



Starston Parish Council

Mrs Clare Crane (Parish Clerk) Sixmill Green, Colegate End Road, Pulham Market, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4XG

Tel: 01379 608590 e-mail: starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of STARSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Present: Cllr A Leitch, Cllr R Formston, Cllr J Formston, Cllr C Doughty, Cllr R Franklin and Cllr S Carter.

District Councillor-Cllr Hudson

Members of the public:5

Clerk to the Parish Council - Mrs Clare Crane

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence.

Cllr J Broadhurst and County Councillor M Wilby had sent their apologies in advance of the meeting as well as various organisation representatives. The Parish Council were very grateful to the reports that had been sent in advance of the meeting.

2. Chair Persons Welcome and Report (Appendix 1)

Cllr A Leitch provided a report to the meeting.

Special thanks to the Speed Watch Team for their good work in trying to reduce the speeding traffic in the village and to Jody Thurston at NCC Highways Team for her persistence on initially getting and continually trying to keep the footpaths passable. Thanks to the team of volunteers that are keeping footpaths near to them as clear as possible throughout the summer and to Mr Grimble for his ongoing work on the Glebe Meadow. The annual litter pick was very well attended and successful. Thanks to the Clerk for initiating additional maintenance work in the village, the new street name plates and refurbished sign posts have enhanced the look of the village. The 'Welcome to Starston' event has been a very positive new initiative and the contacts data base is continuously being updated. The Emergency plan has been completed with thanks to Cllr Broadhurst.

In the year ahead, the Parish Council will be continually updating the Emergency Plan and the contacts data base and bringing a positive and proactive approach. The Clerk will ensure they are working towards GDPR compliance and the Neighbourhood Plan will commence subject to securing a grant. Thanks to all Parish Councillors for their time and commitment.

3. To approve and sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd May 2017.

Approved by the members as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. To discuss matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

The Clerk confirmed the following;

Defibrillator – this has not been pursued on the basis that the geographically dispersed nature of the village and the relatively low footfall in the centre of the village, for example by the Jubilee Hall, does not support the fundraising case to install one. Defibrillators are available at the Pennoyer Centre in Pulham St Mary and outside the Co-op in Harleston, both of which have a much higher footfall.



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BT telephone box on The Street – BT have committed to refurbish this in 2018, sometime between May and September.

5. The Clerk to provide the finance report for the year ending 2017-18

The Clerk confirmed that the finances had been internally audited and the full details of the accounts will be on the website.

6. Reports from organisations and groups active in Starston (Appendix 2

for the full copies of the reports.)

i. County Councillor

No report was read (Appendix 3).

ii. District Councillor

Cllr Hudson read his report, special thanks to the speed watch team for their continued hard work.

iii. Parochial Church Council

Cllr J Formston read a copy of the PCC report on behalf of the St Margaret's Church in Starston. Thanks to the PCC Secretary and treasurer for their continued hard work and to the bell ringers. Mr J Formston was also thanked for all work in securing a HLF grant to renovate the church roof.

iv. Starston Jubilee Hall

There has been a Trustees and Management committee restructure with committee members now being given a specific role with a deputy to ensure all functions are covered. Many thanks to everyone who has been a part of the management committee over the last 12 months. There has been a new appointed bookings manager, but now require a promotions and publicity manager to promote the functions of the Jubilee Hall. The committee has reorganised the financial management of the hall and the kitchen facilities have been upgraded.

v. Glebe Meadow Management Group (a Jubilee Hall subcommittee)

Cllr C Doughty read a report on behalf of the Glebe Meadow Management Group. The Glebe Meadow is a loved and valued village asset.

vi. Community Speedwatch

Mr Coates had provided a detailed report at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on the 15th May 2018. It was agreed for the Clerk to include this summary into the reports provided for the APM.



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vii. Pigeon Post

Mr Michael Bartlett reported that Pigeon Post continues to be published monthly and is funded entirely by advertising income. Many thanks to the volunteer distributors team. Compliments and appreciation on the publication is always being received but both of the long-term editors are now unable to continue to commit to the schedule of the editing and printing. Unless additional editorial volunteers come forward it will cease publication in December 2018. The Parish Council fully support Pigeon Post and it was agreed for everyone would ask around for volunteers.

viii. Starston St Margaret's Tower Ringers

Mr Websdale reported that the 'Tower Ringers' numbers have slightly depleted over the last 12 months. The annual 'Meet and Mardle' took place at the beginning of the year and was highly successful. The bells have been rung at numerous events including a christening and a wedding. Reminder to all villagers that the ringers are available for resident's special occasions and a plea for more ringers or they will fall silent in the next few years.

