

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

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

66 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Mrs Turner.

67 **Declaration of interest:** Cllrs Godfrey and Mrs Godfrey declared an interest in item 12 on the agenda; namely the planning application at land South of Glebe Farm, as detailed on their register of interest forms.

68 **Minutes of the last meeting 16 September 2019**
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 16 September 2019 be approved. Cllr Cassidy seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

69 **Matters arising from the last meeting**
Dog Bin – Cllr Kaines reported that he had ordered a larger replacement dog bin. Once in receipt he would remove the old bin and replace with the new.

70 **County Councillor's report**
County Cllr Mrs Storey submitted her report, previously circulated, and took questions. A copy is attached to the minutes for information.

County Cllr Mrs Storey advised that County Cllr Mrs Spicer had contacted her regarding St George's Church in Stowlangtoft and its future. Both County Cllrs had offered their assistance to the PCC.

Cllr D'Lima questioned whether the SCC were going to charge for using the recycling facilities. County Cllr Mrs Storey was unaware of a proposal to introduce a charge, other than those items which residents had to pay to have removed/disposed of.

Cllr D'Lima requested an update from the County Cllr regarding the issue of white lines in Stowlangtoft and the introduction of a speed limit in Kiln Lane. County Cllr Mrs Storey confirmed that she was still investigating. Cllr D'Lima added that there had been another accident at the junction of Church View due to people cutting the corner off – obviously the white lines would aid to prevent this.

71 **District Councillor's report**
District Cllr Richardson submitted his report, previously circulated, and took questions. A copy is attached to the minutes for information.

(County Cllr Mrs Storey and District Cllr Richardson left the meeting at 7.32 pm)

Cllr D'Lima, in District Cllr Mrs Turner's absence, presented her report, previously circulated. A copy is attached to the minutes for information.

72 **Police report**

The Parish Council noted the Police report which was also available online at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>. Cllr D'Lima updated on issues facing the Bury St Edmunds area.

The Parish Council noted that there had been a break in in the Great Ashfield area and some threatening young men in various other areas.

73 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr Godfrey reported that, following the last meeting, he had obtained a revised quotation from ElanCity which included a 3% discount. He advised that x2 radar speed signs, solar panels and mounting kits, batteries, telephone support and delivery would be £3,664.66 plus VAT (a total of £4,397.59). Cllr Godfrey explained that installation was not included, however he was happy to arrange installation. Cllr Kaines advised that he would be able to assist.

Cllr D'Lima questioned whether they would be covered by insurance? **It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Parish Council's insurance company to check.**

Cllr Godfrey stated that there would be minimal maintenance to the signs. They would arrive with 70% charge and the necessary speed limit set.

The Parish Council unanimously supported Cllr Godfrey in placing an order with ElanCity and arranging for the speed signs to be delivered to his home address.

74 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that cleansing of the village had been undertaken on numerous occasions. The village had been walked from point to point ensuing all areas were covered. The Parish Council noted that some more rubbish had been dumped in the Spinney which Cllr Catchpole would clear away.

75 **St George's Church**

Cllr Orlopp stated that a leaflet had been circulated around the village. He thanked everyone for their involvement. He updated that County Cllr Mrs Spicer had been in touch regarding the church and was keen to avoid it being part of the Conservation Trust. In the past there was a Friends of the Church Group and it was hoped this could be reinstigated. He added that County Cllr Mrs Spicer would be happy to speak with the Archdeacon directly.

Cllr Orlopp explained that he had some gift aid donation forms if anyone was interested.

Cllr Godfrey questioned how much money the church needed each year to continue running.

Mr Cassidy reported that he had taken over the administration of the Stowlangtoft Coal Fund. He had held discussions with the Trustees and it had been agreed in principle that the remaining £960.00 could be donated to the St George's Church. He explained that there would be paperwork involved which the Trustees would need to complete.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey questioned how donations would be ring fenced to St George's Church. Cllr Orlopp confirmed that they would only be used for St George's Church.

