

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.15 PM  
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

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

79 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Catchpole and N Kaines.

80 **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Cassidy declared an interest in agenda item 12 regarding the planning application at Street Farm, The Street, as a neighbouring property.

81 **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Chair summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public. Cllr Cassidy proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 19 November 2018 be approved. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

Minute 67: Locality Budget: The Clerk had completed the necessary paperwork and sent it off to District Cllr Barker. The Clerk confirmed that the funds had been received.

Minute 72: Cleansing Grant: The Chair confirmed that Cllr Mrs Godfrey and the Clerk had negotiated an increased Cleansing Grant with effect from 1 April 2019. This matter was later discussed under the budget discussions for 2019 – 2020.

Minute 74: Highway matters: The Chair stated that he had received no further communication from the Highways Department since reporting the missing white lines on The Street and the damaged road signs. The Parish Council noted there had been two more incidents on The Street where the white lines were missing.

County Cllr Mrs Storey advised that finger posts were not being replaced due to the increased use of sat-navs. However, if the damaged/corroded sign was a statutory sign, such as a 30 mph sign then they have a duty of care to replace them. She also noted the request to have white lines applied. **County Cllr Mrs Storey agreed to chase the Highways Department regarding both matters.**

83 **County Councillors Report:** County Cllr Mrs Storey presented her report and took questions. Namely :-

'A report published on 18 December 2018 revealed the importance of the Sport and Physical Activity sector to the Suffolk economy. The report showed that the sector contributed £270m a year to the Suffolk economy and accounts for over 10,000 jobs or 3% of all employment in Suffolk. In the Sports area, employment had grown at a faster rate than all other sectors in Suffolk - up 60% in the last 5 years. Events such as the Great East Swim generated an estimated £¾ million to the County annually.

The County Council consulted, to understand the equality impacts there may be as a result of proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding which the authority currently provides. At the Council's Scrutiny meeting on 22 November 2018, the committee considered details of proposed savings. It was recommended to change the proposal

regarding a cut in 2019-2020 to a phased reduction. It was proposed that the grant be reduce by half to £184,000 in 2019 - 2020 before ending in 2020 – 2021. Consultation ran until 5pm on Wednesday 23 January.

Inactivity is a global public health issue accounting for as many deaths as smoking and costs the UK economy £7.4 billion a year. Regular physical activity can help to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions and diseases. The County Council are spearheading efforts to address inactivity in Suffolk through the Most Active County Partnership.

As County Cllr Mrs Storey was present, the Chair informed that, in recent correspondence, the County Council had advised that they no longer support fixed VAS and they had to be moveable signs. However he added that the County Council were now offering to provide a VAS, which would be shared with other villages. He therefore questioned whether the locality funding which had been applied for could be used elsewhere?

County Cllr Mrs Storey questioned if VAS were to be installed on the A1088 and in Kiln Lane. The Chair confirmed that the poles on the A1088 were progressing but no action had been proposed for Kiln Lane due to advice received in the past regarding the 60 mph speed limit and the requirement for more houses. He added that speed gates had been discussed in the past but a resident of that area would be required to push the project forward. **County Cllr Mrs Storey would investigate the options available for speed reduction in the Kiln Lane area and report back to the Chair.**

Update: Following the meeting, the Chair contacted a resident of the Kiln Lane area, who had expressed an interest in progressing the speed gates.

A parishioner questioned the County Cllr on the content of an article in the EADT regarding data breaches. She advised that with the introduction of GDPR, knowledge of data and therefore data breaches had increased but confirmed that the County Council were very strong regarding data protection. The District Cllr confirmed the same for MSDC.

84 **District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Barker stated that there were white lines on rural roads approaching Stowlangtoft from Hunston direction but they disappeared once in the village.

Council Tax: MSDC would be increasing Council Tax in 2019 – 2020 but the increase would be minimal. The County Council and Police increases would be larger.

Waste: The service provided over the Christmas period had worked well and all bins had been emptied. The Government have proposed that District Council's collect food waste. This is a proposal they are currently investigating but could be costly. District Cllr Barker stated that plastic waste was an immediate issue which needed addressing and felt this should be done at source.

St George's Road Parking: Parking in St George's Road had been raised as an issue again. District Cllr Barker was in ongoing discussions with the residents but wondered whether parking on the opposite side of the road may address some issues. He would report back to the March 2019 meeting.