Action: The Clerk, Cllr Leitch and Cllr Carter would liaise with local groups to aid with promotion.

ix. The Starston Youth Club

2017 was the second year of the Starston Youth Club. The Pre-Schoolers session was held fortnightly on a Monday morning but is not being run in 2018 due to a lack of numbers. The Primary School age children continue to meet monthly on a Saturday afternoon. They have held an Easter Egg Hunt, Fireworks party and a Christmas Party and continue to be solvent. Thanks to the PCC for supporting the Youth Club with public liability insurance, safeguarding policies and the diocese of Norwich provided training. SYC resources are available if people want to hire/borrow any of the equipment for children's parties etc.

x. The Starston Charities

The trustees met in December 2017 and provided £50 each to 9 individuals. It was confirmed that the current account was holding £3,963.63 and the savings account had a further £76.49. The trustees are aiming to hold £5,000 to support parishioner's larger emergency requests.

It was agreed to re-elect Mr B Hanner as the Parish Council representative.



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All residents should be reminded that this charity is available and all requests are anonymous.

Action: Cllr Carter will provide the details to the ASHS pastoral team.

xi. The Starston Pealers

No report was provided.

Action: Clerk to re contact the organisation and add to the appendices of reports if required.

(Any Starston resident can obtain a copy of these reports from the Parish Clerk)

7. Public Forum - Any Other Business

Nothing was raised.

8. Date of Annual Parish Meeting 2019

To be confirmed at the November 2018 Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.



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Appendix 1

Starston Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report April 2017 – March 2018 The views of local people

This year has been another productive one for Starston Parish Council. Democratic success was again achieved, with the voice of local villagers being listened to – the parish boundary remains unchanged following the 2016/2017 Community Governance Review (parish boundary review).

The views of Starston Parish Council on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) were submitted as part of the public consultation which ended March 2018. The Local Plan, which will cover the period to 2036, will set out a vision and strategy for growth and include policies which will be used to determine planning applications in the Greater Norwich area, which includes Starston. Further information can be found at <http://www.gnlp.org.uk>.

The draft GNLP will be published summer 2019, with the final version being adopted from 2020. Starston Parish Council argued for a strategic gap to be maintained between Harleston and Starston, so that Starston did not become absorbed into our local market town if there was a large scale housing development between the two currently distinct communities. In addition, we stated that:-

- there was local support for infill development at the rate of around 1 house per year
- the view that affordable housing or starter homes are necessary for the health and vibrancy of the village, whilst retaining the rural charm and peaceful nature of the village
- as a Parish Council we are aware of individual households within the parish that want to build on their land to provide starter homes for their children (some on a self-build basis), homes for family members, homes for farm workers and local keyworkers. This has community support in principle, and we would like the planning authorities to take these local views into consideration
- the Parish Council was in support of both growth options 3 (Cambridge to Norwich technology corridor) and option 5 (dispersal plus new settlement). This was on the basis that development should be linked to:-
 - a) where there are job opportunities and good transport links
 - b) the creation of a new settlement should provide the opportunity for good design ie one that supports a sense of community; reduces the impact of traffic; creates footpaths and cycle paths; supports sustainable economic development

New Parish Councillors

During 2017, Janet Broadhurst, Chris Doughty and Richard Franklin were co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill vacant posts. Hence, from September 2017 we were back to a full complement of seven Parish Councillors. My thanks to them all for being willing to serve on the Parish Council.

Additional Parish Income

The 2017/18 precept income increased from £5,100 in 2016/17 to £5,913, following a detailed budget review in January 2017. This has enabled us as a small parish to



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maintain a reserve of around half a year's expenditure, as advised by our external auditors, whilst also being able to fund increased costs, at the same time as receiving a reduced grant from South Norfolk Council. New costs include an annual contribution towards the village website and registration with the ICO (Information Commissioners Office).

