

Stallingborough Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 23/24

Councillors' Attendances

Attendances are shown as follows – the Council met 12 times during the year, with no meeting in August 2023, but an extra meeting held for planning purposes -

Cllr. Gilbert (Chairman)	11 from a possible 12
Cllr. Crofts (Vice-Chair)	7 from a possible 12
Cllr. Genney	11 from a possible 12
Cllr. Reed	9 from a possible 12
Cllr. H. Scott	8 from a possible 12
Cllr. Sears	11 from a possible 12
Cllr. J. Scott	8 from a possible 12
Cllr. Hoyes	10 from a possible 12

Cllrs. Gilbert and Crofts had served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the Council year.

Councillors usually serve and represent Stallingborough on outside bodies, including the Town and Parish Liaison Meeting held with North East Lincolnshire Council, the North East Lincolnshire District Meetings of ERNLLCA and the Barton and Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership, of which the Parish Council is a member.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk during the year was Kathy Peers, a CiLCA qualified Clerk. Mrs. Peers is also an associate member of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Cllrs. Stewart and Karen Swinburn and Cllr. Georgia Astbury were present at the majority of the meetings in their capacity as Ward Cllrs., NELC for the Stallingborough and Immingham Ward.

General

Members of the public occasionally attend meetings and raise issues with the Council members. A written report from the local policing team is received each month and circulated to all members.

The Council started the year with 8 members and one vacancy and closed the year with the same.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee of the local Planning Authority, which is North East Lincolnshire Council. The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application within the Parish and also those which are on its boundary or close to its boundary within a neighbouring Parish.

During the year 23/24, the Parish Council was consulted on 24 planning applications which was a decrease on the previous year, although more general initial consultations regarding upcoming industrial schemes were received and consulted upon. During the year the Parish Council also submitted comments on the NELC new proposed Local Plan and residents also attended the monthly meeting to present their own views on the Local Plan.

Major planning applications for the year have been based on the industrial estates and presentations have been received at meetings from development teams.

The Parish Council also continued to liaise with local residents, neighbouring Parish Councils and North East Lincolnshire Council.

Stallingborough Village Newsletter and Website

The Parish Council organises and publishes the Stallingborough Village News bi-monthly throughout the year. The Newsletter is delivered to every household in the village and is now printed in colour. Spare copies are also always available in the local shop.

The Parish Council is grateful to all those who have advertised their services or businesses and groups and events through the Newsletter and especially value the contributions made from village groups on reports of their activities etc.

Costs for printing and distribution totalled £2,332 for the year which is an increase on the previous year but this was reflected in the increased content which has been in the last few Newsletter editions.

The Newsletter is 'desk-top published' by the Clerk to keep printing costs to a minimum and then copies run off by a local printing company.

The Parish Council has its own dedicated website, updated by the Clerk and also has a Facebook page. The Council's technical support including the website and email provision is provided by Mariner Computers at a cost of £120.00 per year.

Stallingborough Village Hall

The Parish Council owns and runs the Village Hall on behalf of the residents of Stallingborough.

Revenue for the year totalled £8,614 which is an increase on the previous year's revenue. The running costs for insurance, energy and water supply, grounds maintenance, waste disposal and any necessary checks totalled £10,031.

The Parish Council employs 3 staff for the Village Hall – two Caretaker/Cleaners who job-share the role and a relief/weekend Caretaker.

The bar had been hired several times throughout the year with takings from each event going forward to restock the bar ready for the next event. Bar takings also pay the bar staff for each hiring.

Other costs associated with the Hall included the purchase and installation of new ceiling tiles for the suspended ceiling, refurbishment of the heating system, new tables, decoration in the main hall and the purchase of a new buffing machine.

Land ownership/management

The Parish Council owns land on which the children's playground and football pitches are situated, as well as a youth/teen shelter. There is also a pavilion on the site for use as storage and changing rooms. The pavilion has been repainted and refurbished by a group from Shaping Up Stallingborough and its hoped this will now be used more, with events held during the summer.

The pitches are available to be hired out by local football and cricket teams.

