

Report to Stanwick Parish Council meeting 21st November 2019

Prepared by J Hodgson

Stanwick Millennium Village Sign

1. Background

1.1 The sign is located on Spencer Parade on the green area adjacent to Hawkes Technical.

1.2 Millennium Village Sign was erected by Stanwick MM, following a series of funding raising events.

1.3 It was designed by Jack Gillespie

1.4 In June 2000 (Minute 31) the Parish Council resolved to be responsible for the maintenance of the sign in perpetuity and signed a document to that effect for Northamptonshire County Council.

1.5 The Parish Council accepted all liability for the sign at the same time.

2. Condition of the sign at the present time

2.1 The oak upright is becoming loose in the stone plinth and other areas of the framework have become soft indicating decay.

2.2 The condition cannot be remedied by treating the wood.

3. Potential solutions

3.1 The original manufacturer (T Seamark) has inspected the sign and emailed the following:

“There is some decay. When this was erected in 2000 I did supply all the timber components but I think it was a chap called Jack that made the sign and put it all together.

It does seem there was a bit of a problem from the start as the boarding on the back of the sign was fixed in too tightly with no room to expand.

With the wood being exposed to all weather these boards expanded and have pushed the mitre joints of the frame apart. This has allowed water to get in over the years and there is some decay.

I do think there is still plenty of life left in this oak frame though and I suggest the following:

We could come to site with ladders and remove the oak boarding from the back of the sign. This would then enable us to cramp the joints back together and fix with stainless steel screws and wood plugs.

I then suggest a solid 18mm exterior plywood panel to the back which would be sealed all round with a black Sadolin preservative.

We would fix with stainless steel screws.

The cost for this work £ £460 plus vat.

I suggest we also include a provisional sum of £300 for any further repairs we may uncover under closer inspection.”

3.2 Commission a new framework of a man made material that will require less maintenance and be more durable.

3.3 Commission a metal framework. Pendred Signs have recommended this course of action: “welded metal frame out of 50mm square steel. Would be finished in black, it would have a metal collar that drops over the top of the post and bolted on. The sign panel would be refitted inside the new frame.” A quote has been received.

4. Action required

4.1 Determine the Council's preferred option and instruct the work.

Additional notes:

The widow of J Gillespie has been advised.

There is a time capsule in the plinth.