The Parish Council has again been successful in increasing the income to the parish by over 25% of precept (tax paid by households within the parish), as a result of securing additional grants for the village. We are most grateful for the support of County Councillor Martin Wilby for a £1,500 highways grant. This has enabled the refurbishment of three traditional black & white metal signposts; renovation of the bottom step and hand rail leading from Church Hill towards St Margaret's Church; provision of a second village grit bin at the junction of Wood Lane and Hardwick Road; renovation of the village footpath map and wooden case.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In 2017, £670 of CIL monies were invested in the Starston Youth Club storage shed (via the Jubilee Hall Trust), with another £300 being contributed from District Councillor Clayton Hudson's 2017 Ward Fund, for which we are most grateful.

Community Speedwatch Team

There is an active Community Speedwatch Team within the village, which is co-ordinated by Mr Fred Coates. The Starston team are recognised by the police as being the most active of the 85 teams that exist in Norfolk. Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers involved with this group, which is addressing one of the priority issues identified by villagers.

41 speedwatch sessions were held in 2017, a significant increase on 2016. As a result of the team monitoring the speed of traffic through the village, over 200 letters were sent out by Norfolk Police to motorists to remind them to stick to the speed limits. As a direct result of the team's efforts, a Community Camera Enforcement Police Officer is now regularly in Starston.

Trees

No new hedging has taken place winter 2017 as no free plants were made available to us. However, the hedging plants of Field Maple, Hawthorn & Blackthorn that were planted beside FP 7 (Beck Cottage Path) last year to complete the hedge line, and as infill where plants had not survived, have taken well and the original planting seems well established. During next year the Council must decide whether or not there is a need for further hedge planting around the village so that appropriate plant species can be ordered if available.

Public Footpaths

During 2017 further improvements have been made to footpath access within the parish, with new ditch crossings installed, rotten finger posts replaced and a large number of waymarker posts erected. There are now only two footpaths that require renovation: Gunshaw Way SFP 18/19 (accessible stiles) and Skinners Path SFP 6 (ditch crossing repair; finger post and waymarker posts erection). The Parish Council is particularly grateful to Jody Thurston, Countryside Access Officer (South Norfolk and Breckland), who has diligently worked on behalf of the parish over the last 2 years. We wish her an enjoyable maternity leave and her family every happiness for the future.

Our sincere thanks also go to the increasing number of local residents who are regularly cutting well used footpaths around the village, to maintain their ongoing



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accessibility through the summer months. This is in addition to the once or twice a year cut undertaken by Norfolk County Council. These residents include Chris Doughty, Ian Harvey, the McKenzie family, Rob McWhinney, Jackie Redwine, Julian Taylor.

Our thanks also to Peter Grimble who has undertaken a number of stile repairs/improvements at the request of the Parish Council and with the support of landowners.

As a Parish Council, we would like to produce a set of six Starston Parish Circular Walks leaflets and have these downloadable from the village website. For this we need both grant funding and design/copy writing expertise, using templates developed by Norfolk County Council. If this is a project which interests you, please contact John Formston or Ann Leitch.

Litter

Sadly, litter thrown from cars continues to be a significant nuisance for villagers. The Parish Council is most grateful to the many residents who clear litter from verges and hedges on an ongoing basis, in an effort to keep our rural parish looking pleasant for both residents and visitors. The annual litter pick was held May 2017, with sack loads of rubbish cleared from verges and hedgerows within the parish.

Road Signage

Thanks to the initiative of the Parish Clerk, village road signage was overhauled in 2017/18, with Norfolk County Council replacing eligible/ damaged road signs. Also, thanks again to Clare, the BT telephone box on The Street is due to be refurbished during 2018 by BT, at no cost to parish. NCC have the Starston bridge over the beck in their works programme for renovation – we have yet to be informed of a date. All of these actions have contributed to an improvement in the overall appearance of the village.

Initiatives that commenced in 2017/18

1. Welcome to Starston Initiative

10/14 new households (22 new residents) attended 2 informal social events, held in May and November 2017. The aim of this new initiative is for new residents to meet Parish Councillors, so they can put a face to a name; to understand the role of the Parish Council; to learn about the wide range of community groups in the village, and to meet other new residents.

