

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

Present: Cllrs D D'Lima (Chair), J Catchpole and N Kaines and District Cllr Barker. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. Members of the public also attended.

45 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received Cllrs H Godfrey, J Godfrey and J Orlopp.

46 **Declaration of interest:** No declarations of interest were declared.

47 **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 17 July 2017 be approved. Cllr D'Lima seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

48 **Matters arising from the last meeting:**

Common Room/Managers Office: Cllr D'Lima stated the issue was ongoing. He had completed an inventory for the Council regarding disposal. The Parish Council were still keen to keep the room as an asset.

49 **County Councillors Report:** County Cllr Storey was not present at the meeting. A report had been received which Cllr D'Lima presented. Namely: -

On Friday 8 September 2017 some of the world's elite riders raced through Suffolk as part of the prestigious Tour of Britain. Road closures and a number of parking restrictions were in place across the county as the tour headed along the 187km route from Newmarket to Aldeburgh. There were some suspensions of on street parking for safety reasons.

Recent changes to European funding rules mean that retail businesses across Suffolk can access grants for energy efficiency measures. Suffolk County Council is collaborating with Norfolk County Council to use EU funding to support businesses from a range of sectors. A number of shops have already benefitted from free and independent advice and a change in the funding regulations means that shops can now also access grants towards the capital costs of any energy saving measure.

Grants are available up to a maximum of £20,000. To date, the Business Energy Efficiency Anglia (BEE Anglia) project have reviewed 371 organisations in Suffolk and Norfolk (156 in Suffolk), identifying cost savings of £2.26m (which equates to £6,146 per business), and carbon savings of 22,371 tonnes (61 tonnes per business). This initiative is not just about identifying savings. BEE Anglia have awarded over £118,000 in grant funding for various energy efficiency projects in Suffolk including radiant heating, vehicle tracking, wood burners and more efficient lighting.

The BEE Anglia project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and will be delivered across the region through a partnership of Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council, Groundwork and NWES. The project has three core offers that have been designed to help businesses reduce carbon and save money using independent advice. Energy experts will visit the business' premises to conduct a free, impartial and independent review that identifies the best cost and carbon saving opportunities.

Any business interested can find out more and register online at www.beeanglia.org or call Groundwork on 01473 350370. Dedicated advisors will be able to answer any queries about eligibility for the programme or potential grant projects.

During August there have been several meetings around the Chief Executive post recruitment process. The first reviewed the 22 applications and agreed a 'longlist'. These people were then invited to meet with the recruitment company for an interview. The interviews were assessed and a 'shortlist' of four candidates invited to attend a range of challenging assessments against the selection criteria. The Staff Appointments Committee met and would recommend the successful applicant to full Council for approval on Thursday 14 September 2017.

Cllr Kaines added that the local press had reported that the appointment process had failed and no one had been appointed.

(District Cllr Barker had advised that he would be delayed, the meeting therefore agreed that his report would be moved to the end of the agenda).

50 **Police Report:**

The report available on the website covers 22 wards in the Stowmarket area and is dated August 2017.

You said:

1. Anti-social behaviour issues were reported surrounding a small number of youths in Thurston.
2. There are increased concerns due to the rise in the number of those sleeping on the streets in Stowmarket, causing anti-social behaviour and welfare concerns.

We did:

1. Multi-agency meetings were held to arrange permanently fixed bins, consideration for a skate park and decisions around the youth shelter.
2. PCSO 3067 Karen Murton organised multi-agency meetings, hosted 1-2-1 consultations and works closely with the Homeless Prevention Officer to address individual needs on a case by case basis.

Responding to issues in your community:

In July 2017, the Suffolk Police executed a number of Drugs Warrants following a period of intelligence gathering and under cover patrols, bringing a monthly total of 16 recorded investigations for having possession of illegal substances.

26 investigations of criminal damage to a vehicle and 12 thefts from vehicles have been recorded. A community engagement was held on 27 July 2017 in Tesco Car Park to offer crime reduction advice.

There are ongoing reports of pedal cycle thefts during daylight hours when left unattended and unsecure. In July there were 6 recorded investigations. A photograph and information on the make, model, colour and serial number held investigations.

Parish/Town Clerk & NHW Meetings are scheduled at Stowmarket Police Station on 23 November and 5 December 2017 at 10.00 am.

Point of contact for your Safer Neighbourhood Team: Acting Sergeant 1443 Henriksen
Telephone: 101 / 01473 613888 ext 3398
Email: stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
Twitter: @PoliceSTOW

The Parish Council noted that there had been attempted and actual break ins in Stowlangtoft. 3 people had been arrested. The Chairman urged everyone to stay safe, lock up their valuables and if they see any unusual behaviour to report it and take photographs where possible.

51 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr D'Lima informed that Cllr H Godfrey was leading on the procurement. County Cllr Storey's locality funding had not been received, however District Cllr Barker had provided £600 from his locality budget.

4 poles will be installed by Suffolk County Council Highways. Cllr D'Lima suggested that Cllr H Godfrey prepare 3 options for progressing and present to the next meeting. **Cllr H Godfrey will progress and report back at the next meeting, scheduled for 20 November 2017.**

52 **Clerk's report:** The Clerk reported that SALC had their AGM scheduled for 7 November 2017 if any Councillor wished to attend.

