



## Studley Annual Parish Meeting Minutes of meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6pm Studley Village Hall, Studley B80 7HJ

<b>Parish Councillors present:</b>	Chairman Cllr C Summers, vice-Chairman Cllr M Osborne, Cllr J Beard, Cllr C Britt, Cllr D Collett, Cllr B Dixon, Cllr P Hencher-Serafin, Cllr Penny Hunt, Cllr Phil Hunt,
<b>In attendance</b>	Report givers: Martin Barry for Studley First Responders, Craig Stone for Aunty Jen Productions, Gordon Marshall for Millennium Trust, Cllr Justin Kerridge as Warwickshire County Councillor for Studley, Che Maclaren for Studley Youth Foundation, Jan Platt for Studley in Bloom, Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin Studley North District Councillor, Kate Meir for the Anglican church, and Parish Centre. Joan Wallin for Studley Community Managed Library. Adrian Smith, Ann Ralph for Studley Daytime WI, Chris Britt for Studley Nature Reserve, Karen Marshall for 1 <sup>st</sup> Studley Scouts, Justin Kerridge for Studley in Business,  Plus ten attendees. Katharine Walters and Liza Rose, Clerks to Studley Parish Council

### **Agenda item 1 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

### **Agenda item 2 Apologies**

Matt Fox & Paul Beaman for Studley Village Hall (report provided and read out by the Chairman), Christine Dyer, Trustee of Millennium Green.

### **Agenda item 3 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

It was agreed to accept and approve the minutes.

### **Agenda item 4 Chairman's report: Cllr C Summers**

It has been a lively year for the Parish Council with no two days the same. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their time and energy which is devoted to the community, especially those on working parties and to point out that all Councillors are unpaid volunteers.

I would like to thank the office staff for their hard work, sometime in very hard and trying circumstances. The Clerks have been with the council now for 18 months and are training towards their CiLCA qualifications.

During the last year Kellie joined us as an Administration Officer. She is a valued member of the team on the community engagement working group responsible for the Reindeer Rocks, Easter Egg Hunt, Party in the Park and other initiatives to engage with the community. The past year has been an emotional roller coaster for the council in arrangement for the late Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee in June and then official mourning preparations for the funeral

of her late Majesty. The Council, with the help of the staff managed to perform our civic duty in accordance with correct protocol. This past weekend on a happier occasion with arrangement and celebrations for the crowning of King Charles III.

Throughout the year we have also helped or played our part in the staging of certain events such as the Christmas light switch on and Christmas Fayre together with the Remembrance Sunday parade to name just a couple.

The council is happy to help and support in an appropriate way, local groups whose aim is to improve the community, such as Studley in Bloom and Christmas Lights. We now have a Town Crier who is an official member of the "Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers".

I have attended several occasions with him such as the aforementioned events, plus things such as the opening of Priory Place Retirement home and new businesses such as Pie and Mash shop. We even marked the occasion of a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

My charity has been the Studley Community First Responders this year. We have helped them in their acquisition of an additional defibrillator. The group do not receive funding by NHS or any one organisation. We request that everyone supports any fund-raising events held on their behalf. Lastly my thanks to Councillors and Staff in their support to re-establish a Post Office in the village. The Council has acquired the ATC building as an additional village asset and are currently negotiation with the County Council to take a lease on the old Youth Club to use it as a Community Centre for many local groups.

So... from what I've just reported, much unseen work has been undertaken by your team of Councillors and Staff, who have worked diligently for both residents and community.

#### **Agenda item 5 To receive update from Cllr Kerridge, County Council Ward member**

It was agreed by all present to bring forward the report from Studley First Responders.

#### **Report from Martin Barry, Studley First Responders**

Over the past 12 months the group have responded to 600,999 calls. This is lower than previous years as they are being selective. SFR are affected by the ambulance wait time at hospitals and depending on the calls, this can mean the patient is under care of SFR for considerable time. A second car was acquired and within the past few weeks the first vehicle was on a routine call when a call came to attend a category 1 heart attack. The person was saved and has now been discharged from hospital.

Studley has 7 registered paramedics. They are grateful for the support of the community with contributions and the NHS who provide the telephone. Any help with administration would be welcome.

#### **Report from Craig Stone on behalf of Aunty Jen Productions**

AJP is a registered community CIC with 4 directors. In February 2022 the Welcome Back project funded a community programme which was The Studley Story which incorporated history, song, and life performance together with community photography and documentary.