Feedback from new residents has been very positive, with many families then choosing to get involved and support village activities. With almost 10% household turnover in the parish in 2017, it is critical that proactive steps are taken to welcome new people to the village, and profile how they can contribute to village life should they wish to do so. Only by being proactive are we likely to maintain our strong community spirit and continue to have volunteers willing to serve Starston residents, whether on the Parish Council, Jubilee Hall Management Committee or St Margaret's Parochial Church Council.

- 2. Village Contacts Database** – There are currently 30/290 individuals who have consented to the Parish Clerk having their Email contact details. These Email addresses are only for the use of the Parish Clerk, whether it is to gather feedback from residents on community priorities (such as how CIL monies should be spent), or share information on a timely basis (such as being vigilant, following break-ins to



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outbuildings in the village). If you would like to be added to the Village Contacts Database, please Email the Parish Clerk on starstonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk .

3. **Emergency Plan** – With over a 60% response rate from residents, the Emergency Plan for the village will be distributed to every household in the parish with the July 2018 edition of Pigeon Post. It will also be given to new people moving into the village as part of their welcome letter and information on groups within the village.

Cllr Janet Broadhurst is the Emergency Co-ordinator in the event of a major disruption in the village. Our thanks to both the Trustees of the Jubilee Hall and the members of St Margaret's PCC, who have agreed to these buildings being available to the community in the event of an emergency. There are a large number of residents who have volunteered to help in a major crisis such as flooding, power failure, extreme weather. Voluntary support includes providing emergency accommodation for other villagers; help with lifting & carrying of sandbags for example; help with deliveries such as bottled water and food; cooking a meal for an elderly or infirm person or visiting housebound individuals (where requested in the event of an emergency); loan of equipment such as chainsaws and portable generators.

Plans for 2018/19

Parish Council elections are held every 4 years, the next being in May 2019. Consequently, the aim for the next 12 months is:-

1. **To see through initiatives commenced in 2017/18**, so that the current Parish Council completes what it has started on behalf of villagers eg all footpaths within the parish are accessible; Emergency Plan and Village Contacts Database are kept up to date as people move into and leave the village.
2. **Proactive Parish Council** – continue to be proactive within our powers and duties on behalf of residents, to address issues of concern/ interest to local people. Our overall aim is for villagers to know what the benefits of a Parish Council are and what can be achieved, such that there are always people willing to serve as Parish Councillors, for the benefit of the community.
3. **GDPR** (General Data Protection Regulation, comes into effect from 25.5.18) – undertake a data audit and develop a privacy policy.
4. **Neighbourhood Plan** – secure grant funding and commence the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Starston Parish.

Ann Leitch
Chairman, Starston Parish Council, 2015 - 2019

22.5.18



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Appendix 2

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

STARSTON

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the period

1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

For the Parish Council

Interregnum

Independent Examiner

Keith Baxter & Co
Hill Farm
Diss Road
Burston
Diss
Norfolk
IP22 5TS

BACKGROUND:

St Margaret's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social and Ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and graveyard. Starston is a rural parish, covering approximately four miles length and 1.5 miles in width. There are approximately 300 residents, some of whom do not live permanently in the village.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Rector:	Interrugnum.
Wardens:	Julian Lombe Taylor and John Formston.
Elected Members:	
PCC Chair:	John Formston
Children and Vulnerable Adults Rep.	



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Deanery Synod Reps:	Rev. Norman Steer and one Volunteer
Treasurer:	Miss Margaret Griffiths (Lay Ministry)
Secretary/Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs Ruth Cawcutt (Flower, Cleaning and Church Opening Rotas)
PCC Members	Miss Sheena Duncan (Organist/Lay Ministry)
	Mr Bryan Hanner (Lay Ministry/Verger).
	Dr Edward Libbey
	Mr Herbert Websdell (Tower Captain of Bell Ringers)
	Mrs Julie Websdell

GENERAL:

Having been without a rector for more than 24 months the PCC wish to express their sadness that the position of Rector to the Benefice and this Parish remains unfilled. They are very grateful to the Ministry Team, and especially to The Revd's Norman Steer; John Adlam, Paul Schwier; Readers Mrs Gale Hodgkinson and Mrs Margaret Adlam and Reader under training Mr John Taylor for their hard work to ensure that the weekly services are covered. All of them give their time in order that Church Services can be maintained throughout the Benefice every Sunday. Thanks to Julian Taylor and John Formston for their activities as Churchwardens and to Bryan Hanner as Verger. Thanks to Ruth Cawcutt and Margaret Griffiths, Secretary & Treasurer respectively who diligently give a great deal of their time to such important duties. The PCC has met six times during 2017. Meetings have been well attended. The Annual General meeting for 2017 was held on 2nd April 2017.

The first social event of the year is the "Meet and Mardle" gathering that takes place on New Year's Day, organised by the bell ringers. Visitors come from all around East Anglia to enjoy this event, visiting the bell tower and trying their hand at ringing the bells.

This year a great amount of time was spent on formulating the application for a Heritage Lottery Grant, which we are delighted to say has been successful through the first Development Stage with perhaps the hardest part to come of ensuring that we raise the required amount of money for the main Delivery Stage grant to be achieved. This success has been due to the exacting work that John Formston our Churchwarden has completed, actively supported by JLT & MG. The PCC's main priority is for the repair works to be completed that the kitchen and servery are installed within the next 12 months and that this beautiful church, the only Grade I listed building in the village remains open and available for the village of Starston.

During the year there was 1 Wedding: 5 Baptisms: 7 Funerals: 1 Memorial Service and 2 Interment of Ashes. Numbers have remained consistent with previous years but this will change as sadly we have lost Frank Self, a former churchwarden and PCC member who gave many years of service and support to this church. Mrs L Joan Green who until her health failed worshipped and supported St Margaret's and also recently her family gave a donation of £1,000 to the church. Mrs Irene Waugh



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has also died at the age of 94, a former PCC member, who had helped and worshipped at St. Margaret's since moving into the village in 1983, and had such skills at flower arranging, catering, cleaning and her enthusiasm at craft work with the children at the Great and Small Services. We will miss these people greatly not only for help and skills but their presence.

Services are held in the church every Sunday, with the exception of when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when a joint Benefice Service is held at churches throughout the Benefice. The services at Starston are conducted from the BCP, except when there are special services when the Service of the Word is used or arranged as appropriate for the occasion by the Lay Ministry Team. The "Great and Small" themed service held on the 4th Sunday of the month is held. Although it is hoped that it will bring more children into the church the worship is enjoyed equally by all ages and is now one of the better attended services with refreshments, craft work, a story, singing and prayers.

We are indebted to Sheena Duncan, who plays the organ for us and when not available wherever possible organises someone else to play for the service. We are delighted that Sheena has made a very good recovery from severe illness.

St Margaret's welcomes all visitors to their church and are pleased to say that the church is manned on Saturday mornings from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, between April and October. A contact list is available for when the church is not open.

The Revd Norman Steer acts as our responsible person for children and vulnerable adults.

Our thanks go to all of the flower arrangers, church and brass cleaners, many of whom do not attend worship but are willing to participate in the running and beautification of this church.

Tower Bells: Our gratitude is also expressed to the Tower Captain, Herbert Websdell and the bell ringers, who give their time to ring for all of the services at the church.

FABRIC – Mr Julian Lombe Taylor:

General: Day to day maintenance has been completed during the year.

Attempted Theft of Lead from South aisle. An attempt was made in January 2018 and details will be included in the Annual Report for 2018.

Roof Security: The roof security system was installed in January 2017 at a cost of £5,524.06. A grant of £1,000 was received from the All Churches Trust and a £1,000 from the Diocesan Fund.

Quinquennial Survey: As stated earlier our application to the Heritage Lottery Grant Fund was successful.

WC and Servery: The PCC have made the decision to proceed with these works as a matter of urgency.



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CHURCHYARD –Mr Julian L Taylor and Mr Bryan Hanner

General: Maintenance and grass cutting of the churchyard is an ongoing situation and a grant from the Parish Council has helped the PCC to pay for the services of a regular contractor to cut the grass. The churchyard at Starston is extremely well maintained and often commented upon by visitors. An area of grassland has been set aside to comply with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's request. Thanks to Bobbie Formston for this.

