

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2020 AT 7.15 PM  
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

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

87 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Catchpole, District Cllrs Richardson and Mrs Turner and County Cllr Mrs Storey.

88 **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.

89 **Minutes of the last meetings: 18 November and 16 December 2019**  
18 November 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 18 November 2019 be approved. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

16 December 2019

The Chairman summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public who had not read them. Cllr Orlopp proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 16 December 2019 be approved. Cllr Cassidy seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

90 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

Insurance – The Clerk had contacted the insurance company regarding insuring the VAS but had received no reply. She would chase.

91 **County Councillor's report**

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

92 **District Councillor's report**

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

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

93 **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.

94 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr Godfrey reported that the order would be submitted on 21 January 2020, and delivered approximately 1 week later. Cllr Kaines reiterated his offer of assistance in the installation process.

95 **Clerk's report**  
The Clerk reported that she had met with 2 officers from MSDC to discuss the Council's website. Improvements were proposed and the officers would be in touch in the future.

96 **St George's Church**  
Cllr Orlopp stated that the situation had not altered since the last meeting.

Cllr Cassidy updated that the proposal to move the charity funding to support the church had been dismissed by the Charity Commission. Discussions were ongoing as to how to distribute the funding.

Cllr D'Lima questioned whether the PCC had called a meeting? Cllr Orlopp advised that they hadn't.

The Parish Council noted that the recent Burns Night event had raised funds for Pakenham and Stowlangtoft Church. St George's Church would receive £370.

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

#### Precept

The Parish Council felt that the precept should remain at £3,300 per annum. At present there were funds available to cover the new VAS signs, however, it was hoped that another pair would be purchased for use on the A1088.

**The Clerk agreed to complete the necessary paperwork and return it to MSDC by 31 January 2020, on the basis of the 2020/2021 precept being £3,300.00.**

#### 2020 – 2021 Budget

The Parish Council considered the budget figures for 2019 – 2020 to inform their discussion for 2020 – 2021. It was felt that the majority of figures would remain the same, however insurance would be increased from £210.00 to £250.00, the street cleansing would be set at the same level as the MSDC grant, namely £640.00 and the support given to the PCC would be based upon M&TJ invoices being received.

It was agreed that consideration in future years would be given to the repair/replacement of the village white gates and the installation of VAS poles and signs on the A1088.

**The Clerk would update the budget document for 2020 – 2021 and present it to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 20 March 2020.**

98 **Planning matters:**  
The Parish Council noted that decisions had been made regarding DC/19/03862 (Street Farm) and DC/19/05357 (Glebe Farm).

99 **Highway matters**  
Cllr D'Lima stated that he had reported various pot holes to Highways previously and had chased them. He added that County Cllr Mrs Storey had advised she would progress these matters but he had received no update. Cllr D'Lima had also reported pot holes in Kiln Lanr near the pond. *NB subsequent to the meeting, Highways have confirmed that the pot holes near the pond in Kiln Lane meet the criteria for repair. The timescale for repair was within 8 weeks.*

The Parish Council noted that the pot holes in Kiln Lane had been filled in by Cllr Catchpole as Highways had not felt they met the necessary criteria for repair.

Cllr Orlopp reporte that there was a large pot hole on the righthand side of the Spinney.  
**Cllr D'Lima agreed to report it to Highways.**

100 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that MSDC had advised that a Community Governance Review would be undertaken during 2020 and invited all Parish Councils to get involved. The Parish Council were concerned at the impact the review could have.

Cllr D'Lima reported that The Pensions Regulator had contacted him regarding the Clerks pension. It was noted that due to the level of pay received by the Clerk, no pension scheme was in place. **The Clerk agreed to check the Parish Council were compliant.**

101 **Councillors' Forum**

Cllr D'Lima questioned whether a litter pick were to be arranged. Cllr Kaines agreed one could be held. Following discussion, it was agreed that the litter pick would be held on 29 March. Cllr Kaines would inform Cllr Catchpole.

Cllr Cassidy reported that the toad watch in Kiln Lane would commence in early February.

102 **Public Forum**

Prior to the Parish Council meeting, Mr Paterson requested that the issue of surface water in Kiln Lane be discussed. Mr Paterson, together with his neighbours reported that there was a high level of surface water in and around their properties and also on Kiln Lane. Anglian Water had visited the site and confirmed that there was no burst pipe. Mr Paterson expressed concern at the deep gullys being formed in the road and also across the gardens. All occupants were concerned at the impact the cold weather would have on the water.

The Parish Council discussed various options. It was agreed that the residents would instruct Miles Drainage to visit the site to ascertain if there were any blocked drains. They would also contact the land owner to see if a field ditch would be possible.

103 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 16 March 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 17 February 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road, if any planning applications were received.

The meeting concluded at 8.42 pm.