The Clerk also advised that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will introduce a legal obligation for any 'public authority or body' (which according to the National Association of Local Councils includes all sizes of parish and town council) to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO). SALC are concerned that the appointment may not be as straightforward as assumed. Whilst it is possible to appoint an existing member of staff, they must, by requirement of the regulation, possess 'expert knowledge of data protection law and practices' and must ensure their 'duties do not result in a conflict of interests'.

In order to provide appropriate guidance, SALC engaged GDPR specialists The DPO Centre. Together, a series of seminars have been scheduled which focus entirely on the specific needs of councils. **The Clerk advised that she would book a place on a seminar and report back.**

53 **St George's Church:** Cllr Kaines advised that there would be no bonfire fundraising in 2017, however he was hopeful that there would be in 2018. He would be meeting with a landowner in October/November 2017 and would then meet with the various people involved in arranging such an event.

54 **Speed Gates, Kiln Lane:** Cllr D'Lima advised that no funding had been received from County Cllr Storey. The Parish Council have the go ahead from Highways to proceed.

Cllr D'Lima suggested that the Parishioner present from Kiln Lane could get some ideas of what they hoped to have installed and come back to the next meeting with some costings. Cllr D'Lima added that installation by the Parish Council/Parishioners may be an idea to help keep costs low.

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

The Annual Return had been received back from the auditors duly signed. There were no special comments on the return. Their approval was unanimously accepted by councillors. The Clerk advised that the return was available on the village website.

The Parish Clerk advised that Aon who currently provided insurance had advised that at the renewal in 2018 they would no longer be quoting but the Parish Council's details had been passed onto BHIB Insurance Brokers. A letter had been received from BHIB introducing themselves. A renewal would be received nearer the renewal date.

56 **Planning matters:** No planning correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

Cllr D'Lima stated that MSDC and Babergh District Councils had published a consultation document regarding a joint Local Plan. Cllr J Godfrey had attended a briefing which outlined how to access and comment on the document. In her absence she had provided an update for the meeting.

Cllr Godfrey stated that consultation would run until 10 November 2017. The document produced after that date would be the planning document for the next 20 years. The document could be accessed via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan – then click on the consultation portal and access any village using a postcode or name.

Cllr Godfrey suggested as many Cllrs and parishioners get online and check the score assessment for Stowlangtoft. At present, the village was a 'hinterland' village. If there was any incorrect information, then an evidence form would need completing. 15 people had attended the briefing and a lot were unhappy, mostly those from Thurston. Mid Suffolk hope to build 452 homes per annum until 2036. There is a lot of flexibility with a 'new village settlement' being considered.

Cllr D'Lima suggested that Cllr J Godfrey update at the next meeting on 20 November 2017.

57 **Highway matters:** None.

58 **Correspondence:** The Clerk circulated a copy of the Local Councillors Newsletter.

59 **Councillors' Forum:**

Hedgerow, St Georges Road: Cllr Kaines stated that a copy of correspondence from a resident of St Georges Road, to David Winsley at MSDC had been received. It stated that on 9 August 2017, a gap in the hedgerow through to the Stockings Lane footpath had been blocked up by MSDC gardening team. Concern was raised as to why the gap had been closed and whether official processes had been followed. Residents stated that there had been a walkthrough there for a number of years. Its use and existence had never been questioned and now the gap had been closed.

The Parish Council noted that a parishioner had spoken to District Cllr Barker and the Rights of Way Officer.

District Cllr Barker arrived at 7.55 pm.

District Cllr Barker stated that he had visited the site and inspected the hedgerow.

Cllr Catchpole informed that the gap had been created by a resident in the past, however it was an unofficial route. The official route through was down St Georges Road near the arms houses. Following discussion, it was noted that the unofficial route could have been in place for 10+ years.

As an aside to the gap in the hedgerow, a Parishioner queried whether the land to the front of the bungalows was private land or public. **The Parish Council requested that District Cllr Barker investigate the following: -**

- **Whether the area to the front of the bungalows was public space; and**
- **Whether the request to close the gap in the hedgerow had been done officially.**

Parish Council Vacancy: Cllr D'Lima stated that the Parish Council had a vacancy. If anyone was interested in the post it would be discussed in more details at the next meeting. Depending on how many people were interested the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

Village Sign: Cllr Kaines commented that the village sign was very green and dirty. It had been agreed to re-paint the sign, however the person who had been contacted was unable to undertake the re-paint. Therefore, **Cllr Kaines agreed to obtain another quotation and feedback at the next meeting.**

Galvanised handrail: Cllr Kaines queried who had installed the galvanised handrail near the arms houses. He felt it did not fit into the surroundings and questioned whether a more appropriate rail could be installed. No one present knew who had installed the original handrail so **Cllr Kaines would contact Bobby Pearson and report back to the next meeting.**

60 **District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Barker reported that MSDC and Babergh District Council had published a consultation document regarding a Joint Local Plan which would cover planning for the next 20 years. He encouraged all present to look at the document online and make comment. District Cllr Barker emphasised that any building of houses should be supported with infrastructure which should be implemented first.

61 **Public Forum:** A Parishioner advised that, following on from the July meeting, she had been monitoring the dog waste bin as requested. She stated that it was emptied every 4 weeks and had never been overflowing.

62 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 November 2017 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 pm.

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Chairman

Date: