

# Stanwick Parish Council

Annual Newsletter

April 2014

Welcome to the tenth annual newsletter from the Parish Council. This newsletter gives a brief summary of the activities of the Council over the past twelve months.

Your Parish Councillors are Amanda Michel (Chair), Dave Munday (Vice Chair), Neil Brailsford, Roger Dainty, Sue Kitchener and Nick Peck. Their contact details are in the back of the Grapevine. At the time of printing, there is a councillor vacancy.

Minutes of Council meetings can be viewed at Stanwick Village Hall, Raunds Library and on line at the Council website [www.stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk) or alternatively contact the Council Clerk. Please note Minutes are only available to view once they have been approved as correct by the Council.

## How we spend your money

Expenditure did increase during 2013/14, not least because of the purchase of the public open spaces at Mallows Grange. The Accounts will be audited over the summer and will be available on the Council website in due course.

The Council gave careful consideration to the budget for 2014/15 to minimise the impact of the extra grounds maintenance liabilities at Mallows Grange and has been able to restrict the overall precept (local tax) increase to 2.91%.

## Shaping the future of Stanwick

The public meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, voted by a majority to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. The presentation slides used at the meeting are available to view on the website. If you can offer any help or contribute any particular skills to the Neighbourhood Plan process, please contact the Parish Clerk. Information and progress reports will be posted on the website.

### Think Green – walk more

To help contribute to reducing traffic and parking congestion in the village, why not leave the car at home and walk to village events, school, play group and the shops etc.

Not only will your health benefit, you will save money and make a major contribution to the village environs.

### Traffic Problems

If you have a specific issue the Council would like to hear the details. For example, rather than 'speeding' it would be helpful to know where and when.

The Council has purchased a Speed Indication Device which is being used to capture traffic data to be shared with other authorities.

## Emergency Matters

All community safety incidents should be reported to the police. If they aren't aware of a problem, they can't allocate officer time to Stanwick. There are regular police surgeries in Stanwick where you can discuss any concerns that you may have.

999 for emergencies 101 for non-emergencies

### **Future meetings of the Parish Council**

All Council meetings start at 7.15 p.m. and are held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall. The dates for the coming year are 15<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 and 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Additional meetings may be called in between these dates, particularly to consider planning applications. These will be advertised on the notice board.

Members of the public are always welcome to come and listen at meetings. There is an opportunity to speak at the meeting and further information can be obtained from the Clerk.

### **Dog fouling & litter**

Sadly dog fouling and litter continues to be a significant problem in some areas. Dog mess is both unpleasant and a health hazard. Please use the dog bins and litter bins provided.

Authorized officers can patrol parks and open spaces and specific areas where dog fouling has been reported. You can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 if you do not clean up after your dog.

If you witness someone letting their dog foul without cleaning it up afterwards in a public place, you should report this to the dog warden with as much information as possible. For more information please contact East Northamptonshire Council on 01832 742000 or see [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### **Parish Councillor Code of Conduct**

The Localism Act requires all Councils to have a Code of Conduct that all Councillors must adhere to. The Code of Conduct for Stanwick Parish Council can be viewed on the Council website or a copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk upon request.

If you have reason to believe that a Councillor has not complied with the Code of Conduct, a complaint should be made to the Monitoring Officer, Ms S Matthews, at East Northamptonshire Council, East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NN14 4LZ

### **Local Elections – 2015**

In May 2015 all of the parish council seats will come up for election. This is a good time to find out what being a parish councillor involves and to see if you would like to put yourself forward for election.

Councillors contribute to the work of the whole council by suggesting ideas; engaging in constructive debate; responding to the needs and views of the community & representing their constituents; behaving in an ethical way and being open about interests; commenting on proposals to ensure the best outcome.

### **Stanwick Parish Plan 2013-2018**

The Parish Plan was adopted by the Council in May 2013 and the Council is working through the identified actions. The Plan Document is available to read and download on the website.