Cllr Godfrey felt there were 2 issues which needed addressing. Firstly, the church needed £6,000 per annum to ensure insurance, diocese costs etc were paid. Secondly, the Parish Council support the Church with grass cutting but the Parish Council would need to decide how they wished to support the Church moving forward. He noted that there had been mention of the Church carvings being sold.

Cllr D'Lima stated that the Parish Council could not make decisions about the Church and the agenda item was merely a way of ensuring everyone was aware of the ongoing matter and how issues are being dealt with. He suggested that the PCC should call a meeting in the Spring/Summer of 2020 where the future could be discussed. He added that the Parish Council would be represented at the meeting.

76 **Finance Report:**

Councillors agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk reported that MSDC had advised that the invoice for the emptying of litter/dog bins had been sent incorrectly, resulting in a small invoice of £13.20 being issued.

77 **Planning matters:**

Cllr D'Lima explained that due to the Parish Council meetings being scheduled for every 2 months, in the past, any planning applications received were discussed via email and a response emailed to MSDC. However, it had been proposed that these applications should be held at Parish Council meetings. Therefore, it was proposed that a meeting would be scheduled for every month but with the additional meetings only being for planning matters and these would be cancelled if there were no applications received. **All those present, unanimously agreed to this proposal.**

DC/18/03862 (*re-consultation*) – *Street Farm, The Street* – The Parish Council noted that MSDC had been asked to extend the deadline to allow the Parish Council to discuss the re-consultation but it had not been granted. In light of being unaware of what issues were being reconsulted on, and the concerns raised regarding access/egress to the site, the Parish Council objected to the application. The Clerk had emailed MSDC with the Parish Council's response.

DC/19/05019 - *Garden Cottage, The Street* – The Parish Council noted where the application site was located. Cllr Kaines stated he was interested to see how the proposed materials looked once completed. Following discussion, the Parish Council voted to support the application. **The Clerk would email MSDC with the Parish Council's view.**

DC/19/05357 – (*Outline Planning Application*) – *Land South of Glebe Farm, Ixworth Road* – As the correspondence from MSDC had been received after the agenda had been distributed, Cllr Godfrey explained that the application was for the retention of the original house and the erection of a new dwelling between the original house and the road.

(Cllr Godfrey and Cllr Mrs Godfrey declared an interest in application DC/19/05357 as the applicant and left the meeting for the consideration of the meeting)

The Parish Council noted the changes in this application from previous applications. Following discussion, the Parish Council voted that there were no objections to this application. **The Clerk would email MSDC with the Parish Council's view.**

78 **Highway matters**

Cllr D'Lima stated that County Cllr Mrs Storey had been chased and was still pushing the SCC to resolve the outstanding issues regarding the white lines and the Kiln Lane speed limit.

Cll Cassidy stated that he had chased the Highways Department again regarding ongoing potholes within the village. He explained that other potholes had been repaired in the village which he felt did not meet the criteria.

79 **Correspondence**

The Clerk did not have any correspondence to refer to the Parish Council.

80 **Councillors' Forum**

Cllr D'Lima highlighted that some waste had been dumped in the Spinney. Cllr Catchpole was aware and would clear it away. The Parish Council discussed the pros and cons of closing off the layby on the Spinney.

Cllr D'Lima advised that two Parishioners had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Both were going to attend future meetings and, if in the future a vacancy arose then maybe they could be co-opted on. Other interested Parishioners were always welcome.

81 **Public Forum**

No items were raised.

82 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 20 January 2020 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The Parish Council noted that a Planning meeting would be held Monday 16 December 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road, if any planning applications were received.

The meeting concluded at 8.32 pm.

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Chairman

County Councillor Mrs Storey

New and improved recycling centre to open next month

A new and improved recycling centre will open in Bury St Edmunds at the end of November.

