



**MINUTES OF THE STALHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday 19th April 2022, Held at 7pm at Stalham Poppy Centre,
Recreation Road, NR12 9DE**

1. Matthew Taylor was elected to Chair the meeting.
2. Chairman's Welcome & Report
The Chairman thanked Phyllis Eden who stepped down as Chair of the Town Council in November 2021. Cllr Kevin Bayes was elected as Chair and was thanked for his work to date. Unfortunately, he had to send apologies to this meeting due to prior commitments.

The Council has welcomed new Councillors in the last year including Rachel Hood, Melissa Bayes, Matthew Taylor, Margaret Willoughby.

There are three vacancies currently and Councillors would welcome new members.

It's been a very busy year that has been made even more challenging due to covid and the meeting restrictions, however, the Council has continued to meet on schedule and has worked on moving projects forward.

The Chair has had a number of meetings with officers and members of NNDC and has working hard to increase the profile of Stalham within Norfolk. The Chair also spoke a planning committee at NNDC on behalf of Stalham.

Overall, it's been a big year for Stalham Town Council, with many exciting things still being planned.

3. The minutes of the Town Meeting held on 12th April 2021 were AGREED as a true and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
4. Town Council Annual Report

WHAT HAS THE COUNCIL DONE THIS YEAR?

- There have been a number of major changes during the year which include Town Hall lease being terminated and the Hall returning to the administration of the Council.
- In November 2021 the Stalham and Brumstead Recreation Ground charity were handed the newly built Poppy Centre at the Recreation Ground. The first big community event that is planned will be a 3-day Queens Jubilee event and the charity will continue to offer events through the Poppy Centre.
- Administrative support to the Stalham Charities has been agreed and this is now being provided by the Council.

- A Neighbourhood Development Plan has been commissioned. This will be of immense value to the Town once finalised. A combination of the Council office, Councillors and a volunteer group of Stalham residents have been working together with consultants to progress this project.
- All of these projects and changes have increased the council's workload tremendously, therefore the Council employed a permanent Assistant Town Clerk in December 2021.
- The Council has commissioned a feasibility study of the A149 crossing to the Staithe.
- The Staithe is now fully operational and ditch clearing has also taken place. Remedial works were commissioned following piling issues.
- The Allotments are fully occupied.
- The Council has started Thursday morning drop-ins at the Town Hall for the public to be able to meet with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk and Councillors from 10am to midday.
- A Community Heater scheme has been set up.
- The Market Town Initiative is still on-going.
- The Town Trail has started again with another successful year, many thanks to Cllrs & the Men's Shed for making the 'birthday cakes'.

WHAT ARE THE COUNCIL GOING TO DO NEXT?

- The burial ground extension is now taking shape and the plan is coming together.
- The Town Council has been working closely with the business forum.
- There are plans in hand and initial meetings have taken place to develop a 10-year Strategic Plan for the Town Council.
- There are plans to set up a Chamber of Commerce to support and promote businesses in the Town and surrounding parishes.
- In May Councillors will be electing a Mayor rather than Chairman for the first time in history in order to reflect the increased status of Stalham as one of the few Towns within North Norfolk.
- There is intention to set up a Market.
- The Council intend to set up a regular newsletter for all residents of Stalham.
- A new defibrillator on the Poppy Centre is to be fitted soon.
- Two new cycle racks have been approved under the NNDC free installation scheme at the recreation ground and museum of the broads and a third is being applied for at the picnic area on the staithe.

5. Reports received from other bodies

a. NNDC Energy Officer, Dulcie Walsh

There is a Home Upgrade Grant of £3.85 million currently available and NNDC is working closely with Norfolk Warm Homes to identify low-income residents in North Norfolk that are living in fuel poverty. The grant is available until March 2023. To enquire call 01603 430103 or visit www.norfolkwarmhomes.org.uk

b. High School Executive Head Teacher, Andrew Richardson

Apologies were received by the meeting, a written report was received. The High Sheriff's visit to StHS went very well and he was very impressed with the students, the site and the challenging curriculum. High Sheriff Michael Gurney's brief had a law and order/ careers opportunities focus, and he asked some interesting questions about the nature of the community, the dangers faced by students and families within it, and the

opportunities for students and families to develop their talents within Norfolk and outside it.