A parishioner questioned the District Cllr on MSDC's 5-year land supply. He confirmed that outline planning applications were no longer counted towards the overall land supply figure.

*County Cllr Mrs Storey left the meeting at 8.00 pm*

*As the District Cllr was present, the Chair proposed moving agenda item 12 up to allow planning advice if necessary. All present were in agreement.*

85 **Planning matters:** The following planning applications had been received since the last meeting and needed consideration. The Chair confirmed that all Cllrs had looked at the applications on the MSDC website :-

DC/19/00004 – Erection of a single storey rear extension (retention of) at 3 Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JS – No objections were made by the Parish Council. It was therefore unanimously agreed that **the Clerk would submit a response to MSDC of no objection to planning application number DC/19/00004.**

DC/19/00208 – Erection of first floor extension, erection of garage extension and carport and erection of 1.8 m boundary wall at Elkanah, Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JS – No objections were made by the Parish Council. It was therefore unanimously agreed that **the Clerk would submit a response to MSDC of no objection to planning application number DC/19/00208.**

DC/18/05604 – Erection of 1 no detached dwelling, garage and new access (resubmission of refused application DC/18/02275) at Street Farm, The Street, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JX

*As previously declared, Cllr Cassidy did not participate in the discussion of voting on planning application DC/18/05604 due to his personal interest as a neighbouring property.*

The Chair summarised that this application had been considered by the Parish Council previously, approximately 2 years ago. The Parish Council had not supported the application and MSDC had not granted permission. The applicants had gone to appeal and lost. In the Summer of 2018, the application was received by the Parish Council between official meetings and, due to absences and declarations of interests, a no comment response was submitted by the Parish Council. Again MSDC did not grant the application and the applicants appealed. The application is now before the Parish Council again for comment. The Chair stated that MSDC would decide whether to approve or not but would take into account the Parish Council's views.

During discussion, the Parish Council heard how the Street Farm application differed to the recent Glebe Farm application, insofar as the Glebe Farm application had been contained within a garden boundary, whereas the Street Farm application was on agricultural land. There were also concerns raised that the application lay outside of the housing settlement boundary. However, it was noted that Stowlangtoft was a village set in the countryside and that a large area of the village lay outside of the housing settlement boundary which was not uncommon. The Parish Council made reference to other planning applications which had been granted within the village and noted that a loss of amenity was not a planning consideration.

At the point of voting, it was concluded that the Parish Council did not objection to planning application DC/18/05604, however this was not a unanimous view. It was agreed that **the Clerk would submit a response to MSDC of no objection to planning application number DC/18/05604.**

86 **Police Report:** The report available on the website covers 22 wards in the Stowmarket area was dated January/February 2019.

*You said:*

Parking and speeding across Mid Suffolk were a concern.  
Drug problems in Stowmarket were a concern.

*We did:*

The Safecam vans and officers have been and will continue to target speeders. Robust visits to offenders were undertaken to support to the Community Speedwatch teams. The new MSDC funded PCSO had been issuing parking tickets across Mid Suffolk, particularly around schools.

The SNT would continue with enforcements and would issue section 8 warnings where necessary. Work would continue with partner agencies to ensure protection for vulnerable people who may be at risk.

*Responding to issues in your community:*

Two premises were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act following information received from partner agencies. Further assemblies and talks to schools around Thurston, in a bid to discourage ASB were undertaken. Road Safety was also discussed. Work has also commenced in the play area in Cedars Park to target areas against ASB/criminality

The SNT would be attending a quarterly meeting with Parish/Town Councils on 15 March 2019 at 10.00 am.

*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](mailto:stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)  
Twitter: @PoliceSTOW

The Parish Council noted that the Safecam could be requested to visit the village.

87 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement:** Cllr Godfrey informed those present that he had met with Mike Mottram, the Road Safety Officer regarding VAS. The County Council were now offering a sponsorship scheme which allowed villages to share a VAS and use it on a rota basis. Cllr Godfrey felt that this would be beneficial to the village as there would be no costs and the Parish Council would not be responsible for the VAS.

A form regarding poles had been submitted. He had been advised that the form needed completing for each location, not just one covering the whole village. Therefore, he would be submitting a form regarding the A1088, however there was now a need to contact residents in the locality of the posts to seek their opinions. **It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would prepare a letter for the residents on the A1088 seeking views.**

The Parish Council noted that the sponsorship scheme/sharing of the VAS had been funded by the Speed Awareness Courses.

