

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

MINUTES

Wednesday 24th May 2023
Annual Parish Council Meeting
Village Hall ~ 8.15pm

Attendees: Cllr J. Wallace ~ Chair
Cllr K. Mansell
Cllr B. Stone (Retired)
Cllr S. Back (by co-option)
Cllr P. Dumke ~ Vice-Chair
Cllr J. Van Niekerk (by co-option)
Cllr N. Blown (by co-option)
Mrs J. Allen ~ Clerk

Members of the public: Eight (8)

PUBLIC SESSION ~ NOT PART OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Part A. Public Discussions

None.

Part B. Public Discussions on any agenda items

One member of the public spoke to express concerns that following the results of the local elections that the Parish Councillors were very few in numbers.

Another member of the public also spoke to introduce himself as the new flood warden for the village.

Finally, a Parishioner spoke to thank Councillor B. Stone for his many years of service, following his decision not to seek re-election.

Before the commencement of the meeting, the councillors signed their declarations of acceptance of office before the Proper Officer of the Council.

The previous Chairman, Cllr B. Stone officially opened the main part of the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Election of Chair Person

To elect the Chair Person of Stoke Parish Council for the 2023/2024 Council Year.

Min 7568:23 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to propose that Cllr J. Wallace be nominated as the Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Dumke and was unanimously agreed.

2. Chair Person's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

To receive the Chair Person's Declaration of Acceptance of Office or, if the Chair Person is not present, to resolve that such Declaration be made at or before the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

Min 7569:23 Cllr J. Wallace duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed and signed by the Proper Officer, Mrs J. Allen.

3. Election of Vice-Chair Person

To elect the Vice-Chair Person of Stoke Parish Council for the 2023/2024 Council Year.

Min 7570:23 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to propose that Cllr P. Dumke be nominated as the Vice-Chair. This proposal was seconded by Cllr J. Wallace and was unanimously agreed.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

4. Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

To receive the Vice-Chair Person's Declaration of Acceptance of Office or, if the Vice-Chair Person is not present, to resolve that such Declaration be made at or before the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

Min 7571:23 Cllr P. Dumke duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed and signed by the Proper Officer, Mrs J. Allen.

5. Apologies for absence

Min 7572:23 None.

6. To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Min 7573:23 None.

Following her nomination as Chair, Cllr J. Wallace took control of the meeting and former Cllr Brian Stone left.

7. Parish Councillors

a). To formally introduce and welcome any new members onto the Parish Council.

Min 7574:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to formally introduce Cllr P. Dumke onto the Parish Council, where in turn he was invited to speak to say a few words.

b). To formally issue a vote of thanks to any previous members who did not reapply.

Min 7575:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke further to propose vote of thanks be recorded in recognition of Councillors Keith Copping, Peter Egan, Brian Stone & Geoff Blackman for all their hard work, following their decision not to seek re-election at the local elections held earlier that month.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr K. Mansell and was unanimously agreed.

8. Minutes from the previous Parish Council Meeting

a). To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023.

Min 7576:23 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023, were circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell and seconded by Cllr P. Dumke, that the minutes be approved as a correct record subject to the correction of a few minor amendments (mainly spelling errors). This motion was carried as it was unanimously agreed.

9. Matters arising from the minutes (not otherwise on the Agenda)

Min 7577:23 None.

10. Vacancies

To discuss any applications received relating to the Parish Council's outstanding vacancies.

Min 7578:23 The members received three (3) applications for co-option from a Mr S. Back, Mr J. Van Niekerk & Mr N. Blown, all of who were invited to speak.

All the candidates provided a short synopsis on themselves, where the Chair Cllr J. Wallace asked the existing members if they had any questions.

No questions were raised.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

Min 7579:23 It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell to accept Mr J. Van Niekerk 's application and to co-opt him as a new member of the Parish Council, this proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Dumke and was unanimously agreed.

Min 7580:23 It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell to accept Mr S. Backs 's application and to co-opt him as a new member of the Parish Council, this proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Dumke and was unanimously agreed.