The Parish Council maintains the whole site, cutting the grass, ensuring the play equipment is properly maintained and having the bins emptied etc. A grounds maintenance company is contracted to cut the large grassed area/pitches. Cllr. Ian Sears together with some help from the Shaping Up Stallingborough Group carries out the remaining grounds maintenance works, including grass cutting on the play ground, the community garden tidying and also the village hall grounds and the Parish Council invested in equipment to carry this out, which Cllr. Sears does on a voluntary basis. Money then saved is ring-fenced for projects and schemes in the Village proposed by Shaping up Stallingborough. The Parish Council also employs a contractor to cut the grass and tidy the Churchyard.

The Parish Council also owns a small allotment site off Leggott Way, which is fully subscribed and also a small area of land adjacent to the site. Administration for the allotment site during the year included a meeting with all tenants and new allotment tenancy agreements being issued. All tenants are now fully covered by insurance etc.

The small piece of land adjacent to the allotments has now been turned into a community orchard through the efforts of Shaping Up Stallingborough. The Parish Council gave funding to the Group, saved from grounds maintenance budget, to support this scheme.

The Parish Council also has a long-standing arrangement with the Target/Gun Club which uses the rifle range attached to the side of the Village Hall. A nominal peppercorn rent is paid each year and a donation also made by the Club to the Parish Council for the Council to donate to a charity of its choice.

Finance

The precept set by the Parish Council for 23/24 was set at £45,000.

Income for year:

- Precept £45,000
- Hall revenue £8,614
- Bar revenue £440 (profit banked)
- Pitch hire £300
- Advertising revenue £70
- Ward Councillor funding £500
- VAT reclaim £2,793

Expenditure for year:

- Salaries (for all 4 members of staff) £17,284

• Village Hall	£10,032
• Hall projects- ceiling/buffer/tables	£ 4,299
• Playing field – grass cuts, repairs etc.	£ 4,726
• Pavilion Repairs	£ 1,973
• Bar costs -	£ 349
• General admin/office expenses	£ 4,370
• Newsletter printing/distribution	£ 2,332
• Churchyard grass cutting	£ 1,792
• Defib servicing/maintenance	£ 500
• Grant aid/donations & Events	£ 1,332

Notes on expenditure:

- Salaries covers all 4 members of staff and all necessary PAYE payments and increases set by national bodies not the PC.
- General admin/office expenses includes any training, general administration and stationery costs, subscription fees to ERNLLCA and all insurances including employers and public liability
- Churchyard grass cutting – this was carried out through a formal church grass cutting contract.

The accounts are audited each year through a specified process set down in legislation nationally, with an internal audit being carried out and then an external audit carried out by PKF Littlejohn, based in London, who are appointed through a national body and not by the Parish Council. The Parish Council complies with the necessary period of public inspection of the accounts each year and puts financial information on its website and in its bi-monthly newsletter where appropriate.

The Council met during January 2024 to set its budget for the coming year and to agree its precept requirement for the coming financial year. The agreed budget was, as always, printed in full in the Newsletter.

General Matters

As usual, the Parish Council organised a Christmas Tree for the village and this was once again very kindly donated as in previous years by the Hoyes family. The Parish Council owns its own set of lights for the tree and each year these are very put onto the tree at no charge by NE Lincolnshire Council and McCanns.

A Remembrance Day service was held and as with the previous year, the Parish Council had invited residents back to the village hall for

some light refreshments provided by the Council. This event is becoming more popular each year and the Parish Council is delighted to host it and welcome all those who attend. A big thanks to David Clarke for providing musical (brass band) support at this and other events throughout the year.

The Council supported the Shaping Stallingborough group which has been formed to carry out projects to enhance the village and provide some social events etc. The group meets at the Village Hall and is able to use the Village Hall facilities free of charge. The Parish Council is very grateful to the work carried out by the Group and has a pot of funding ear-marked in the budget for projects within the Village which are proposed by the Group.

The local policing team send through a Police Report for the preceding month and this is tabled at the Parish Council monthly meeting and also replicated in the Village Newsletter.

During the year the Council worked very closely with Ward Councillors, with Cllrs. Keren and Stewart Swinburn and Georgia Astbury attending most of the meetings each month and also assisting with issues taken back to NELC for progress. The Parish Council is grateful for Ward Councillor funding which is given each year to support a project the Parish Council has. The Ward Cllrs. give a verbal report at each meeting on issues within NELC and projects affecting Stallingborough village. Cllr. Astbury left the Council at the end of the fy 23-24 and a new Ward Cllr. would be elected at the May 2024 elections.