In April 2022 AJP performed a Murder mystery at SS&SC. In July 2022 Macbeth was performed to schools with a grant from WCC. This production was available to the public from a trailer sited on SS&SC but was affected by bad weather. A production of Peter Pan was well attended and £800 raised for Great Ormond Street.

The Christmas Panto was Ali Baba and 40 Thieves funded by grants from SPC and SS&SC.

Performances were to school children and totalled 27 in all with £1 tickets for families who would not have been able to participate otherwise.

In March 2023 AJP went on a rural tour of village halls with a grant from WCC. In total 14 performances of The Importance of Being Ernest. The sound and lights were provided at each event and WI groups provided tea and cakes at intervals.

April 2023 AJP conducted Murder Most Delicious murder mystery hosted by SS&SC. In May 2023 the Platinum Jubilee event at SS&SC was well attended at SS&SC and supported by all community groups. £3300 was raised for NHS charity. AJP have won awards for their community participation.

For the rest of 2023 the plans are for The Tempest in SS&SC trailer, Wind in the Willows in August, another rural tour and the Christmas panto will be Puss in Boots.

### **Report from Gordon Marshall on behalf of Trustees of Millennium Trust**

The trust has been running for 22 years and the area is maintained by the Parish Council as agreed when the trust was set up. New trustees are required if anyone wishes to volunteer.

### **Report from Cllr Kerridge, County Council Ward member**

#### **New dropped curbs**

Used delegated budget and Installed along Toms town lane (one more to do) plus Highfield Road/ station road junction.

#### **Castle to Church path**

Used delegated budget with help of local people to make the path more weather resistant and usable. Still plan to make gate and upper section more disabled friendly if possible and will retain the hedge on either side.

#### **20mph zone**

Initial assessment complete. Suggestions are High Street, Crooks Lane, Littlewood green, Toms Town lane, Castle Road. Plus, residential roads off these: Gunners Lane etc, New road etc, Riverside, Allendale Watts road. Eldorado/St Judes etc, and Sernal triangle can also be included at extra cost.

The detailed survey would cost in the region of £6000 before any implementation costs (Traffic regulation order [£6000], signage [£10,000] and any traffic calming measure costs). I will be able to fund some of this from the delegated budget but would be looking for PC to commit to match funding throughout the process, including the initial detailed survey. The initial detailed survey would give a detailed plan of what roads could become 20mph and if any traffic calming measures were needed, thus giving an estimated cost for the total project. Perhaps WCC would also fund some from the Highways Community Action Fund available to communities to bid for projects. This also requires match funding.

I am happy to discuss with PC to decide if they wish to go ahead with the initial detailed survey.

#### **Sernal Corner**

Ongoing. WCC intend to implement a clear footpath continuation around Sernal corner, joining Bromsgrove Road to Alcester Road footpaths. This will make enforcement of double yellow lines more likely and hopefully act as a guide to what to keep clear for pedestrians.

### **Flooding. Littlewood green junction**

At the junction of Crooks Lane/ Littlewood Green and down toward Bromsgrove Road. Spoken to Severn Trent and WCC. WCC Work is scheduled to jet the system to remove a blockage and install new manhole covers for easier access in future. Severn Trent have surveyed their system after our MP got in touch and the problem does not seem to be a Severn Trent capacity issue from water backed up from the A448. I hope this will solve a long running problem.

### **Trees. Studley Green Canopy**

Hope that WCC, PC, HOEF and local people can work together to plant trees along roads, around and in parish council owned green spaces and private green spaces in and around the village. I am very willing to liaise with WCC on any trees they have available for open spaces and put my delegated budget towards street and car park trees.

### **Junction improvements and one-way High Street.**

A Study is ongoing into improvements to Spenal corner junction and Barley Mow Island to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian and cyclist use. Included in this study is the idea of a one-way high street to produce a safer and more attractive environment in our village centre. This is just a study.

### **Cycle route from Redditch to Alcester and beyond**

WCC commissioned Sustrans to produce a report on possible off road cycle routes to join Redditch, via Studley, to Alcester and hence to the Alcester to Evesham cycle route project and the potential Alcester to Stratford cycle route project. This study is now complete, and I hope to organise an informal consultation soon. The likely route would approximately follow the old railway line, but some sections could use country lanes or other fields etc. The section I am concentrating on first will be a Link from Alcester to Coughton as this could then lead into a country lane route to Studley and Redditch along the existing sustrans road route. Funding for this would likely come through bids by WCC to central government.