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Chairman

## **Schools in Suffolk see an improvement in results across a range of subjects at GCSE Level**

Self-reported results from Suffolk schools, released on 22 August, indicate an increase in students achieving higher grades. This includes a 4% increase in pupils achieving at least a grade 5 in all elements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and a 7% increase in the number of students achieving a grade 4, when compared with the previous year.

The English Baccalaureate constitutes GCSEs in English and Maths plus GCSEs from the Sciences, Humanities and Languages. This is seen by the government as an important academic foundation for all pupils.

The self-reported figures also show an increase in the number of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 4 in English and Maths. There has also been a 2-point increase in the attainment 8 figure for disadvantage pupils, which is likely to see disadvantage students exceed the national average when provisional results are released in October. Attainment 8 takes into account a pupil's overall results across a range of GCSEs.

More than 6,500 pupils in Suffolk were entered for GCSE exams, according to self-reported results collated from around 70% of schools.

The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education.

## **The Hold - preserving Suffolk's history for many years to come**

Building work on The Hold, the new home of the Suffolk record office, is now well underway. Whilst The Hold is primarily a record storing facility, it has so much more to offer. It will be a completely accessible space - once through its front doors there's no need for visitors to use steps or lifts. There will be a dedicated exhibition space which will host four specially curated exhibitions per year, to encourage both young and old to interact with Suffolk's culture and history. Most of these exhibitions will be replicated at our Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft Record Offices, but with a local twist to ensure that the whole county gets involved.

Exhibitions make up just a small portion of events that will be held in the building. A 200-seat tiered auditorium will primarily be used by the University of Suffolk but will also host conferences and talks by archivists. There is no other auditorium space with this capacity in Ipswich and it's hoped that it can also be used by the wider community.

Another first, not just for Ipswich but for the whole of the county is The Hold's thermal mass maintained strong room. This record storage facility spans an impressive 1650 cubic metres, spread over three floors. It will have enough space to store the records we currently hold in Suffolk and should also comfortably house further records for the next twenty years.

Whereas many storage facilities rely on costly air conditioning systems to ensure records are stored at optimum temperatures, the design and construction of The Hold has resulted in it being able to maintain this with minimal intervention. Not only will this save money, but it also helps work towards our goal of being the Greenest County.

It has already been demonstrated to be incredibly effective, as initial readings show air permeability test results of 0.18 @ 50 Pascal (50 N/m<sup>2</sup>). This is one of the lowest readings ever recorded and shows that the strong room's air leakage is well within the required standard of 0.5.

The last thing we want to do is put our records at risk, which is why there will still be rigorous dummy testing and a requirement of stable readings for at least eight weeks prior to the actual records being stored. Once safely housed, we'll want to ensure that no new records pose any

danger to those already archived. That is why the site incorporates a 'Quarantine Room' where new records can be treated for insects, mould and any other conditions which could spread to existing collections.

The £20m project is on target for completion by Easter next year and is set to come in on budget. The building will be part of the University of Suffolk campus and will be run by the county and the University together.

### **Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates as the UK loses its 'measles free' Status**

On 21 August it was revealed that national rates for the second MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine have now fallen to just 87.2 %. This is thought to have led to the large increase in measles cases in England and Wales in 2018 (991 compared to only 278 the previous year).

However, as a result of the hard work of local healthcare professionals and the engagement of parents, Suffolk continues to buck this trend. Vaccination rates in Suffolk at the end of March 2019 reached 94.5% for the first MMR dose (by 24 months of age) and 90.3% for the second booster dose (by 5 years of age).

### **Unsafe goods totalling £23 million detained at the Port of Felixstowe**

On 19 August, it was reported that nearly one million unsafe items have been prevented from entering the UK consumer market in the last year.

This is thanks to the work of Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards Imports Team at the Port of Felixstowe.

Products such as baby carriers, strollers, child car seats and electric hot plates have been detained recently. The baby carriers were found to have non-compliant labelling, an easily detachable label which becomes a choking hazard, and the leg openings were too wide meaning that a baby could fall out.

Four in five of the UK's consumer goods arrive in the UK by a container. Half of these enter via the Port of Felixstowe, making it the busiest entry point of its kind in the country.

Suffolk is one of the few authorities to host a dedicated Imports Team, which is directly funded by National Trading Standards. As well as protecting the public from unsafe items, the team's work also helps to protect legitimate businesses trying to compete on a level playing field.

### **Keeping Suffolk's villages safe with Lorry Watch**

On 13 August, it was reported that two new Lorry Watch schemes have launched. The scheme are aimed at reducing the number of HGV drivers ignoring weight restrictions on the county's roads.