The flagship site in Fornham Road will replace the current recycling centre at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, which will close its doors permanently.

Opening soon, this will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed by the public from ground level, removing the need for steps. Visitors will be able to recycle the same wide range of materials currently available at the Rougham Hill Recycling Centre.

A charity Reuse shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from our recycling centres, will also be opening on site towards the end of the year.

It is purpose-built to enable residents to recycle and reuse their rubbish safely and efficiently and as all the containers are now on one level, there are no steps to contend with. It is also a safer site with lorries emptying containers in a totally separate area. Suffolk's Recycling Centres are operated by FCC Environment on behalf of Suffolk County Council. All the staff from Rougham Hill will be transferred to the new site.

Once the Rougham Hill recycling site is closed, all site users should take their waste to the new Fornham Road site. No waste or recycling can be left by the gates or in the vicinity of the old site. This will be classed as fly-tipping, which is a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution.

For more information on the new Recycling Centre at Fornham Road and on fly-tipping please visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

New and improved Public Right of Way set for reconstruction

On 16 October it was announced that Suffolk Highways will begin work on reconstructing the bridleway at Rougham Road in Bury St Edmunds, utilising recycled materials in the construction.

The improvement works will continue for seven weeks. During this time, access through the Public Right of Way bridleway will be maintained by the Suffolk Highways workforce. However, from 25 November, for two weeks, a full closure will be required.

The project will cost approximately £150k to construct and will provide a traffic-free route between south east Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Park avoiding junction 44. The new bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, providing access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk business parks and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy.

The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park on the old road surface running parallel to the A14.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway.

The lighting provides low level illumination to guide users, it is not designed to replace street lighting.

Suffolk County Council leader announces Cabinet reshuffle

On 15 October, Councillor Matthew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced changes to the councillors in his Cabinet. The reshuffle creates closer links between key policy areas such as the environment and Sizewell C and brings new ideas into the Council's Cabinet.

In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.
- Councillor Richard Smith leaves the Cabinet after four and half years in the role.
- Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

Suffolk County Council meeting 17th October

The meeting on 17th October included a number of questions from residents and also a motion put to the Council about Home-To-School transport. Elmswell and Woolpit are what is known as 'split villages' and I have always been very supportive of exercising common sense when planning transport provision for the children in such villages. In particular – where there are siblings already at the upper school and where all the children in the primary school 'expect' to attend the same upper school.

As I have made my views known in the past it should not have been a great surprise to my colleagues that I voted with the opposition on this occasion. There will be a cross-party review – and I hope that it will cover all the issues highlighted by parents and councillors.

Suffolk's gritting fleet gets personal

On 14 October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet.

During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy.

Suffolk's gritters now have their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and are ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.

SprEd Sheeran will patrol around Framlingham, the town where singer Ed Sheeran is from. Grit Rhys Jones will be designated to the Shotley patch, on the peninsula where comedian and actor Griff Rhys Jones has a home. One called Benjamin Gritten will circulate around the Leiston area in honour of the Lowestoft-born composer Benjamin Britten, who lived in nearby Aldeburgh.

Image copyright Suffolk Highways Image caption The names will be displayed on the front and sides the cab of each gritter

Other names include Gritney Spears, Father Gritmas and David Plowie.

Residents will be able to follow the gritting activity on Twitter t [@Suff_Highways](#) during the season and if they spot one of the newly named gritters in action they can send a picture to us on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](#) [#WinterReady](#)

Braking Point returns to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk's roads

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project relaunched in the week of 7 October and will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Once the theatre tour ends, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team will provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway. These interactive sessions have been shown to shift students' attitudes to road safety and to provide them with more knowledge which they can take forwards as they become responsible drivers on Suffolk's roads.

Find out more information about Braking Point on the [Suffolk Roadsafe website](#).

As a matter of interest, there are also courses for other drivers – and a visit to the website shows the breadth of the courses available – from business drivers through to older drivers.