### **Studley Youth foundation**

An excellent youth worker and volunteers are now up and running and seeking new volunteers to provide more youth club time in Studley. Thanks to PC for a grant, WCC for providing funding for the youth worker, Trustees for setting up the charity and Che and the team for all their hard work.

### **Volunteering and Community**

Barnardo's runs a networking group on behalf of WCC in Studley, based around children and young families but covering all aspects of the village community including food banks, churches, schools, youth clubs, elderly people and special educational needs. As an informal group we are beginning to think about a community pantry and promoting volunteering in Studley. There is a volunteering news item, to which we can add volunteering opportunities, on the Enjoyably Studley website: <https://enjoyablistudley.co.uk/volunteer-in-studley/>  
Councillor grant

**Applications accepted from Tuesday 9 May till Sunday 18 June. For community groups, clubs, PTAs with a project/need that will benefit the village.**

## **Old Studley youth club building**

Continue to work with SPC and WCC to facilitate the leasing of the building to SPC for a community centre.

### **To receive reports/update from other voluntary groups**

#### **1. Studley Youth Foundation**

Che Maclaren, Studley Youth worker presented a report. This is a local volunteer group for 11-18 years. It is free provision for youth with a fortnightly club for 11-14yrs. At the first event 20 teenagers attended. Engagement is required with the older teenagers. Activities are organised such as crafts, games, discussion on relevant topics, training to build up skills. Volunteers are required and donations of funds, equipment, time, and patience are welcomed. Specific skill volunteers for one off sessions of learning would be very welcome.

#### **2. Studley in Bloom**

Jan Platt reported:

Studley in Bloom continues to be very active around the village, we have a group of 22 volunteers who do everything from litter picking, planting to baking cakes.

We hold a monthly 'litter pick' held on the first Saturday of the month and welcome anyone who would like to help keep the village looking its' best. We meet at 10:00 meeting at our new venue ENTACO car park.

As part of our fund raising, we hold 6 coffee mornings at the village hall. These have proved to be very successful this year as not only fund-raising events but an opportunity for people to catch up with friends and keep warm. Indeed, at the last one, the residents of Four Acres came across too and we had to over spill into the council chamber.

We planted our own hanging baskets for the first-time last year, holding a workshop where volunteers came along to plant. The initiative was very successful and saved the group over a £1000 in funds by doing this ourselves over buying them ready made. We are repeating this tomorrow if anyone is free?

Last year we worked with the Environmentally Studley group to promote sustainability, using the Co-op notice board to raise awareness. You may have noticed that the island is now planted with perennials which we are hoping will last a few years. We are continuing to update the planter in the village with self-watering planters which require watering only once a week in the summer by our long serving, most loyal volunteer Mark Roskill. We replaced the planter outside Tesco with one such new planter and the window boxes on the Co-op wall too. This is most beneficial to the environment. We are in the process of replacing all the compost in the planters with peat free compost a whopping 7238 litres! This will be happening over the next few weeks.

We are also endeavouring not to use weed killer, weeding by hand, hoe, or using a portable power washer we have recently purchased.

In the spring we worked with St Mary's Junior school to empty and replace the plants in the planters, unfortunately the school are struggling to maintain the planters but as we chose resilient plants, we are hopeful that a few of these may survive.

Our theme for the summer planting took its lead from the Platinum Jubilee logo and the purple and white flowers seemed a real hit with many in the village. This year we have totally different theme.

In June we again worked with the Brownies to plant the planters outside the Parish Centre, this is to be repeated again this year and we will have installed new self-watering planters outside the front entrance by the time this takes place.

In the June at the Jubilee celebration, we had a Pimms and Prosecco stall a slight departure from selling blooms! But the mint was home-grown you will be pleased to know!

In September we were very fortunate to be helped by a donation from the proceeds of the Wheelbarrow race, we had a few of the group out along the route and we contributed a garden voucher that we won in a competition.

In September, we stripped out the summer planting and planted bulbs and spring flowering plants. When we take out the plants the green waste is sent for recycling so as to be as sustainable as possible. The bulbs that have now finished flowering will be dry stored and then found a new home for the spring, perhaps a few more could be added to those we planted a couple of years ago?

In December we held a raffle at the Co-op and the Christmas market. We once again provided a fantastic tree in the Co-op car park I personally think was the most successful yet! We did finally manage to work out how to provide a powerful enough power source to make an impactful display.