The villages of Fornham All Saints (near Bury St Edmunds) and Barnham (near Thetford) join nine other similar schemes across Suffolk, set up in conjunction with Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards and Suffolk Highways. Local residents in Fornham All Saints and Barnham have been noticing HGV drivers regularly ignoring weight restrictions and wanted to do something about it.

Suffolk's Lorry Watch started in 2012 and to date has reported nearly 3,000 incidents of HGV vehicles exceeding weight limits, where clearly marked restriction signs are in place. Volunteers monitor their area and report suspected offenders.

The existing schemes have been a great success with only four repeat offenders being issued with a warning, meaning that drivers are taking notice when they are first contacted.

Lorry Watch has proved highly effective in reducing the number of HGVs travelling through restricted areas. We are grateful to the volunteers who report potential offenders to us, so that we can do our best to make sure our local communities and highways are kept safe. Anyone with concerns about HGVs ignoring restrictions in their community, should get in touch and consider a Lorry Watch scheme. Trading Standards can enforce weight restriction orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

If you are interested in joining Lorry Watch in an area in which HGVs are abusing a weight restriction, contact [lorrywatch@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:lorrywatch@suffolk.gov.uk) or 01473 264859 (option A).

### **A number of bus services to continue despite funding challenge**

On 31 July, it was reported that a number of bus services in the county will continue to run, despite a reduction in public funding coming into effect this autumn.

Since announcing In June 2019 that 23 routes were at risk, Suffolk County Council has been working with operators and communities to find solutions to the funding challenge. The council is pleased to confirm that permanent solutions have been found for two services and a further five will continue to run until at least the end of March 2020. Conversations are also being taken forward about a further four routes that the council is hopeful can continue to be served in some way.

The council has secured £24,000 in extra grant money to extend the 387, 456, 112, 120 and 461 services until the end of next March. The 456 runs through Westhorpe, Operators, local communities and councillors in the areas served by these routes are actively working to find alternatives to keep the services running. This extension allows them time to find permanent solutions.

The criteria developed by the cross-party group to identify at risk services takes into account passenger numbers, subsidy per single ticket and integration with other services. It also considers the number of entitled students using the service and percentage of journeys made by concessionary pass holders. A full list of the affected routes and solutions is published on the [Suffolk on Board](#) website.

Jane Storey  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

## **District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson**

I hope this report finds you well and that you have all had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year. In the absence of any full Council meeting between this report and my previous one, I have provided an update on some wider matters that may be of interest to you.

### **National Planning Policy**

Following last month's general election there are a number of policy changes identified in the Conservative Party's manifesto that have the potential to change the way that MSDC considers planning applications and I thought it prescient to bring these to your attention:

“Infrastructure first: We will amend planning rules so that the infrastructure – roads, schools, GP surgeries – comes before people move into new homes. And our new £10 billion Single Housing Infrastructure Fund will help deliver it faster.

Beautiful, high-quality homes: We will ask every community to decide on its own design standards for new development, allowing residents a greater say on the style and design of development in their area, with local councils encouraged to build more beautiful architecture.

Environmentally friendly homes: We will support the creation of new kinds of homes that have low energy bills and which support our environmental targets and will expect all new streets to be lined with trees.”<sup>1</sup>

I would urge a strong degree of caution in treating these as firm commitments, however. As far as I am aware there have not been any White Papers or policy papers produced in support of them. As a result, these initiatives may be subject to change, delay etc. but they would have a significant – and, in my view, positive – impact on local planning rules if implemented in full.

### **MSDC Budget 2020/21**

The first draft of Mid Suffolk District Council's budget for 2020/21 is set to be considered by councillors later this month, including a 1.66% increase in its share of council tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property.<sup>2</sup>

The budget will be considered by Mid Suffolk cabinet members on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January and by Overview and Scrutiny on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January. It will then go to Full Council in February and, if approved, will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

<sup>1</sup> 'The Conservative Party Manifesto', p. 31 (2019). [Source: [https://assets-global.websitefiles.com/5da42e2cae7ebd3f8bde353c/5dda924905da587992a064ba\\_Conservative%202019%20Manifesto.pdf](https://assets-global.websitefiles.com/5da42e2cae7ebd3f8bde353c/5dda924905da587992a064ba_Conservative%202019%20Manifesto.pdf)]

<sup>2</sup> This is significantly below both the growth in average earnings (3.6%) and inflation (1.8%) in the year to September 2019 [Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-50388220>]

This will include:

- A proposed increase of 1.66% to council tax, equivalent to just £2.76 over the course of a year for a Band D property (increases range from £1.84 per annum for the smallest Band A property to £5.54 for the largest Band H property).
- No change in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that sees poorest residents pay just 5% of their bill.
- A change to empty property discount, reducing the period that unoccupied and unfurnished properties pay discounted council tax from three months to 28 days, in order to bring empty properties in the district back into use.
- Continued investment in CIFCO – the council's property investment company, as agreed in last year's budget. CIFCO currently contributes over £1.4m a year in income to Babergh and Mid

Suffolk District Councils and makes a significant contribution to the money required to run the councils' services. Without this income, residents would face the choice of either a substantial hike in council tax bills to fund the shortfall or cuts to services.

