

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

Present: Cllrs D D'Lima (Chair), I Cassidy, J Catchpole, H Godfrey, Mrs J Godfrey and J Orlopp and District Cllr R Barker. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. Members of the public also attended.

100 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Kaines.

101 **Declaration of interest:** No declarations of interests were received.

102 **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Chairman summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public who had not read them. Cllr Mrs Godfrey proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 15 January 2018 be approved. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

Village Sign: Cllr Mrs Godfrey advised that she had looked at the village sign and felt that a good clean would be sufficient and would avoid repainting. She added that after cleaning, if painting were required a quote could be obtained. All present agreed with the proposal and provisionally booked in a clean for the Summer months.

Galvanised handrail: The Clerk advised that she had contacted Mid Suffolk District Council regarding any alterations to the handrail. MSDC had agreed in principle to changes, however they requested that any works be agreed beforehand. The Chairman proposed that the handrail be reviewed later in 2018.

Open Space Survey: Cllr Mrs Godfrey had obtained another copy of the questionnaire and had completed it accordingly. The completed questionnaire had been circulated to all Cllrs for comment. None had been received and those present were happy that the questionnaire be returned to MSDC.

St George's Road hedge: The meeting noted that clarification had been sought which confirmed that the area to the front of the bungalows was classed as open space. It had also been confirmed that there was no right of way over Stockings Lane and therefore the hole in the hedge would remain stopped up. All residents had received a letter to this fact.

Tree Preservation Orders: Cllr Godfrey confirmed that all trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) were listed on a map on MSDC's website. As the map contained overlaid information it was complex to read, however the information was publically available.

All other matters arising would be covered under specific agenda items.

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

The Suffolk school travel consultation had run until 28 February 2018. Officers were collating the responses and would provide a report.

The SCC full Council would meet on 22 March 2018 with the main agenda item being the appointment of the Chief Executive. The initial recruitment process in October 2017 failed, however a good number of applicants had been received. The Staff Appointments Committee

would make recommendations to the full Council meeting. Full Council would also receive the Annual Report of the Audit Committee, the Review of Scrutiny Activity report and the Annual Pay Policy statement. All papers are available on the SCC website.

The Beast from the East saw some of the most extreme weather conditions for many years. During the period 27 February through to the following weekend, the gritting teams were out non-stop. Since the beginning of the winter season, the Suffolk Highways have attended 173 gritting runs compared to 149 in 2012/2013.

105 **District Councillor's report:** District Cllr Barker reported the following and took questions: -

He had contacted the Enforcement Team regarding development at The Old School, The Street, Stowlangtoft (ref 18/00073/BWK). An officer would visit the site and report back. He would update the Parish Council once he knew more. Cllr D'Lima added that development may be allowed under permitted development rights.

The Boundary Commission has proposed that Stowlangtoft district ward merge with Thurston and Norton wards. There would be two District Cllrs covering the larger ward. Members of the public can comment on proposals. The Clerk confirmed that a poster had been displayed on the noticeboard with all the necessary contact numbers and website addresses.

The state of roads within the District were at an all-time low. He stated that pot holes were increasing in number and size and yellow lines were worn off and in places no longer visible.

MSDC had decided to use the Common Room as a "drop in" location for officers who were undertaking site visits or meetings. All present noted that a telephone had been installed.

In Cllr Kaines absence, the Clerk advised that a parishioner living in The Spinney, Stowlangtoft, had forwarded a copy of Elmswell Parish Councils agenda to Cllr Kaines, raising concern at a proposal by Cllr Mrs Taber (reference 18.03.16) that Elmswell Parish Council make a formal application to the appropriate Authority towards the de-restriction of the A1088 between Ixworth and its junction with the A14 to allow access to HGV traffic over 7.5 tonnes. **District Cllr Barker was unaware of the proposal and would investigate further and report back to the next meeting on 21 May 2018. The Clerk agreed to forward the email to all Parish Cllrs.**

(District Cllr Barker left the meeting at 7.45 pm)

106 **Police Report:** The report available on the website covers 22 wards in the Stowmarket area is dated February 2018.

You said:

There were a number of driver driving their vehicles in an anti-social behaviour, conducting unsafe manoeuvres on public car parks and public roads.

We did:

We work alongside Roads Policing to address this behaviour, which appears to be occurring during the evening hours. Drivers are receiving warning letters if their registration number has been reported to the police on more than one occasion. CCTV footage is viewed and the necessary enforcement taken.

Responding to issues in your community:

We continue to receive reports of vehicle interference and theft from vehicles, mainly vans to target power tools. Stowmarket SNT have distributed a number of crime prevention packs to local businesses to share with their customers. Parish and Town Councils have also been sent posters for dissemination.

The SNT regularly reviews incidents and noted that one village saw a rise in crime over the Christmas period with Christmas lights and decorations being tampered with and damaged. Two young people were identified and dealt with through Court. The SNT welcomed Stowmarket Inspector, Shawn Wakeling.