Min 7581:23 It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell to accept Mr N. Blown's application and to co-opt him as a new member of the Parish Council, this proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Dumke and was unanimously agreed.

Councillors J Van Niekerk, S Back and N. Blown all signed their declarations of acceptance of office in front of the forum, where they received a warm welcome from everyone present.

The Clerk also handed the new members a copy of the meeting pack along with a Medway Council DPI to complete and return to her as soon as possible.

11. To review the Council's Sub Committee Memberships

- a). Personnel
- b). Planning
- c). Finance

Min 7582:23 Owing to the co-option of three new members, it was decided to defer any decisions in regards to electing members onto certain sub committees until the next meeting.

12. To review the Council's Working Party Memberships

a). Playparks

Min 7583:23 A discussion in regards to working party memberships for all three of the play parks ensued and the following suggestions were made:

- Upper Stoke – Cllr P. Dumke
- Heron Way – Cllr K. Mansell & Cllr P. Dumke
- Button Drive – Ms S. Horne & Mr P. Egan

b). Policies

Min 7584:23 The members discussed the Policies Working Party, where it was decided that ALL of the Parish Councillors should participate in this group.

13. To review the Council's representatives for external bodies

a). KALC

Min 7585:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace asked the Clerk to defer this matter for a decision until the next Parish Council next meeting.

b). Rural Liaison

Min 7586:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to volunteer herself as the Rural Liaison representative for Stoke Parish Council. She also spoke to inform the meeting that she understood the next Rural Liaison gathering had been scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30th June.

c). Police Liaison

Min 7587:23 Owing to the lack of volunteers, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to advise that she would enquire if one of the previous Councillors, who was assisting with this role, would be happy to continue speaking with the Police on an ad hoc basis.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

d). Village Hall

Min 7588:23 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to volunteer herself as the Village Hall representative for Stoke Parish Council, she also disclosed that she was the current treasurer for the Village Hall.

14. To review and approve the Council's and/or employees' subscriptions to other bodies

a). KALC

b). ICO

c). Rialtas

d). Satswana

Min 7589:23 The members collectively discussed the Parish Council's subscriptions for KALC, ICO, Rialtas & Satswana. It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell to approve all of the renewals, this proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Dumke and was unanimously agreed

15. Ward Councillor report - **Annex A**

a). A report by Ward Councillor George Crozer.

Min 7590:23 The members learnt that Ward Councillor G. Crozer had passed his apologies onto the Clerk, where he was required to attend mandatory meeting at Medway Council which had coincided with the Parish Council's meeting. In his absence however he had forwarded on a response from Medway Council concerning the ongoing leaking manhole cover, located on the A228 / Grain Road.

Please refer to Annex A for a copy of this report.

16. Planning Applications

a). Applications

b). Decisions

Min 7591:23 Cllr J. Wallace spoke to acknowledge that there had been no new planning applications submitted or any new decisions made since the last meeting.

c). Appeals and Other Matters

Min 7592:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to advise that she understood planning application MC/23/0106 (Land At Middle Stoke, including 1 & 2 Jubilee Cottages), had been amended from nine (9) dwellings to seven (7).

There was a short discussion and the members agreed to look at the plans in finer detail before determining if they would submit a further objection.

Min 7593:23 The Parish Councillors spoke further about a brick-built dwelling that was being constructed within the ground of 'The Shant, and as discussed at the last meeting ref:

Min 7533:22 .

It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell and seconded by Cllr J. Wallace that the Clerk should write to Medway Council to alert them to this building and to confirm if the land owners had planning permission. This decision was unanimously agreed.

17. Finance

a). Bank balances

Min 7594:23 Cllr J. Wallace referred the members to the bank statements contained within their meeting packs. After careful consideration the bank balances were deemed as acceptable.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

b). To agree the financial performance against the budget for April 2023.

Min 7595:23 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen spoke to alert the members to the fact that she had slightly overspent on the budget provided for the Coronation mugs, owing to the urgency of the order.

A discussion ensued as to what the members should do with the remaining box of mugs. The Clerk Mrs J. Allen spoke in turn to suggest that the Parish Council should consider gifting them to the volunteers who helped at the event. She also recommended that any leftover mugs be passed onto wHoo Cares, so they could either use them in their local office or pass them onto residents living on the Peninsula. The members agreed with the Clerk's comments and Cllr J. Wallace informed the meeting that she would speak to the Stoke Community Project to ask for a list of volunteers.

The conversation digressed to a pile of fly tipping that had been seen in the Heron Way Recreation Ground, alongside a whole load of litter that had been strewn around the park. In response to this rubbish Cllr K. Mansell asked the Clerk to enquire which days the contractor carries out his litter pick and if he was still planning to retire this year, following his conversation with the Clerk last summer.

c). Accounts paid since the last meeting to be ratified.

Min 7596:23 The Councillors carefully reviewed the Parish Council's bank statements. After careful consideration, it was unanimously agreed to ratify the accounts paid.

d). Accounts for payment.

Min 7597:23 It was proposed by Cllr K. Mansell and seconded by Cllr P. Dumke that the Payments, as per listed below be approved. This motion was carried after it was unanimously agreed.

Before the members moved onto the next item, they discussed holding a Finance Working Group meeting on Tuesday 20th June at 7.00pm, in order to review the Parish Council's audit Results and to discuss budgets for the forthcoming year.

As the public house was closed on a Tuesday, and this meeting was an informal gathering, Cllr J. Wallace offered to host the meeting in the garden of the Nags Head Public House.

Payee	Reference	Payment Method	Amount	Notes
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	PAID BY BACS	£542.53	April 2023 Wages
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£542.52	May 2023 Wages
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	PAID BY BACS	£35.00	Use of home office – April 2023
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£35.00	Use of home office – May 2023
Vodafone Telephone & Broadband	Min 1451:18	DIRECT DEBIT	£41.16	Broadband & Telephone line rental for April 2023
Vodafone Telephone & Broadband	Min 1451:18	DIRECT DEBIT	£41.16	Broadband & Telephone line rental for May 2023

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

Colin Davis	Min 1992:20	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£69.00	Litter picking and Cleaning INV: 3714
Hiscock Insurance Company Ltd	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£1,197.96	Annual Insurance Renewal INV: 6684479
Mrs J. Wallace	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£95.00	Reimbursement for Email Hosting Package via Nexus Data Systems Limited INV: 70233
PDQ Property Maintenance	Min 7552:22	PAID BY BACS	£250.00	Repairs to Middle Stoke Noticeboard INV: 04/05/2023
KALC	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£385.00	Subscription to KALC for 23/24 INV: 8863
Rialtas Business Solutions	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£412.50	Subscription to Rialtas for 23/24 INV: SM26568
Severn C Products Ltd	Min 7561:22	PAID BY BACS	£566.40	Coronation Mugs for Stoke Village INV: INV-8189
KPS Office Supplies	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£38.94	Clear Press Stud Wallets for Office Filing Cabinet INV: 42446
Satswana Limited	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£180.00	Data Projection Officer Services 23/24 INV: M2589
Stoke Community Project	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	PAID BY BACS	£300.00	Donation towards King's Coronation Event held on 07/05/23
Mrs J. Allen	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	PAID BY BACS	£100.00	50% costs towards new office cabinet.
Medway Council	Min 5077:21	DIRECT DEBIT	£212.50	Lower Stoke Car Park Lease Payment Quarter 4 INV: (TO FOLLOW)
The People's Pension	Min 1775:20	DIRECT DEBIT	£43.40	Both Employer & Employee Contributions for April 2023
The People's Pension	Min 1775:20	DIRECT DEBIT	£43.40	Both Employer & Employee Contributions for May 2023
TOTAL			£5,131.47	

e). Payment requests to be discussed for approval and payment.

Min 7598:23 None.

18. Grant applications

a). To ratify the £300 grant application submitted by the Stoke Community Project for the King's Coronation Event, which took place on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Min 7599:23 It was proposed by Cllr J. Wallace and seconded by Cllr P. Dumke that the members approved the £300 grant paid to the Stoke Community Project towards the costs of hosting the Kings Coronation Event. This motion was carried as it was unanimously agreed.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

19. Management of the Council's land and property

a). To review the play park inspections for:

i Button Drive Playpark

ii Heron Way Playpark

iii Upper Stoke Playpark

Min 7600:23 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to inform the members that there had been no change in the condition of the Heron Way playpark since her last report. She did however comment that she was unsure of the condition of the remaining two playparks as she had not received a copy of Peter Egan's report.

b). To receive an update on the long-term upkeep of the Button Drive, Heron Way & Upper Stoke Playparks.

Min 7601:23 The members acknowledged that previous Parish Councillor Peter Egan had drawn up a long-term plan to aid with the upkeep of the three (3) playparks and that he had earmarked a balance of £50 per month from the Parish Council's budget.

As Mr P. Egan had not reapplied at the last local elections, the members spoke of inviting him to join their new 'Playpark Working Party', so that he could continue to assist with them with his plans and in implementing some of his ideas. Accordingly, the Clerk was deployed to write to Mr P. Egan to invite him to join the newly formed working party.

c). To receive an update on the installation of three Platinum Jubilee trees.

Min 7602:23 Cllr J. Wallace spoke to acknowledge that one of the new Platinum Jubilee trees had already been planted on the green in Upper Stoke.

She also advised that previous Parish Councillors Brain Stone and Keith Copping were meant to have been arranging a site visit together at the Button Drive Recreation Ground to determine the best location to plant the second tree. However, as both members had not sought re-election, she was unsure if this site visit had been carried out. Accordingly, she asked the Clerk to write to both parties to request an update.

d). Defibrillators

Min 7603:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to inform the members that she understood from Mrs G. Bucknall's report (as read out at the Annual Parish Meeting) that the community in Upper Stoke had raised over £500 towards a new defibrillator and that an idea had already been mooted to mount this new device on the outside of the church in Upper Stoke.

A discussion ensued in regards to the need for a defibrillator in Middle Stoke and the members spoke collectively about where they could mount this new device.

Unfortunately, none of the suggestions made seemed immediately viable owing to the lack of a permanent power supply to regulate the temperature of the defibrillator cabinet. After careful consideration it was agreed that the members would carry out further research and that they would discuss this matter in finer detail at the next meeting.

20. Highways & Transportation

a). Footpaths

Min 7604:23 No report.

b). Lighting

Min 7605:23 No report.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

c). Highways and verges

Min 7606:23 No report.

d). Pot holes

Min 7607:23 The members acknowledged that various potholes in the village were in the process of being filled in by Medway Council – all be it very slowly!

e). Fly tipping

Min 7608:23 Please refer to the fly tipping identified in the Heron Way playpark, as reported by Cllr K. Mansell ref: **Min 7595:23** .

f). Grass cutting

Min 7609:23 The members agreed that in Keith Copping's absence they would continue to keep an eye on the length of the grass in the playparks.

They acknowledged that whilst the length of the grass seemed of reasonable length at present they were unsure if Medway Council had adopted their 'no mow may' campaign again this year.

g). Leaking manhole cover on A228 / Grain Road

Min 7610:23 Please refer to item 15, ref: **Min 7590:23** .

h). Button Drive recreation ground outer fencing

Min 7611:23 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen informed the members that owing to the recent local elections and the Parish Council's annual internal audit that she was yet to follow up on this point.

21. Communication

a). Update on the Parish Council's new webpage and associated email addresses

Min 7612:23 Cllr J. Wallace informed the members that she had just paid to renew the Parish Council's hosting package for another year.

b). Social Media Page

Min 7613:23 No report.

c). Parish Council owned tablets

Min 7614:23 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen informed the members that she would reset the Parish Council owned tablets and bring them with her to the Finance Working Party meeting on Tuesday 20th June.

22. Village Hall

a). To receive an update on the status of the Village Hall

Min 7615:23 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to inform the members that she had been in contact with Neu Connect Siemens surrounding funding for the Village Hall's repairs. In response to her enquiry she had been informed that there was a new grant facility opening to applications next year.

23. External Contractors

Min 7616:23 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen spoke to complain that the greenery surrounding the noticeboard in Middle Stoke was starting to encroach over the noticeboard again. Accordingly, she asked permission to source some quotes to have the whole area cleared.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

24. Stoke Community Project – **Annex B**

a). To receive a report from the Stoke Community Project concerning their latest projects.

Min 7617:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace referred to the report read out by the Stoke Community Project during the Annual Parish Meeting. **Please see Annex B for a copy of this report.**

25. Feedback to Public Questions

a). To receive a response/update on the last public questions raised, following the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023.

Min 7618:23 It was acknowledged that there had been several points raised at the last meeting, the majority of which were Police matters.

26. Village Events

a). Kings Coronation May 2023.

Min 7619:23 The members spoke collectively to agree that the Kings Coronation Celebrations, as organised by the Stoke Community Project, had been a great success.

They referred to the conversation held earlier in the meeting concerning the remaining mugs. Please refer to item 17b, ref: **Min 7595:23** .

27. Training

a). Dynamic Councillor Training Events

Min 7620:23 The members agreed with the idea of attending a Dynamic Councillor training course each, where the Clerk was deployed to enquire if any of these events were taking place locally before booking tickets to attend an online forum.

b). Operational Playground Inspection Course

Min 7621:23 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen referred the members to a flyer she had received advertising an 'operational playground inspection course', which was being held over 2 days and based in Ashford, Kent.

Concerns were raised regarding the location of this course, and the fact that this workshop had been arranged to take place just after the Whitsun bank holiday weekend.

Whilst the members agreed that training for the various volunteers and Councillors was essential, they asked the Clerk to investigate if any additional playground inspection courses were taking place later in the year.

28. Correspondence

Min 7622:23 None.

29. Reports and Circulars

Min 7623:23 None.

30. Any other business (no votes may be taken)

Min 7624:23 None.

31. Date of next meeting

Min 7623:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to inform the members that the next meeting would take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th July, starting at 7.00pm.

She also advised that an extraordinary meeting was likely to take place beforehand, to approve the Parish Council's accounts in time for their 2022/2023 external audit, the date of which would be confirmed nearer to the time.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

32. Close of meeting

Min 7624:23 The Chair, Cllr J. Wallace closed the meeting at 9.37pm and thanked both the Councillors and the members of the public for attending.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 5th July 2023	7.00pm	The Village Hall
--	---------------	-------------------------

ANNEXES

ANNEX A

15a). Ward Councillor Report - A report by Ward Councillor George Crozer **Min 7590:23**

From: Stoke Parish Council

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 8:54 PM

To: palmer, matthew

Cc: George Crozer; Kelly Tolhurst ; molloy, jason; atkinson, daniel ; julie wallace

Subject: Re: URGENT UPDATE REQUIRED ON THE A228 / Grain Road, Stoke RE: Leaking Manhole Cover

Hi Jenny,

I hope are well too!

Even though there hasn't been an update since early May, please be assured that this is still a site we are very keen to get resolved.

Funnily enough I chased BT earlier this week and they informed me that they have raise an order internally at BT, it is just in the process of programming it in.

I do really appreciate that this has been going on for an extremely long time, hence it is one of our priorities to get resolved. However, our hands our tied a little as it is not result of one of our assets. We will continue to chase and put pressure on the utilities.

I have only removed Cllr Crozer from the email as he informed me in his last email that this now doesn't sit within his ward.

On a side note, I am leaving Medway Council next week but my manager Jason Molloy and also Dan Atkinson who is an engineer within my team are copied in, who will be able to keep you updated.

In relation to the potholes, our highways inspectors regularly inspect the highway and will intervene when defects reach intervention level. I will drop them an email to check that this area is still on their radar.

Thanks, Matt

Matthew Palmer | Senior Engineer (Structures, Tunnel and Drainage)
| Higways | Medway Council |

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

From: Stoke Parish Council

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 5:12 PM

To: palmer, matthew

Cc: George Crozer; Kelly Tolhurst ; molloy, jason; atkinson, daniel ; julie wallace

Subject: Re: URGENT UPDATE REQUIRED ON THE A228 / Grain Road, Stoke RE: Leaking Manhole Cover

Hi Matt,

I do hope my email finds you well.

Just to let you know that unfortunately it all seems very quiet with this manhole cover again.

There doesn't seem to be a lot happening with BT.

I drove past at the weekend and I can honestly say that the road is so wet near this manhole cover, which is causing all the potholes that surround it to re-materialise again owing to the constant wet / dry environment.

In view of the above please could you give BT chase to find out what's happening? Are you also able to ask for these potholes to be filled again?

Many thanks,

~ Jenny

From: Matthew Palmer

Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 11:35 AM

To: Stoke Parish Council

Cc: George Crozer; Kelly Tolhurst ; molloy, jason; atkinson, daniel ; julie wallace

Subject: Re: URGENT UPDATE REQUIRED ON THE A228 / Grain Road, Stoke RE: Leaking Manhole Cover

Good Morning All,

Happy to give an update, was on my list of jobs before the end of the week.

Some slightly positive news (not a resolution unfortunately yet). We have discovered where the water is getting into the BT system and then leading down to the leaking manhole. There is what appears to be a BT fibre duct which is leaking water into the BT duct system further up around Upper Stoke which then travels down and comes out of the manhole by Middle Stoke. We have confirmed this with green dye (environmentally friendly).

The next step is finding out where water is getting into this fibre duct further up the line and/or sealing the joints in the duct so it doesn't leak into the system. We have reported this to BT and thankfully we have received a swift response from BT saying they will investigate.

I will of course be ensuring we keep on top of BT to maintain progress and will keep you in the loop.

I appreciate we haven't resolved the issue at hand yet but we are making progress.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

Thanks, Matt

Matthew Palmer | Senior Engineer (Structures, Tunnel and Drainage)
| Higways | Medway Council |

ANNEX B

24a). Stoke Community Project

Min 7617:23

To receive a report from the Stoke Community Project concerning their latest projects.

STOKE COMMUNITY GROUP

Once again, we had a wonderful year celebrating events with our amazing village.

We held four quiz nights, all were well attended, feedback was that everyone had fun so if you haven't joined us yet, please do. Everyone is very friendly and if you do not have a table someone will always welcome you to go on theirs. Our next one this year is on the 10th June.

For the children we held Easter and Halloween discos. Julie very kindly allowed us to hold these in the Nag's Head Garden. It is always lovely to see the children dressed up and having fun. We are hoping to add an end of term disco this year with a prom theme.

Last year saw us combine the annual Big Lunch celebration with the Jubilee Street Party. This was a big success and was followed by the Big Lunch/Coronation event this year. It was nice to collaborate with the Parish Council on these. Many people have approached us and told us how much they and their families enjoyed themselves. I believe there may still be some of the Coronation mugs the Parish Council purchased for children living in the village available. Please speak to Julie from the Nags Head for these.

2022 was the first time we took part in the Grain Carnival; our theme was Be Kind. The children all looked incredible in their costumes and had fun riding on the lorry. We were absolutely delighted to win the competition for best float! We have a new theme this year. Anyone wanting their child to take part can contact any one of us and we will share this with them so they can organise their costumes (the organiser likes us to keep it a secret until the big day).

Our complimentary Senior's Afternoon Tea was also well attended and I know for many of us this is our favourite event. Santa made an appearance and everyone went home with a present.

Christmas saw our Santa delivery around the village once again. We were very kindly donated extra sweets so every child we saw along the way received a gift.

We rounded off 2022 with hot chocolate and mulled wine around the Christmas tree in the village car park.

As always, we need to thank our very many generous supporters, we couldn't do it without them.

So, thank you to the Parish Council, Patrons of the Nags Head, Roses Tea Rooms, AJ from the shop, our wonderful village DJ Juan and his apprentice, W H Groundworks, the Indian, Trevor Smith, the guys who manned the burger stall for us at the Coronation event this year and finally the many people who turn out to help us set up at each event! Hopefully we haven't missed anyone.