- A reserve of £500,000 set aside for 2020/21 to tackle climate change. The increases are in the face of reduced Government finance and changing funding landscape, with local councils increasingly incentivised to deliver local economic and housing growth – making both essential to the financial future of the council.

The budget report also recognises the cumulative savings/income of £30.9m achieved by the Council since 2011/12, through shared services, efficiencies, better use of technology and commercial opportunities – with a further £2.7m in savings/income identified for 2020/21 and beyond.

Councillors are also considering the introduction of penalties to tackle council tax fraud, alongside the adoption of a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice and Local Government Association for the collection of council tax arrears, in order to help those in genuine need.

In the meantime, residents can easily check their details and let the councils know of any changes 24/7 by signing up for an online account via the councils' website. Through an online account, residents can opt for paperless billing, check their balance, see instalments, update their details and see council tax reduction and housing benefit claim information as well as viewing bills online. Across the District more broadly there have been a number of new announcements in recent weeks and I have included summary of these updates below:

### **Next phase in development of Needham Lake visitor centre and café**

Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/café at Needham Lake have been approved and a local operator selected to run it – supporting local youth work and boosting tourism to the town.

### **1000 Endangered Animals**

Over Christmas the Suffolk Waste Partnership's celebration of recycling took on a theme of endangered animals.

The artwork created by schools across Suffolk will be on display at Ipswich Town Hall café Gallery until 11 Jan, and The Apex , Bury St Edmunds until March 2020.

### **791k funding boost for communities**

Communities across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received a funding boost totalling £791,000, for local projects including a new car park and bus shelter.

### **New recycling wrap-up**

The festive and New Year period are always a great time to encourage residents to think about reducing waste and improving their recycling knowledge and this year Suffolk Recycling launched a new Christmas Wrap-Up.

The guide has tips on how to reduce waste and improve recycling habits over Christmas, all in one place – including information on what to do with old fairy lights, wrapping paper, baubles, trees, food, metals and more. You can find the full guide on MSDC's website.

Suffolk's Recycling Centres also offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. This will help to provide an alternative way to access information about recycling which is also available on the Suffolk Recycling website.

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

E: [harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

# District Councillor Report: Stowlangtoft Parish Council

January 2020

Locality grants	The deadline for applications for locality grand funding is now the end of January. Councillors need to process the applications in February.
Needham Lake visitor centre	Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/cafe at Needham Lake have been approved. Planning permission was granted on 11 <sup>th</sup> December and 127 Trading company are the preferred tenants. Works should begin in spring 2020, and this will be a welcome addition to East Anglia's most visited free attraction.
Council tax fraud	MSDC Cabinet agreed a new initiative to issue new fines for Council Tax fraud on 6 <sup>th</sup> January. Alongside the penalties, councillors adopted a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice and Local Government Association for the collection of council tax arrears.
CIL expenditure	On 6 <sup>th</sup> January MSDC Cabinet agreed an application for CIL Funding for a new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland High School outside of the normal bid cycle. An original bid for approx £1.2M was submitted during bid round 1, but this fell far short of the actual costs and at that time there was no planning permission. Following the grant of planning permission in October the bid was validated and has now been revised to approx £2.5M. Other bids which were received in Bid round 4 (October 2019) will be considered at the March Cabinet meeting.
Budget 2020/21	Members received a briefing on the draft budget for 2020/21. This draft budget was considered by Cabinet on 13 January and is on the agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 January; it is expected to be approved at full Council meeting on 27 February. New Homes Bonus for 2020/21 will be £1.612M, an increase of £232k over 2019/20 but is likely to reduce (possibly by 50%) in 2021/22. Baseline business rates will increase by 2%. Government propose a full business rates revaluation in 2021; a fundamental review of business rates is also likely. The net revenue budget is proposed to be £10M and the Capital Programme £12M, the latter includes a proposed further investment of £8.7M in commercial properties. It is proposed that there will be a Council Tax increase of 1.66%, this equates for a Band D property to £2.76 pa, 5p per week.
Housing Revenue Account	After four years of government-enforced reductions, the council is also proposing putting up council house rents by 2.7% - 1% above Consumer Prices Index. This will result in an average increase of £2.19 per week increase for tenants. Sheltered housing tenants also face an increase of £2 a week on their bills plus a 62p a week increase to their utility bills.
Neighbourhood Plans	Two more neighbourhood plans – Eye and Fressingfield, were adopted at the Cabinet meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> January.

CLr Sarah Mansel (standing in for CLr Wendy Turner)  
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