Churchyard Safety: Notices are displayed at the entrances to the churchyard advising the general public of their and our obligations when entering the churchyard.

Church Notice Board: The erection of a suitable notice board, giving details of the services etc., is in hand and we understand there is a grant available for this purpose. John Formston is dealing with this matter and should be concluded when the installation of the kitchen servery and w.c. is done.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Miss Margaret Griffiths:

The Accounts for period to 31st December 2017: The Annual Accounts have been prepared for the approval of the PCC and will be subject to the Independent Examiners report. Details of finances are available from the Balance Sheet, a copy of which is kept on file. Should further information be required please contact the Treasurer.

Parish Share: Sadly, we have been unable to fulfil our obligation to the Diocese. As at 31st December we have approved the amount of £2,500.00 towards the Parish Share of £8,898.28 due for 2017. The PCC fully accept that this is not an ideal situation and that every effort should be made to meet the requirement.

Monies for the maintenance and Financial Obligations of the church are met through collections; savings, direct giving and various are raised from fund raising events previously mentioned.

Future Fund Raising:

A Safari Supper is being held on 2nd June.

A Flower Festival entitled "The Gardens of England" is being held in the church on 14th 15th and 16th July. Light refreshments will be available in the Coach House, thanks to Julian and Phillipa. The Rose Fields opposite the church will be open at the same time and donations to view this spectacular sight will be greatly appreciated. There will also be an historical display of the Wharton Family business, one of the largest rose growing businesses in Europe.

On the 21st July a concert is being held in the church given by Arcelia. This group gave a thoroughly enjoyable evening of entertainment in the Jubilee Hall a couple of years ago and it is hoped that Starston will support them in large numbers on the evening. Refreshments and a bar will be available. Proceeds from these events will go towards the installation of the kitchen and servery and repair works.

Annual Starston Fete and Barbecue this is due to be held on 4th August starting at 6.00 p.m. at Starston Place. Thanks again to Julian and Phillipa.



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These are all opportunities for the people of the village to ensure that the church remains open, it is the largest public building available to all. The building is there not just for Sunday worship, weddings, funerals etc., it belongs to the Village! We hope to secure the support of local schools for historical and educational purposes. There is so much history within these walls. Every time anyone enters through the door there is usually a "tale to be told" of my "Grandparents are buried here, I was baptised, I got married here" the records are all available the social history of this village has been recorded through the ages. As a village don't let us lose the opportunity to ensure it survives for future generations, the local school and pub disappeared the church stands on the hill and is surely one of the best sights ever.

ELECTORAL ROLL: Sec. Mrs R Cawcutt:

There are 22 names on the Electoral Roll for 2017. As mentioned we have lost 3 people who have passed away.

LAY MINISTRY TEAM

Members: Miss Sheena Duncan, Miss Margaret Griffiths, Mr and Mr/s Bryan Hanner. The team contribute to and offer ideas and arrangements for special services. Members attend weddings, baptisms and funerals to represent the regular congregation and make themselves known to the families.

Sick Visiting and Welfare: Ongoing and is also done by other members of the congregation.

Special Services:

Battle of Britain (September) held in church was well supported. Collection is donated to RAFA.

Harvest Festival service (October) held in church well supported. Collection is donated to Water Aid.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The traditional family Carol Service was held on 17th December followed by mulled wine and mince pies. It was very well supported and greatly enjoyed.

The Christingle service was held on 22/12/2017, disappointingly was not so well attended as 2016. As usual the collection was donated to the Children's Society as part of the PCC's Charitable Giving Budget.

24/12/2017 the usual Midnight Communion was held.

Home and hospital communion is offered to the frail in the benefice and members of the ministry team accompany Rev Norman Steer to the homes where possible.

STARSTON YOUTH CLUB – REPORT WILL BE GIVEN BY MRS A LEITCH

It is through the church that the youth club is able to secure Insurance copy for their activities.



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Annual Parish Meeting 22 May 2018 - Glebe Meadow report

Each year Glebe Meadow is attracting more visitors and remains a place for Starston folk to wander with friends and/or their dogs, and to relax on a seat or at the picnic table. The meadow is used for village events when needed and, along with the Jubilee Hall, is at the heart of village life. It is lovely to see Glebe Meadow so well used, and to hear positive remarks from residents and visitors and what it means for so many.

