

## Stocking Pelham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 At the Village Hall

Present: 10+ Parishioners and 4 Parish Councillors + Clerk

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Apologies:</b> Graham Mackrell, Robin Whitefield	
<b>2. Minutes:</b> The minutes of the AGM held on 14th May 2013 were signed as correct.	
<b>3. Matters arising</b> Item 7. Details of forthcoming services at St Mary's Church are now posted on the internet by Mike Hutchins.	
<b>4. Finance report, presented by David Nicholls, on behalf of Graham Mackrell</b> The financial statement for the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014 was circulated. The closing balance at Lloyds TSB was £1055.63. The most significant expenditure by the SPPC was for the removal of a potentially dangerous tree from the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has agreed to make a contribution of £500 to the Stocking Pelham Cricket Club towards the cost of a new mower. The Chairman explained that the Cricket Club plays a vital role in maintaining the Recreation Ground as a village asset. The Precept from East Herts for 2013/15 has been confirmed at £1,650.	
<b>5. Highways report, presented by Ruth Banks</b> On the whole, the County Council have responded well to requests to repair the road surface. A temporary 'fix' of loose chippings is typically replaced with tarmac at a later date. A representative from the Council inspects the local roads at regular intervals. Following a question, Ruth Banks confirmed that roadside verges are owned by the County Council. The Chairman thanked Ruth Banks for her diligence in reporting Highways issues.	
<b>6. Planning report, presented by Paul Lucas</b> A summary sheet for planning applications received or outstanding during the past year was circulated and explained. It was noted that, as last year, few planning applications have been made. Paul Lucas reported that a problem in sourcing bricks has caused a delay in the development of the pub-site but that work would resume shortly. The anticipated date for completion is March 2015. Following a question about the future ownership of the pub, Paul Lucas explained that the current owner has an option to lease the pub, instead of selling it. Change of use from a pub into a residential dwelling is unlikely as it would be a considerable hurdle to cross, requiring lengthy negotiations with Planning Authorities. The East Herts Draft District Plan (January 2014) states that 'it wishes to support the continued provision of facilities such as pubs' and that 'planning applications that result in the loss of community facilities will not be permitted unless the Council are satisfied that every effort has been made to retain them'. Paul Lucas urged members of the community to be positive about the future viability of the village pub.	
<b>7. St Mary's Church report, presented by David Bailey, on behalf of Jane Bailey</b> It has been an active year, with church services taking place for all festivals and other regular services. The rear of the church is being used for post-service social gatherings. Restoration and refurbishment has been completed at a total cost £30,000, including significant grant-funding. New guttering is needed and is to be provided and paid for by	

<p>a former resident of the village.</p> <p>There have been some changes to the SPPCC; Rachel Brown is the now Secretary and David Bailey is the Treasurer. Arnold Hitchcock was thanked for all his hard work during his 20 years as PCC Treasurer. Robin Whitefield and Suzanne Corgan were thanked for their help in maintaining the churchyard and Di Whitefield for her sterling effort in walking over 70 miles and raising £3,600 for St Mary's Church fund.</p> <p>Future fund-raising events include the 'Tea with-in-Tent' on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, proceeds of which will be shared between the church and a local hospice. All support for this and other church events is welcome. The Chairman thanked both David and Jane Bailey for all their efforts on behalf of the St Mary's Church over the past year.</p>	MH
<p><b>8. Pre-school Report</b></p> <p>David Nicholls reported that the Pelhams Preschool continues to thrive and that the newly-constructed French- doors and outdoor covered area are of benefit to both the Preschool and to other users of the Village Hall.</p>	
<p><b>9. The Cricket Club report, presented by David Nicholls</b></p> <p>The Cricket Club Dinner in April was well-supported and provided an essential boost to the funds. There has also been success on the cricket field, although the team remains in need of more players. More critically, the Club needs a new mower. David Bailey is applying for match-funding grants towards the purchase of a new mower.</p>	
<p><b>10. The Village Hall report and The Pelhams Pre-school report , presented by Bridget Hitchcock (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee) and Mike Hutchins (Treasurer)</b></p> <p>The main events this year were the Quiz Night and the Grease Night, both of which were very successful, thanks to huge support from local people and hard work done by the members of the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>Bridget Hitchcock reiterated that the French doors have improved the lighting in the Hall and offer considerable versatility in use of the Hall space. Mike Hutchins thanked David Bailey on behalf of everyone for his hard work during his time as treasurer. He then presented the SPVHC accounts and said that the new doors had cost £8000, with the Village Hall Committee contributing £1500 towards this. He confirmed that there was a written agreement that the doors and extension are the property of the Village Hall. The Chairman pointed out that as the Parish Council are trustees of the Village Hall, a copy of this agreement would need to be included in SPPC records. Mike also said that the VHC intend to do a mini refurbishment of the hall including internal painting, new toilets and replacement of the curtains with blinds.</p>	MH
<p><b>11. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>A question was raised about the possible installation of a defibrillator outside the Village Hall or elsewhere in the village. The cost of a defibrillator is approximately £1000. Edward Hitchcock said that Pelham Farming would be willing to donate £250 towards the purchase of a defibrillator. Community Grants are likely to be available for this. The Village Hall Committee could organise an event targeted at raising funds for a defibrillator. The meeting showed wide-spread support for the acquisition of a defibrillator. The Chairman asked Edward and Bridget Hitchcock to move forward with this proposal, on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that work to clear the Village Pump of vegetation would be taking place in the near future. Having thanked everybody for their attendance, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.</p>	

