

Parish Council Annual Report for year ending March 2024

Welcome

Although I am no longer Chairman, I have been asked by our Parish Clerk to comment on the work of Stanstead Parish for the year ending March 2024.

Following a difficult 2022, we were fortunate in being introduced to Mrs G Claydon by Mary Warne to take-on the role of Parish Clerk. There were no trained Parish Clerks available but Mrs Claydon has brought her existing skills to the role and I would wish to thank her for all her hard work in supporting the Parish.

I would also wish to thank our former councillor Mrs Warne for all the hard work she undertook in bringing the Parish regulations up-to-date, adopting numerous Policies and Procedures, many of which were only completed in March this year (additional thank you to Mrs Claydon and Mr Harkness in helping with the above).

Various other activities during the year were as follows:

- 1/. Completing a fire risk assessment of the Community Centre followed by an electrical inspection with remedial work completing, I believe, in April /May.
- 2/. Ongoing work with new Playground including a detailed grant application to Babergh which resulted in successful grant funding. The new equipment and fencing has now been installed and understand it is being well used. There is still an issue with the grass matting but a meeting has been arranged with Hags to take the problem forward. More work has been done to do weekly, quarterly and annual inspections to preserve warranties plus new signage.
- 3/. Thank you to David Harkness for pushing for a Quiet Lane status for Brooms Hall Lane including a recent No Through Road sign.
- 4/. At long last a new village sign and post has been installed and it looks very good.
- 5/. Going forward, the Parish is resolved to take forward a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6/. We have just received our Annual Internal Audit Report which shows that pleasing progress has been made with regard to governance and accountability.

All of the above involved more work than I have highlighted and wish to say a big thank you to all councillors for their contributions. The future is looking more positive and up-to-date for the Parish Council and hope we can recruit more Councillors during 2024, including a new Chairman.

Councillor David Finch