Volunteers continue to keep the meadow in as good a shape as time permits. The mowing team cuts the top-end, orchard and paths each week from April to October with the remainder of the meadow cut for hay in early August. The farmer who has the traditional hay making machinery, and who has helped us each year, may be retiring from this work, so if anyone knows of others in the area then please let me know. Dog bins are also helpfully emptied and bin liners replaced by another volunteer.

A successful village volunteer day was held in January supported by 20 people, including some new to the village in 2017 - which bodes well for the future. A sociable and effective day and blessed by fine weather. We focused on clearing the banks and hedges and are grateful to Ralph Moore's team for tractor cutting the hedge so well from the roadside once again. This Spring, a young volunteer has been assisting with strimming as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award - which is fantastic!

The orchard is continuing to mature and the new orchard seat is proving popular. The orchard blossom is improving each year.

Glebe Meadow bees have had a tough time this winter. We have lost the only colony of bees which had looked viable in late February - before the Beast from the East arrived - but which failed to come through the severe weather and fluctuating temperatures. While we are disappointed, we are not alone as nationally losses were at 40%, and many local beekeepers have lost a high proportion of their colonies. So we need to build up again. While we may purchase a small colony, we are keen to collect and home a swarm or two. Should you spot a swarm of honey bees (and May-July is the prime swarm season), please ring me immediately - they may only be present for a few hours, and we can offer them a wonderful home in Glebe Meadow. Starston honey remains available from other bee-keepers in our group - the 'Starston community of bee-keepers'.

The meadow was flooded again just after Easter when the Beck over-topped and each flood brings more nutrients and some unwelcome plants which are labour-intensive to remove. But Glebe Meadow has an amazing capacity to recover and thrive and provide enjoyment for the village. My thanks go to all the volunteers who help look after it in various ways.

Peter Grimble (re swarms, 01379 852819 and 07879 330925)



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STARSTON TOWER RINGERS 2017

Not a good year!! Lost one ringer due to eyesight, another moved from area, two had operations which prevented their ringing for some time.

We started the year with our traditional Meet and Mardle. As usual a good attendance to the free event.

A dinner for ringers and their guests was held in February to thank them for their commitment in ringing almost every Sunday and practices on Wednesdays.

During 2017 we rang for a 90th birthday, a Christening and a wedding. Visiting ringers for a short time on one occasion (visiting ringers always make a donation to church funds).

Our ringers also helped with preparation and manned stalls at the Village Fete.

December is always a busy time for bells with extra services including the midnight Holy Communion service.

A reminder that bells could be available for resident's special occasions including birthdays, anniversaries etc. The bells can be fired on these occasions if requested.

I will repeat my plea for more ringers otherwise your bells will fall silent within the next few years. Ringing is not difficult nor hard work, ringers do not need to be



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musical or young.

Visitors are always welcome to the ringing room during practice or pre service ringing. During 2017 we had visitors from Australia as well as from the immediate locality.

To look forward, June 16th 2019 a Festival of Bells is being planned to celebrate 50 years ringing by one of our lady ringers who by that time both her and her husband will have completed 123 years ringing church bells. Caring for St Margaret's bells as Tower Captain for 43 years.

Herbert.



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Pigeon Post Report for Annual Village Meeting 2018

In the last year Pigeon Post has continued to be published monthly and distributed free of charge to every household in Starston. The content has regularly included information about events planned in the village and surrounding area, reports on events that have happened, news from the District and Parish Councils, another photo competition and a variety of general interest articles on a wide range of topics. The magazine continues to be funded entirely by advertising revenue.

The Pigeon Post team – Sue Moore, Deputy Editor; Mandy Carter, Treasurer; Liz Stacey, Advertising Manager and Brian Greathead, Distribution Co-ordinator plus all the individual distributors - continue to give sterling service and my thanks to them for all their support and hard work. We receive many compliments about the magazine, both for its content and its presentation.

But that is the past. The future is much less certain. The production of the magazine takes the equivalent of around a week in every month, with the key time being the days immediately before and after press day. For some time now Sue Moore and I have handled this editorial commitment alone but we cannot continue to do so. As things stand at the moment I will be leaving Pigeon Post at the end of the year and Sue cannot carry on alone.