The joint venture 'Christmas Comes to Studley' with The Christmas Light and other groups working together was yet again well attended. I was particularly pleased with the new crowd control measures we put into operation on the Co-op carpark.

Studley in Bloom continues to work hard and effectively for the benefit of the village. We have more plans for the future in the pipe line and would like to thank The Parish Council the businesses that sponsor us and villagers for their continued support with which we could not function.

Cllr Hencher-Serafin, Studley North District Councillor reported that Studley in Bloom has offered to put a flower planter on the pavement by Brunos Bakery to prevent people parking illegally. WCC Highways has refused permission for this and therefore he will try and get some railings installed on safety grounds as close to the School crossing.

### **3. Trustees, Studley Parish Lands**

Rev Kate Mier reported that the Charity had donated to support villagers who were in need. There is a process to apply for help. The Trust are looking for a new Clerk as the current one is retiring. The roll involves three meetings a year and issue grants. Rev Mier also mentioned that there is the David Atcheson Fund, which is for the sick and needy, where grants are available to those that require help.

### **4. Anglican Church and Parish Centre.**

Rev Mier reported on behalf of Churches Together.

The Methodist Church with Ann Batchelor as a Community Outreach worker offering cooking skills for teenagers, warm space on Thursday mornings, community choir and hosts Foodbank.

### **Church of England**

Involvement in traditional festivals throughout the year. Bell ringers are thriving with lots of young people joining. Closely working with the Parish Council with funerals and car parking by the cemetery. The Church is open at certain times and has many visitors especially from Studley Castle Hotel. The church is part of Environmentally Studley. Angela Corlett is a Family Co-ordinator and has developed Sunbeams toddler group which is a thriving support group. Anna Chaplin is the contact for older support groups. There is a Dementia café on

first Thursday of each month in the Parish Centre together with a Bereavement group. A new well-being room is to be made for meetings. The church has strong links with the Girl Guides and specific support links with St Mary's C of E Junior School and praise to the Headteacher, Rebecca Gordon for her hard work.

## **5. Studley Community Managed Library.**

Joan Wallin, Lead Volunteer reported:

The normal opening schedule has been renewed after the Covid interruption. We have maintained the core of volunteers and added a few more during the course of the year. However, mainly due to health issues we have lost some of our volunteers and unless we can attract more people to help, we may have to reduce opening hours. Young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme have proved valuable additions, with some staying on after completing it. Because they are students, they are limited to the days they can volunteer. We have also been asked to offer work experience to one young person and that is progressing. Needless to say, we will always welcome new volunteers as we now enter our 13<sup>th</sup> year providing this valuable facility.

A new five-year agreement has been accepted by the Parish Council which has guaranteed the offer of a library service for that period. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to them.

Warwickshire staffed libraries offer the resources of Ancestry.com to borrowers. This service did not get transferred across. I have made enquiries about offering the service in our library and it is possible but is quite expensive and we need to undertake a survey to see if sufficient people would use the service before applying for the funding and the licence. This is ongoing. We also need to update a computer.

An author evening featuring Barbara Treen, a former prison governor, was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2023. This proved quite successful and enjoyable. We were able to donate a sum to Stratford Samaritans in lieu of payment to the speaker, as she requested. We hope to hold another such evening towards the end of the year.

We have had enquiries from local infant and senior schools about incorporating visits of children during term time and we are trying to reach a mutually agreeable timing for these to occur.

The Annual Audit by WCC library service happened on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Issue figures show we have not recovered completely from the effects of lockdown, but we are heading in the right direction. The service was deemed to be very good, and no complaints had been received.

## **6. Adrian Smith**

Adrian Smith is a member of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers of which there are 136 in the UK He is trying to raise the profile of the village and the Parish Council funded a coat with the help of AJP seamstresses. He has served 12 years as a councillor and will continue to help the community even though no longer on the council.

## **7. Studley Daytime WI**

President, Ann Rolph reported that there are 50 members post covid meeting first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. They have Speakers at the meetings on various topic of Wildlife, Taxation and Finances and History of the Circus. The group have organised a craft show for the Jubilee and a stall at the Christmas Fayre. A walking group has started, weather dependent! Thanks to the Village Hall for making the meetings so comfortable.

## **8. Studley Nature Reserve**

Cllr Chris Britt reported that the volunteer group is improving conservation of the site. More volunteers would be welcome and collaboration with other community groups.

