

# STANDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in the Community Centre, Puckeridge, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Stacey (Chairman Standon PC), Cllr Mrs Rusth Arikans, Cllr Graham Cowell, Cllr Ken Goodsell, Cllr Alex Lang, Cllr Colin Marks, Cllr Mrs Mary Wilkinson

PCSO S Whittaker, PCSO ? Constable ?

PUBLIC: There were 12 members of the public present

1. Chairman's Welcome : The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Cllr Mark Acford
3. Chairman's Report: The Chairman stated this was his 4<sup>th</sup> report since his election to post. He welcomed the new clerk, Belinda Irons, and the new Councillor, Ben Harris-Quinney to post. During this year's Parish Council elections, there were four candidates for the Standon Ward, which only has three Councillors. Cllr Acford, with the agreement of East Herts District Council, withdrew his application and will be co-opted to the Colliers End vacancy. This was done so that an election was not forced, which would have placed a financial burden on the parish.

The Chairman offered a vote of thanks to outgoing Councillors Julie Dearman and Emma Painter and thanked them for their hard work and dedication during their time in office. He offered special thanks to the outgoing clerk, John Ingham, for his valued service to the community for over 39 years.

The Chairman also offered a vote of thanks for the hard work and commitment of the respective Standon Village Hall and Standon & Puckeridge Community Hall Committees. Both have done a splendid job.

The Parish Council had managed to maintain the same precept as last year, the insurance company had been changed to Came & Co, and all contracts are to be reviewed across the forthcoming year.

A vote of thanks was offered to the Community Led Plan Working Group who had many questionnaires to analyse before publishing the final report which is due this summer.

The Parish Council has taken ownership of the Puckeridge War Memorial which had been housed in the Puckeridge Chapel, which is now for sale. Initially, it will be placed in the Community Centre, with a plaque commenting on the memorial status of the field.

The Fireworks Committee has agreed to disband, and has offered the residual funds to the Parish Council to go towards purchase of new equipment for the play area. Thanks were extended for the excellent displays they have put on in the past, and for the funds for the play area. Thanks were also offered to Herts County Councillors Jane Pitman and David Andrews for their generous match funding the Fireworks Committee donation. This is most welcome.

All local information including agendas and minutes of the Parish Council meetings is available on the web site [www.standonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.standonparishcouncil.co.uk). The clerk has initiated an updating service for agendas, minutes, and other urgent, important, or interesting information via email. Just email your details to the clerk and you will be included.

The Chairman then showed the film he had made, which will be put onto the web site.

The Chairman commented that he was looking forward to the next four years, and thanked all the Councillors who stood for election.

4. Standon Parish Council: new Councillor needed for Puckeridge Ward:  
There is still a vacancy for a Councillor to be co-opted to the Puckeridge Ward.
5. Community Reports:  
A compilation of reports from village organisations was made available at the meeting, and will be put onto the web site.

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre:

Alex Lang reported that the hard working and dedicated Committee had been running the centre for five years. There are regular user groups covering all age ranges and needs. The Lancaster Lounge was used by many committees. Both the football and tennis clubs regularly used the centre. Many celebrations took place over the year, but a highlight was the excellent over 60's night, which was jointly organised with Standon Village Hall Committee. Whilst the Parish Council owned the building, the Committee was vital to the running and management of the centre. Alex Lang offered thanks to the Committee and to the Parish Council. The Chairman also offered his thanks to the Committee.

Standon Village Hall:

Ken Goodsell reported that Dennis Olliver was ending his second year as Chairman. The financial situation was very sound. The Over 60's night was financially supported by a very generous donation from Viscount Trenchard and a vote of thanks was given for this. The hall had been redecorated. Whilst usage had increased there was still capacity. Thanks were extended to the hard working and dedicated Committee. The Chairman also offered his thanks to the Committee.

6. Public Discussion:  
Dog Bins: A parishioner expressed concern that there were insufficient bins on the field and that people were not picking up after their dogs had fouled. The bin

outside the health centre had been removed. East Herts District Council had advised that dog waste could be put into any bin. The parishioner also expressed concern that the reports she had made had not been actioned. The Chairman responded that there is to be an audit of bins undertaken shortly. Dog waste could not go into any bin, only into dog bins.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending.

*Meeting closed at 7.55pm*