Cllr Godfrey stated that the rota regarding the VAS could be viewed on a website. **Cllr Godfrey agreed to circulate a link to the necessary website.**

The Parish Council noted that a pro-forma invoice had been received from ElanCity, which had allowed the Parish Council to request funding from the locality budget of the County Cllr. **It was agreed that the Clerk would forward a copy of the pro-forma invoice to Cllr Godfrey to check if there were any contractual implications.**

The District Cllr raised a query regarding the use of his locality budget funding which the Parish Council had received regarding the installation of VAS within Stowlangtoft. The Chair questioned whether the funding could be used for the speed gates in Kiln Lane. **The District Cllr agreed to check with MSDC and report back.** The Parish Council noted that the funding may need to be repaid if it was no longer be used for the purposes it had been applied for.

- 88 **Clerk's report:** The Clerk reported that she would attend an election briefing, to be held at SALC on 20 February 2019.

The District Cllr queried whether the Meeting Rooms would be used as a Polling Station. The Chair stated that he had replied to consultation, which had proposed that Stowlangtoft residents go to Norton. **It was agreed that the District Cllr would check where Stowlangtoft's Polling Station would be located.**

- 89 **St George's Church:** The Chair advised that the Clerk had forwarded a letter from Anne Harrison, the Churchwarden and Treasurer for St George's Church, which requested additional funding from the Parish Council towards churchyard maintenance and an alarm. The Parish Council agreed to support the PCC further and would discuss under agenda item 11.

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

Precept 2019 – 2020: The Chair suggested that £3,300.00 be requested again, as in previous years, for 2019 – 2020. All those present unanimously agreed.

**The Parish Council unanimously agreed to request a precept of £3300.00 per year for Stowlangtoft Parish Council for 2019 - 2020.**

2019 – 2020 budget discussion: The Chair proposed

Street cleansing grant (income) – increased to £612 in light of the additional grant for 2019-2020;

Audit Fee (expenditure) – be set at £120 to cover the audit and the Information Commissioners Office fee;

Street cleansing (expenditure) – be set to £612 with a view to increasing the street cleansing hours from April 2019;

Churchyard maintenance (expenditure) – be increased to £500 in light of the PCC's correspondence. The Parish Council noted this was an increase of £300 on previous years; and Speed activated sign (expenditure) – provision be removed due to County Council sponsorship scheme.

**The Parish Council concluded that the above headings would be amended and included in the draft budget, which would be considered at the meeting on 18 March 2019.**

Village Facebook Page: Cllr Mrs Godfrey stated that during discussions with other villages regarding cleansing and VAS, it had become apparent that some villages had Facebook pages to assist with communicating with parishioners. The Parish Council considered the option of a Facebook page for Stowlangtoft but did not feel there was a need. All those present agreed to not proceed with a page.

91 **Highway matters:** All Highway matters had been dealt with under other agenda items. **Cllr Godfrey agreed to circulate contact details for Mike Mottram, Road Safety Officer.**

92 **Correspondence:** The Chair reported that he had received a letter from The Pensions Regulator regarding the Clerk. However due to the pay threshold, and the fact the Clerk opted out, the Parish Council to pay towards a pension. **The Clerk to file the letter on file.**

The Chair queried the requirements for the Parish Council to enrol employees into a pension scheme. **It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate.**

The Chair reported that he had received an email via the Clerk from a resident of St George's Road regarding parking. He advised that he had passed the email onto District Cllr Barker to progress as he had been referred to in its content.

93 **Councillors' Forum: Cleansing Grant:** Cllr Mrs Godfrey highlighted that the cleansing grant had been increased. Mr Pearson who undertook the role at present had stated that he did not wish to do any additional hours or clean any further afield than at present. The Parish Council all stated what an excellent job Mr Pearson had done over the years.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey stated that with the increased hours with the new grant, additional areas could be covered but felt this could not easily be undertaken by two people. Following a discussion regarding the hopes the Parish Council had for using the additional grant funding, **it was agreed that Cllr Kaines would contact Mr Pearson to ascertain his views on the future cleansing provision and report back to the March 2019 meeting.**

94 **Public Forum:** No issues were raised.

95 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 18 March 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.

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Chairman