## **9. 1<sup>st</sup> Studley Scout Group**

Karen Marshall, Group Scout Leader reported that numbers are increasing. The group would love more volunteers and currently have 110 6-14 years old. In September a Squirrels group is starting which is 4-5 year old. Explorer Scouts are returning to the village being 14-17 years. Request SPC to consider renewing the lease on the Scout Hut which expires in October 2023. Repairs needed on the building but waiting lease renewal.

## **10. Studley in Business**

Justin Kerridge reported that this group formed to promote business in Studley. They funded Enjoyably Studley with a website and signage around the village. They encourage community organisations post events on the website.

## **11. Village Hall Management Committee**

A report was read out by Cllr C Summers.

Once again, the Village Hall has experienced a very difficult 12 months. Whilst there have been great positives, these have been counter balanced by some large negatives. Despite the difficulties and thanks to our 3 dedicated staff members the hall has continued to run efficiently on a daily basis.

During this period we have seen the continuation of the same groups who have been with us for many years and have welcomed several new groups which have quickly become established. One of the new groups is Tai Chi which has grown from one attendee to 9 some weeks as well as a new Kick Boxing group who now hold two sessions each week. Our main core groups are WI, SWCC, line dancing, yoga, Pilates, Spiritual groups, kick boxing, children's dance classes and art groups. Other core activities are children's dance shows, local theatre groups, one off yoga groups and many parties.

We have now successfully reintroduced our weekly Monday morning coffee break, staffed by a team of volunteers. This is a vital asset for members of the local community and the line dancers.

We have also introduced a Warm Hub on Tuesday mornings which was initially to provide somewhere in the village which is warm for locals to come for and refreshments free of charge. However, despite the change in weather we are continuing to run the group as it is now providing a local meeting place and companionship for many residents who may not have previously come out. There is one lady who is disabled and said that this is one of the few places within the village she can actually gain access because there are no steps to navigate and the automatic doors enable her to gain access with ease. The Warm Hub is staffed by members of the Village Hall Committee and one other volunteer.

The Village Hall has financially suffered due to the rise of our overall costs, and this is continuing to have an impact. The Village Hall costs have increased significantly this year as



a result of rising costs in utilities and significantly increased charges in order to comply with our obligations under the terms of the lease from the Parish Council. These include increased surveys, buildings insurance and maintenance and repair costs to the structure and fabric of the building.

When the Village Hall Management Committee gifted the Village Hall to the Parish Council in order to protect the asset for the village, the agreement was that the Committee would run the Village Hall paying a peppercorn rent but bearing the costs of maintenance and repair. This has worked extremely well for many years. However, recently the Parish Council has issued Committee with a notice of an increase in rent of 33,500% which in monetary terms is an increase of £33,500 per annum. This action has resulted in further unplanned expenditure from the associated legal costs that we have had to expend in seeking legal advice. This is still an ongoing issue and will result in further costs.

This year we have suffered a loss of £25.7k. A total of £19.2k is attributed to increase in running costs including utility costs, staff salaries, maintenance and repair costs and a further £6.5k was due to increased charges as a result of Parish Council actions. We are a non-profit making organisation which has to fund all expenditure from income raised from hall hire charges, donations and grants.

We hope that moving forwards our financial issues can be resolved but for this to happen we would need the full support and co-operation of the Parish Council.

**Agenda Item 5 Open Forum**

**This opened at 7.34pm**

MOP asked about rent from NHS income for Covid injections, with regard to the Village Hall accounts. Requested a copy of hall accounts as a community building as those on the website were abbreviated.

Cllr Kerridge asked whether SPC would lead on tree planting. The Chair said this will need to be discussed and will be put on June meeting agenda.

Cllr Dixon said that SPC land leased out and none suitable for tree planting. Also questioned responsibility of future maintenance funding. Would like bridges to be built with the Village Hall committee as there is no representation from them again at this meeting. The Chair said that there was an issue with terms of the lease and there was hope that discussions will be opened with the parties soon.

Cllr Osborne spoke about 150 fruit trees that were donated some years ago when villagers planted them in their garden. SPC helped with that scheme.

Rev Kate Mier requested that the village purchase an outside PA system for events. The ideal would a battery operated one.

MOP mentioned the Trees Call to Action by HoEF where trees are supplied free to local authorities.

The Chair thanked all the community groups for their hard work and the meeting closed.

Meeting closed 7:44 pm

**Signed:** .....  
**Chairman, Cllr C Summers**

**Date:**.....