A number of outbuildings had been targeted in recent months. Shed locks have been broken to gain entry but multiple victims reported that no items were stolen. Crime prevention methods were proposed such as securing shed doors by fitting a strong hasp and staple, securing hinges with coach bolts or non-returnable screws, replacing any broken doors or windows and registering your property at www.immobilise.com

Point of contact for your Safer Neighbourhood Team: Sergeant 1550 Lisa Vaughan

Telephone: 101 / 01473 613888 ext 3398

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

Twitter: @PoliceSTOW

- 107 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement:** Cllr Godfrey reported he had signed a contract regarding the initial installation of the posts and how these would be maintained. He had requested two posts; one opposite Street Farm and the other opposite The Old Rectory. He had also been asked about installing two further posts which Cllr Godfrey proposed for the A1088. He added that the signed contract had been acknowledged and a 14 week waiting list for the installation advised.

Cllr Godfrey informed that a decision regarding solar panel or battery operated signs would need to be taken. Solar panelled signs are more expensive but do not have the maintenance issues that batteries would have.

- 108 **Clerk's report:** The Clerk reported that a printer/scanner and a laptop had been ordered. She updated that the DPO Centre had been in touch regarding their services to address the GDPR requirements. At present the DPO Centre had reduced their prices from £150 for year 1 to £120 for year 1 and from £50 for subsequent years to £45 for subsequent years. The Clerk added that an email had been received that afternoon advising that costs had reduced further still and asking for the final agreement to go ahead with their services and commence the impact assessment stage.

All those present supported the proposal to appoint the DPO Centre to support the Parish Council with the GDPR requirements and ensure the 25 May 2018 deadline was met.

- 109 **St George's Church:** The meeting noted that a Church meeting had been held in February 2018 however Cllr Orlopp had not attended. Cllr D'Lima stated that a service would be held in St George's Church at Easter. Cllr Mrs Godfrey requested that the yellow family church signs be removed from the Spinney crossroads as soon as practicable as signs encouraged more signs which impacted on visibility.

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

Annual Statement: Cllr Godfrey queried why the grants figure for 2017/2018 was so high. The Clerk advised that the locality money from District Cllr Barker and the SALC grant were included in that figure. **Cllr Orlopp proposed, seconded by Cllr Godfrey, that the content of the Annual Statement be accepted. The vote was unanimously carried.**

2017 – 2018 Budget: Cllr D’Lima advised that the proposed figures for 2018-2019 had been discussed at the last meeting.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey queried the maintenance and repair figure. Cllr D’Lima stated that the figure included provision for repainting the village signs should it be needed.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted MSDC regarding the Cleansing Grant to ascertain how the income/number of hours was reached. She had been advised that it would have been agreed when the grant was initially set up and would be based on the size of the village. Mrs Godfrey stated that there was a high level of litter in and around the village and that the current level of street cleansing, which was undertaken to a very high level, needed to be extended to cover more areas of the village. **Cllr Godfrey requested that the Clerk contact MSDC to obtain a copy of the Cleansing Grant Policy Statement to allow the Parish Council to base an amended number of hours on the correct policy decision.**

The Clerk informed that correspondence had been received from Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association requesting a donation to their services. The Parish Council felt that at present there were a lot of projects which expenditure had been committed to and therefore felt that no donation could be made, however it was agreed to review this situation later in the financial year.

Cllr Godfrey proposed, seconded by Cllr Catchpole, that the budget for 2017-2018 be agreed and that the proposed figures for 2018-2019 be noted. The vote was carried unanimously.

111 **Planning matters:**

DC/17/05826 – Elkanah, Ixworth Road – The Parish Council noted that the planning application had been granted. The Parish Council had submitted comments.

DC/18/00055 – 1 Primrose Cottage, Kiln Lane – The Parish Council noted that the planning application had been granted. The Parish Council had submitted comments.

DC/18/000546 – 2 Primrose Cottage, Kiln Lane – The Parish Council noted that an application had been received. The Parish Council had raised no objections to the proposal.

112 **Highway matters:**

Cllr D’Lima stated that he had received correspondence stating that the pot hole at the junction of Church View would be repaired. He reiterated that anyone reporting a pot hole use the online reporting tool. Cllr Catchpole added that there were some nasty ruts along each side of Kiln Lane.

113 **Correspondence:** The Clerk stated that a poster would be displayed on the noticeboard regarding the 2018 Walking Festival which would take place between 12 May and 3 June 2018.

114 **Councillors' Forum:**

Litter Pick: Due to the bad weather, the litter pick arranged for 18 March 2018 had been postponed. Those present proposed a new date of Sunday 8 April 2018 at 9.30 am. **Cllr D'Lima would prepare the necessary leaflets and deliver them to Cllr Mrs Godfrey for distribution around the village. Cllr D'Lima would inform District Cllr Barker.**

Register of Interest (ROI) forms: The Clerk stated that all Cllrs have a requirement to update their ROI within 28 days of a change. Since the meeting in January 2018, the Clerk had emailed each Cllr with a request to review the content of their ROI. Cllrs Catchpole, Kaines and Orlopp had not responded. The Clerk would resend the email.

115 **Public Forum:** None.

116 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 21 May 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road. The AGM would commence at 7.00 pm on the same day.

The meeting concluded at 8.36 pm.

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Chairman
Date:

