

**MINUTES OF THE STAWLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT APPELEY PAVILION ON TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024**

Parish Councillors present: Paul Musgrove (PM) Chairman
Sarah Jones (SJ)
Pat Sweet (PS)

Others present: District Councillor Dave Mansell (DM)
5 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for absence:** Matt Vellacott
2. **Minutes of the APM on 6th June 2023** had been made available on the website and were referred to by the Chairman at the meeting. They were considered to be correct.
3. **The Chairman's Report** – a resume was presented to the meeting and is available on the website at www.stash.org.uk . There were no resultant questions
4. **Accounts 2023/24:** The RFO presented the accounts to the meeting. Parishioners can view the accounts on the website, www.stash.org.uk together with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The RFO informed the meeting that the balance of the account as on the 21ST May 2024 was in excess of £13,000 so funds could be made available for grants in the coming year whilst still maintaining a balance of about £10,000 for unforeseen costs.
5. **WhatsApp Group for the Parish of Stawley** The Chairman floated the idea of having a WhatsApp group available for Parishioners to join. The aim of the group would be to purely announce events such as the closure of the A38 which would affect the Parish over the following 24 hours. The idea was welcomed by the meeting. The Chairman will draft some rules for the group and publicise it in the PN.
6. **Emergency Planning** There was a short discussion on the need for an Emergency Plan. It was agreed that this could be simply a statement that in an emergency which resulted in the breakdown of communications Parishioners should go to the Pavilion where a plan of action would be developed.
7. **Donations to local groups.** The Editor of the PN stated that the other two Parishes made grants to the PN. The Chairman stated that a grant to the PN would be considered by the Council if it was required to “balance the books”.
8. **Any Other Business:** DM informed the meeting of the present financial state of Somerset Council which is not good. He also gave the history of the provision, or not, of fibre for broadband in the area. Airband, who have the present contract for provision using a Government grant, are not doing well in the rollout. It is possible that they will hand back some of the contract. The hard cut off of the grant funding at the end of the year could be relaxed. We hope to discover more in the June or July as to the future of the roll out of fibre in the Parish.

The meeting was closed at 8.39pm