

1. Parish Team

We continued with a full complement of councillors for the year, and in June, there was a change of chair from Malcolm Leith to myself.

The councillor team consisted of Ian, Jo, Jean, Charles, Rob, Malcolm and myself.

Suzi Morley and Matthew Hicks continued as our District and County council representatives.

Also, during the year we welcomed back Alison Green as our Parish Clerk, taking over from Simon Ashton.

2. Focus for the year

Our big ticket items during the year were residential planning applications, Stonham Barns, highways and dog fouling.

Planning applications

The parish had 4 applications approved providing 10 new homes, with 2 applications for 33 properties refused (including SB). Currently 5 applications are awaiting decisions potentially providing an additional 45 new homes.

Stonham Barns

Stonham Barns hybrid planning permission was granted 12th October 2018. Conditions included closing the caravan park for one month each year (January) and that the caravans can not be used as a main or sole residence by the occupant. At the end of November Suzi Morley and myself were asked to attend a meeting of concerned residents of Stonham Barns who had been informed they had to leave the site in January. At that meeting it transpired approx 200 people were living on the site on a full time basis. MSDC were subsequently informed and in December they sent a team of housing and benefits officers to the site to investigate the issues. CAB and Trading standards were also alerted and subsequently visited the site to obtain information and offer advice. At this time, the MSDC legal team are preparing a legal case against Stonham Barns in connection with the caravan site.

Planning enforcement are also investigating Stonham Barns for contraventions of their planning conditions in relation to the caravan site and retail area.

Highways

The Street and Scotts Hill are of particular concern to the residents. In respect of The Street, residents are unhappy with the volume and physical size of the traffic, particularly at drop off and pick up times at the primary school. For Scotts Hill, it's vehicles driving in excess of the 30mph limit.

We are currently discussing the issues and next steps with Suffolk highways in an effort to keep parents and children safe when walking to school, and to keep vehicle speeds appropriate on Scotts Hill.

Dog fouling

Unfortunately dog fouling has been an ever present challenge for the parish, particularly on the public and permissive footpaths north and south of the A1120. During the year parents complained that dog were fouling along the pavement of The Street. We embarked on a campaign to create awareness that dog fouling was unacceptable a unlawful. Dog poo diaries were written and placed in the village magazine, a competition to create posters against dog fouling was initiated at the primary school (with prizes funded by the parish council), and stencils and dog fouling signs placed around the parish.

3. Finances

Parish precept per household for the year was increased by 1.1%.

CIL payments from new homes increased the parish coffers by #xxxx. CIL payments are set aside for infrastucture projects to support the development of the parish, i.e., play areas, education, healthcare, schools, hospitals

4. What we spent your money on

- Recreation ground maintenance and insurance
- Administration to run the parish council
- Emptying dog bins
- Notice boards