For the last 2 years or so we have tried to find others to join the editorial team but without success. We will make one last attempt over the next few months but unless we can add at least 2 more editors to the regular team then, with great regret, Pigeon Post will cease publication at Christmas. This is very sad but we cannot see any alternative.

Michael Bartlett

Co-ordinating Editor, Pigeon Post



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Jubilee Hall Report for Annual Village Meeting 2018

Starston Jubilee Hall is a registered charity run by 5 Trustees, supported by a Management Committee. Over the last year we have begun to re-structure the Management Committee to ensure that every committee member has a specific responsibility – and where possible a deputy - so that the running of the Jubilee Hall is not dependent on just one or two people, but the system can still function even when people are away. This re-structuring process is not yet complete. A full list of current Trustees and Management Committee members, together with their specific roles, is available on the Jubilee Hall page of the village web site.

A number of people have left the Management Committee in the past few months. Bruce Colman resigned from the committee but remains a Trustee of the charity. Bryan and Joy Hanner retired at the beginning of the year. Wendy Roper, Stella Rice and Simon Cook also left the committee. Wendy remains a member of the Events team and Simon and Stella are available to help when required. Our thanks to them all for the work they have done. Others in the village are part of back-up teams who are available to help at events when asked.

We currently have 2 roles on the committee that have not yet been filled. One is a Hall and Bookings Manager, the first point of contact for anyone wishing to book the Jubilee Hall and who will also keep the on-line bookings calendar up-to-date. Since this report was drafted Robert Wood has agreed to take on the this role and will start on 1st June. The second vacancy is for a Publicity and Promotions Manager. We need someone to actively promote the use of the hall to outside hirers and to be responsible for ensuring that we achieve maximum publicity for all the events we organise.

As with all other jobs on the committee, this person will not necessarily have to do all the publicity work themselves. Their function is to take responsibility for it and to ensure that it is actually done.

Also in the last year under the guidance of our Treasurer, Geoff Broadhurst, we have re-organised the financial management system with most payments – in and out – now being



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made by BACS. Regular financial summaries are now available to Trustees and committee members.

Hirings for the hall – both regular and ad-hoc – continue to provide welcome income though there is still capacity for more use of the hall which is one reason why we need a Publicity and Promotions Manager.

Events actually run by the Jubilee Hall itself in the last 12 months include a Spanish and Tapas evening, Cheese Tasting with wine, Auction of Promises, Ghost Night, the Christmas Social, Curry evening, Book Sale and A Song Or Two with the singer Majella Yorston.

Coming up in the next few months we have The Starston Summer Spectacular on the Glebe Meadow on Saturday 23rd June, a village Summer Social on Friday 13th July, War Girls – our tribute to Armistice year – on Saturday 13th October, a French Evening on Saturday 17th November and another Christmas Social on Friday 14th December.

We are trying to present a balanced programme of events. These include specific fund raisers - such as the Auction of Promises and the Book Sale, entertainment events – such as the Curry evening, Ghost Night or A Song Or Two (these are not specifically aimed at raising funds but must at least cover their cost), and social or community events - such as last year's Christmas Social, for which we make no charge. For those events where alcohol is on sale we have to apply for a Temporary Events Licence to South Norfolk Council which adds a small additional cost to these events but keeps us within the law.

There may be other activities that people would like to see in the hall. At the suggestion of the Events Team we will shortly be circulating a questionnaire asking for people's ideas and suggestions.

Other things to report from the last year: another shed has been erected in the Jubilee Hall car park to house the equipment for the Youth Club. This was paid for by grants so the hall incurred no cost but it means that all the Youth Club equipment is now kept in one place. It also means that if the club should stop functioning for a while - as it has in the past, usually because children have grown up and replacements have not yet come along – then the equipment that has been acquired can be kept for the next wave of children in the village.



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We have also refurbished the kitchen, installing a new cooker and dishwasher and replacing all the worktops. The dishwasher has proved a valuable asset as it can be run during the evening and also overnight so that clearing up after events that includes catering has been made that much easier.

We now have a professional cleaner who comes in weekly and our Health and Safety systems are up-to-date and constantly being reviewed.

Michael Bartlett
Chairman
Jubilee Hall Trust