Jane Storey
1st November 2019

District Councillor Report: Stowlangtoft Parish Council

November 2019

New Corporate Plan	The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 20200) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.
Environment Task Group	A cross party group of councillors from both Councils has now formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Council to adopt in due course.
Housing	Mid Suffolk are delivering two affordable two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in both Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both of these developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have just about kept pace with the loss of properties to the Right to Buy Scheme.
Neighbourhood Plans	Both Thurston and Haughley Neighbourhood Plans have now been adopted by Mid Suffolk and form part of the planning policy.
West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership	The work of the WSCSP is to be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 th November. The WSCSP is a statutory body of organisations who work together to reduce crime and disorder. Members of the group include representative from the district councils, county council, police, fire and rescue service, clinical commissioning groups. The priorities of the group are Hate Crime, County Lines, Domestic Abuse and Homicide.
General Election – December 12	Due to the General Election being called for Thursday 12 December, MSDC have sent out the Notice of Parliamentary Election, with a request that copies be displayed on parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election signals a pre-election period which restricts some activities. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January. Planning and regulatory committees will continue to be held as normal.

Cllr Sarah Mansel (standing in for Cllr Wendy Turner)

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District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson

At our recent meeting on Thursday 24th October Mid Suffolk District Council approved the draft our new Corporate Plan to cover the 2019-2027, which will replace our existing Joint Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The Corporate Plan outlines the District Council's priorities over the coming years, and is divided into six distinct categories: the Economy, the Environment, Communities, Wellbeing, Customers, and Housing.

Much of these themes already existed in the Joint Strategic Plan, but the focus on the Environment is a new addition following our declaration of a climate emergency earlier this year. The previous Sport and Leisure strategy has now been expanded to include Wellbeing in its broader sense, incorporating both physical and mental wellbeing in line with several of the initiatives that I referenced in last month's report.

The document before the Council was in its draft form, so the specifics of these strategies are still in development, but the broad aims of the Council were considered and approved. I will provide you with an update as and when the details of this are confirmed – likely to now be in the New Year. At October's meeting we also approved the Neighbourhood Plans for Thurston and Haughley, and details of these are available on the MSDC website.

Our next Council meeting had been scheduled for Thursday 12th December but for reasons that I am sure are obvious this has now been rearranged to January, so there will be little in terms of substantive updates between now and then.

Across the District more broadly there have been a couple of new announcements in recent weeks and I have included summary of these updates overleaf:

Tree for Life for new arrivals

A new Tree for Life scheme means families across Babergh can join those in Mid Suffolk in claiming a free tree to mark the arrival of a child, enhancing biodiversity in the districts. The initiative, which has been running in neighbouring Mid Suffolk since 2018, offers parents with a new born or newly adopted child the chance to mark their arrival by planting a tree – benefiting families, communities and the environment by boosting the number of trees in the district.

Open to families who have welcomed a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2019, the scheme is also available to parents who may have lost a child during the same period to apply for a memorial tree. Any Tree for Life must be planted within the two districts, however, a plant pot grown tree will also be available for those without access to a garden.

Families in both Babergh and Mid Suffolk are now being encouraged to apply for this year's trees, ahead of the 12 January 2020 deadline.

More free swimming for youngsters

During October half term and the Christmas holidays this year, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are extending their free swims offer for under 17s to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the districts.

This follows a successful free swim offer over the summer holidays which saw thousands of under 17s take part, equating to more than 14,000 swims across the two districts.

Free swimming will now also be available during the October half term from 19 - 27 October 2019, and the Christmas holidays from 20 December 2019 to 5 January 2020 inclusive at the following centres in Mid Suffolk:

- Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket
- Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre

I hope that this report has been useful but if a member of the Parish Council wishes to discuss any of the above further then please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address below.

With kind regards,

Cllr Harry Richardson JP
Mid Suffolk District Councillor for Thurston Ward