

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 25th July 2016 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

Present: Cllrs D D'Lima, J Orlopp, N Kaines, J Catchpole, County Councillor J Storey and District Councillor R Barker. Mrs M Gardiner (clerk) was also in attendance. Eight members of the public also attended

1 Election & appointment of Chairman of the Parish Council for 2016-17

Cllr Orlopp proposed that Councillor D'Lima continue as Chairman for 2016-17. Cllr Kaines seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councillor D'Lima then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Introduction of new Parish Clerk – Mrs Amy Bryant was introduced as the new Parish Clerk. Mrs M Gardiner is retiring at the end of July.

2 Apologies for absence: J Godfrey, H Godfrey.

3 Declaration of interest: Cllr J Catchpole expressed an interest in the Street Farm planning application.

4 Minutes of the last meeting: The Chairman summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public who had not read them. Cllr Kaines proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 16th May were approved. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

5 Matters arising from the last meeting:

Drains in Kiln Lane: The Highways Dept has closed this item on their website. If local residents want it raised again they should contact the department themselves.

Reading Room hedge: The hedge still overhangs the road causing problems for passing traffic. A neighbour understands that it will be cut – but has no idea when!

Footpath signs: These have all been replaced.

Speeding: The Chairman asked County Councillor Storey if she could let the Parish Council have a grant from her Locality Budget to help fund some vehicle activated flashing signs for the The Street. She stated that some villages had funded signs through the Highways budget.

6 County Councillors Report:

Cllr J Storey apologised for not attending Stowlangtoft's parish council meetings for some time.

She reported as follows:

“The first week of July I was at the Local Government Association conference in Bournemouth. An interesting time - most of the conversations seemed to be around either Devolution or the (various) Leadership elections.

The documents for the devolution discussion are available on the website and I would urge anyone that is interested to get on the website and make their views known.

Last week was busy - we had a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday and then a Council meeting on Thursday.

At Cabinet we discussed the joining of the Mineral Plan with the Waste Plan - this will be of interest to any village that has either a landfill site or a sand and gravel pit

nearby. This paper was to agree to the plans being combined and so the long process of consultation will start, with the plans being submitted to Secretary of State in March 2018.

There were also a couple of papers on Highways - the Asset plan and the Improvement Plan. They are too lengthy to go into but the papers can be viewed online.

There was a paper on the final outturn of the Council for the year to 31st March 2016 - showing that it is £2.6m lower than the approved budget. This is 0.5% of the approved budget and officers were commended for the budget management in very challenging times.

The full Council meeting on Thursday debated a motion on apprenticeships in Suffolk. This was something that all councillors could agree to and it was passed unanimously. It will be law in a few years for large employers to have 2.3% of their workforce as apprentices but the County Council is already working on those numbers (125)

There were two annual reports presented - the Safety, Health and Wellbeing Annual Report and the Annual Equalities and Inclusions Report. They both make interesting reading in their own ways and can be accessed from the council website. August is traditionally a quiet month for councils but I have several meetings set up in my new role as Cabinet member for Broadband, Rural Issues and Localities.

In terms of Broadband - if anyone has a problem they can send me a postcode or telephone number and I will look into what is happening."

Cllr Kaines told Cllr Storey that he is still having problems with getting connected to superfast broadband. This has been ongoing since last year.

There were no other questions for Cllr Storey.

7 **District Councillor's report:**

District Councillor Barker reported that Stowlangtoft is at the quiet end of his ward! MSDC came in under budget at the end of the financial year. This was partly due to business rates and the fact that planning fees come in quickly now that the 106 agreement has been replaced by the CIL (community infrastructure levy).

Waste going to landfill is now under 2%.

A fly-tipper was caught at Badwell Ash – a passerby noted the vehicle registration.

Planning – the dropped kerb application at the bungalow has been passed; the application for Street Farm is still open.

A complaint has been received about shooting in the lime pits near Bridge Farm.

This matter should be covered by the 28 day rule.

There were no questions for Cllr Barker.

8 **Police Report:**

The report available on the website covers 22 wards in the Stowmarket area and is dated July 2016..

"There were incidents received and 326 investigations recorded.

