

STOWE BY CHARTLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held 1st May 2018 in Stowe by Chartley Village Hall.

1. Welcome by Cllr. Meddings, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Meddings welcomed Mrs. Diane Wallace, Dementia Action Alliance, Cllr. Mrs. Beatty, Stafford Borough Council, Cllr. John Francis, Staffordshire County Council, and over 30 local residents. He thanked Cllr. Mrs. Grimes for providing an excellent buffet.

2. Annual Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Clerk read out the Chairman's Annual Report which looked back over the past year with changes to the Council's services and challenges on planning. The report went on to look forward with new members on the Council to tackling new initiatives on rural housing, Best Kept Village, Highways maintenance and better communication with residents. The search for a new partner to share administration costs was also described.

3. Financial report of the Parish Council by the Responsible Finance Officer.

The RFO explained recent changes in the Council's financial situation with increased costs and future threats. At less than £11,000 the Council's reserves were not robust enough for the potential calls on it and the threat of government capping reduced the Council's freedom to respond to future need. The RFO said that he estimated a saving of about £5 or £6 per annum per Band D property by combining with another Council to form one body.

4. Presentation by Diane Wallace Dementia Outreach Manager, Dementia Action Alliance.

Mrs. Wallace explained that she was working with a very wide range of organisations to spread the message about dementia. Mrs. Wallace explained that she gives one hour long sessions to people to recruit dementia friends and since she was appointed she has spoken to 1989 new dementia friends. Many local organisations had signed up to be members of their Local Action Alliance. Mrs. Wallace said that she was able to signpost people to organisations that would help them. She explained that with appropriate support people with dementia can lead a good full life at home and she urged people not to be frightened by the myths and stigma associated with the disease.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Wallace for a most informative presentation.

5. Open Forum

Cllr. Meddings invited residents to ask questions.

Most questions were about the consideration being given by the Council to an invitation from Stafford and Rural Homes to partner with them on a Rural Exception Site.

The Chairman and Clerk gave the facts as far as they knew them.

A request to break down the Council's administrative costs was declined as it would involve the release of personal data.