The school was able to show him our Support and Guidance, and Careers offer, and looked closely at how we have developed the curriculum offer over the last 8 years; making it relevant, broad and supportive of what our students want and need in order to move them to the next phase of their learning and careers. He then expressed a desire to see Stalham's sister school (Sheringham HS) which he visited a month or so later, so that he could see how Stalham's development has come as a result of a creative use of a single senior team across the two high schools. It may also be worth mentioning to the meeting that this coming Friday is a key date for us at StHS as we have our SMSC Day 2 (one of our 3 off timetable days) in which students of all years get the chance to go on trips, visits, take part in a full, on-site Careers Fair (with over 25 local and national providers), and take part in targeted subject catch-up events. It should be a superb day.

- c. **Stalham & Brumstead Recreation Ground Charity**
The Stalham & Brumstead Recreation Ground Charity took over the keys to the Stalham Poppy Centre in November 2021. A huge thank you to The Poppy Trust all of the trustees and everyone who supported them for their incredibly hard work raising funds and building this fantastic community asset. The play areas and skate park have had some general maintenance and up-keep and there are lots of exciting plans for the future of Stalham Poppy Centre and recreation ground. The Saturday morning Youth club next door to the Poppy Centre continues to be very successful and a great benefit to the Town.
- d. **Museum of the Broads, Robert Paul**
Covid-19 has made it a challenging few years for the Museum of the Broads, we are aiming to be open for Easter. We have suffered lack of volunteers but are building it up with a strong recruitment drive and some brilliant and experienced new board of trustees. There is lots happening, for example having the Staithe back in use is wonderful, it is a great area to visit in the corner of the town by the river. The museum has started to organize events the first is on May 14th with a boat and fishing jumble, and the Museum will be joining jubilee celebrations.
- e. **Stalham Baptist Church, Diana Gordon**
The church has a long history dating back to 1884 and it originally replaced Ingham Baptist chapel, it is now a registered charity with trustees who are all volunteers. The trustees are keen to make space for whole community. The Community Fridge was introduced during covid-19 pandemic, which is well supported and has received great donations from local shops and businesses and is open every day. There is also a Food Bank on a Friday afternoons and everyone is thankful to those who donate. Coffee and chat recently opened again Tuesday morning 9:30 – 12, all welcome. Table tennis has been re-started to any age group, Wednesday mornings. There are a lot of other groups, after school sessions, music nights, knit and natter, quizzes, mother & toddler and many more, which the church would like to open again soon. There is also some refurbishment work being planned in the school room and kitchen.

- f. Stalham Benefice Church Warden, Sonia Coupe
Stalham has two closed churchyards at St Mary's and the Town Council manages the open burial ground at Campingfield Lane. The Town Council maintains the closed churchyards, although they remain in the ownership of the Diocese.

 - g. District Councillors;
Pauline Grove-Jones sent apologies to the meeting.
Matthew Taylor; It's been roughly 5 months since becoming Stalham's youngest ever District Councillor. I'm working hard alongside the Town Council, where I am a Councillor, to ensure that Stalham is firmly on the radar of North Norfolk District Council.
I have asked when NNDC would be applying for a government grant to install more electric vehicle charging points; It was noticeable that Stalham was the only town in North Norfolk not included in the recent roll-out.
Speaking for Stalham is just one part of my role as District Councillor, the other area I have worked to do is host NNDC Members and Officers on tours of the town to highlight some of the challenges faced locally as a community. Three meetings of this nature have taken place already, with senior officers at the NNDC and with senior Liberal Democrat councillors, and your Member of Parliament, Mr Duncan Baker.
Town and District Councillors are keen to see businesses thrive as much as they possibly can and this remains at the very top of my agenda. We have, as a community, started to take steps in the right direction.

 - h. County Councillor, Nigel Dixon
Apologies sent.

 - i. Stalham Community Gym, Helen Munford
The gym which is located at the Poppy Centre focuses on health & well-being with a real community spirit, the publicity has been increased and more people are becoming aware of the building and the gym. The Covid pandemic has been really challenging and there's space for more members and Trustees would like to be able to open for longer hours when membership improves.

 - j. Neighbourhood Development Plan, Chris Foster
The first consultation period finished on 31st March and 349 responses were received which was very gratifying. The Plan is running to schedule currently and there will be more public consultation as it progresses. It is anticipated that it will be completed at the end of 2023.
6. Any other business
A member of the public spoke regarding the A149 speed limit and concerns regarding traffic management.
The Stalham Area Business Forum and their activities were discussed.
Electric charging points within the Town would be a benefit.
A "Need Help" Clinic, inviting people such as AgeUK, NNDC, Police, Fire and other helpful groups to improve residents access to help would be helpful if it took place within the town..

Meeting Closed: 20:44pm

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