copies of the annual accounts for the parish were distributed to all councillors and were approved as being a true representation of the financial situation, proposed by Nigel, seconded by Mary.

Payments were agreed by all members of the parish council.

**9. PLANNING MATTERS**

None

10. ST MARGARETSBURY RECREATION GROUND

Email received from Great Amwell Parish, advising they wished to change the deed with regard to St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground, copy of the e-mail is attached.

But they specifically refer to the clause regarding the financial contribution to the maintenance of the grounds.

Clerk to reply to Jeff Hughes enquiring about the likely cost to re-write the deed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

11. AOB

Issues raised by Paul and Nigel were referred to in the content of the meeting.

However the Clerk reminded the council that there is still space for 1 more parish councillor and they are in agreement that we should try to find an additional councillor- advertise in parish magazine and Stanstead online.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 4th September 2012  
St Margarets Church 7.30 pm.**

**Barbara Lacey**

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**From:** "Great Amwell Parish Council" <greatamwellpc@sky.com>  
**To:** <barbara@pccare.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 May 2012 07:24  
**Subject:** St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground  
Dear Barbara

At a recent meeting of Great Amwell Parish Council, Members received a report on issues facing the St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Committee.

Members expressed concern over the viability of the existing management arrangements and the lack of financial resilience at this facility. They were also concerned that the Ground was no longer being used for the purposes identified in the Trust Deed for the benefit of parishioners.

Members agreed that the governance/funding provisions within the Trust Deed were outdated, particularly in relation to the wording of several clauses and how they are currently interpreted.

By way of example, existing clause 5 appears to place a continuing liability on the parish councils to contribute financially to the maintenance of the ground "... in proportion to their ascertained products of a penny rate". Given that the basis for local taxation is now the "Council Tax", confusion reigns over what this clause means.

Great Amwell Parish Council wishes to secure revisions to the Deed with the support of the other parish councils involved. There may be a cost involved which should be shared equally amongst the three local authorities. The overall objectives of the changes would be: to deliver a recreational facility for use by the parishioners of the three parishes; to safeguard the site from future residential development pressures; to place little or no on-going financial burden on the Parish Councils to maintain the site, and to remove/mitigate any potential liabilities arising from current activities.

I've been requested to obtain your Authority's approval in principle to seek (yet to be agreed) revisions to the Deed and to confirm acceptance that the costs (if any) of this exercise will be shared equally. I am currently investigating the mechanism for delivering jointly approved changes to the Trust Deed. I look forward to receiving your Authority's response on this matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Hughes  
Clerk  
Great Amwell Parish Council

*Scanned by Demon MailDefender*