You said:

1. Reduce burglary other Building Offences in Rural Villages.
2. Reduce Criminal Damage & ASB in Bacton.
3. Reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

We did:

1. Continued with increased patrols and raising public awareness. Researched vulnerable areas and employed target hardening. Encouraged prompt reporting and quick response.
2. Raised public awareness through social media. Completed house to house and village surveys regarding local issues. Employed a programme of diversion through youth interaction.
3. Worked closely with key vulnerable persons, partners, and families to ensure the correct care and support was provided. Ensured prompt and meaningful action where risks were identified.

<i>Figures for May:</i>	Burglary Dwelling	9	Robbery	0
	Violence with Injury	25	Serious Sexual Offences	7
	Drug Trafficking	0	Anti-Social Behaviour	72

Crime Statistics -

We are now able to report crime and incident figures within our newsletters. The figures reported will always be a month behind (so for this newsletter May's figures are included). This is to ensure the figures are accurate and include any change in crime classification or incident type. We apologise for the delay in reporting these, but are now in a position to include them each month.

Police Cadets -

The police cadets have just completed their 7th session, and are working hard to complete the induction process. They are on track to confirmation early October. Their last session is on July 16th before they break for the summer. On 22nd and 23rd of August we have arranged a team building and skills trip at Thorpe Woodlands, this offers a opportunity to employ what they have learnt so far. The cadets come from a variety of background and the scheme is open to anyone between the ages of 13 and 16. We currently have a number of vacancies, so please encourage anyone who is interested to contact us for more information. You can now follow the police cadets on Twitter, @Stowmarket VPC.

SNT Update -

The Euro 2016 passed smoothly this year for the locality. Police responded to only a small number of football related incidents, which were largely concentrated around one group. This group is being dealt with pro-actively and licensees have been supportive of police action.

The SNT Sergeants across the western area have met to discuss best practice amongst the new model. The meeting was well attended and resulted in positive ideas being shared which will further support the work of the SNT in the locality.

Crucial Crew was well attended this year, over 1000 students attended the event and police educated them in online safety. We have received positive feedback and are extending this input outside of the scheme, and have already undertaken work in local schools. The SNT has been involved in careers days at Stowmarket High and Thurston Community college. This provided us the opportunity to engage with local youths and potential future police employees!

Point of contact for your Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant 1692 Martin

Tel: 101

Email: Stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Clerk's report:

Contacting Electricity network operators – From 6th September customers should ring 105 for most enquiries regarding their electricity service. This is a free service

and covers all electricity providers. It should also be used to report damaged power-lines etc.

MSDC – Suffolk Year of Walking: volunteer walk leaders for this ward should contact Sue Calver.

Devolution – A public consultaion has been launched and a questionnaire is available on the SCC website for residents to complete.

10 **Finance Report:** Councillors agreed the report and the cheques were signed.

11 **Planning matters:**

1701/16 – 2 The Bungalows, The Street. Application for dropped kerb.

Councillors met and discussed this application and agreed unanimously that they objected on safety grounds.

2254/16 – Land adjacent Street Farm, The Street

Erection of detached dwelling and garage with associated construction of vehicular access.

After considerable discussion, Councillors voted and it was decided to object to the application.

Granted: 1813/16 – Beacon Lodge, Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft.

1701/16 - 2 The Bungalows – dropped kerb

12 **Highway matters:** No new issues to report. Some potholes have been filled in Kiln Lane. Visibility when crossing the A1088 from Bull Lane to Stowlangtoft is restricted by long grass. Local farmer has cut verge going north. Residents should use the SCC Highways website to report any problems.

13 **Correspondence:** none.

14 **Councillors' Forum:** no further items to discuss.

15 **Public Forum:** New residents in the village expressed dismay at the excess speed of many vehicles driving through the village. There is a 30mph limit along The Street. Despite this it appeared to be used as a rat-run by some vehicles.

The Chairman explained that traffic surveys have taken place and police agree that speeding through the village is an issue. Our PCSO used to come with a speed gun and occasionally the police van visited. We asked to start a speedwatch group and eventually the police agreed that the church bank would be a safe place from which to operate. Some of those present agreed to join the group.

Many HGVs seem to use the road. However some of them have legitimate reasons such as deliveries to local businesses and farms.

Our next course of action is to get some vehicle activated signs. These are expensive, have erection and ongoing maintenance costs and that is why our County Councillor was approached for a grant from her Locality Budget.

Other traffic-calming options have been considered but come with their own problems.

Residents of Kiln Lane would like a 30mph speed limit outside their homes but unfortunately the lane does not fulfil the criteria for this.

16 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.15pm in the Meeting

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