

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM
VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllrs D D'Lima (Chair). H Godfrey, Mrs J Godfrey and J Orlopp and District Cllr Mrs Turner. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. No members of the public were in attendance.

22 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs I Cassidy, J Catchpole, N Kaines and County Cllr Mrs Storey. The Parish Council approved the absences.

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

24 **Minutes of the last meetings:**
7 September 2020

The Chairman presented the minutes previously circulated. Cllr Godfrey proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 7 September 2020 be approved. Cllr Mrs Godfrey seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

19 October 2020

The Chairman presented the minutes previously circulated. Cllr Orlopp proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 19 October 2020 be approved. Cllr Godfrey seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman agreed to sign the minutes and drop them round to the Clerk for filing.

25 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

7 September 2020 - The Chairman reported that no progress had been made with the County Council regarding the white lines and the Kiln Lane speed limit.

26 **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.

27 **District Councillor's report**

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

District Cllr Mrs Turner reported that the Joint Local Plan had been distributed for consultation. It would be considered by the examiner in a year. She also advised that business grants were available and to get in touch if this was something anyone was interested in.

(District Cllr Mrs Turner left the meeting at 7.45 pm)

28 **Police report**

The Parish Council noted that no new information was available since the last meeting. The Parish Council noted that copies of previous newsletters were available at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>.

29 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

The Parish Council agreed that this agenda item could be removed for future meetings.

Cllr Godfrey added that other local Parish Council's had been in contact for further information regarding supplier etc which he had forwarded. Cllr Godfrey requested that the Clerk be given authority to provide this information to future enquiries. **The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk had the authority to provide information on the VAS to future people enquiring. Cllr Godfrey would forward the information to the Clerk.**

Cllr Orlopp reported that the VAS sign the Street Farm end of the village did not appear to be working. **Cllr Godfrey agreed to investigate.**

30 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that the cleansing operative had questioned whether there were any jobs in the village which they would like undertaken. She added that the Church bank would be cut when the hedge cutter was passing and that the small oak tree would be left.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey suggested that the white gates could do with some attention. They had been repainted before but possibly needed some extra work on the actual wood. She added that if the signs created a lot more work then perhaps they should be removed. **The Parish Council agreed that HART Farm Services would provide a quotation for improving the white gates.**

31 **St George's Church**

Cllr Orlopp reported that the PCC had met. Reverend Valentine had received an email regarding the Churches Trust taking over the responsibility for St George's Church. She had agreed to forward to the Clerk. The Parish Council noted that this email had not been received. **Cllr Orlopp would chase.**

Cllr Orlopp explained that the Diocese had taken over all the larger financial costs such as insurance but the smaller expenses were still the responsibility of the PCC.

32 **Finance Report:**

Councillors agreed the financial report, previously circulated and the cheques would be signed and returned to the Clerk for action.

33 **Planning matters:**

The Clerk highlighted that emails had been circulated regarding the CIL consultation and the Joint Local Plan. Councillors would submit any comments individually.

The Parish Council noted the work undertaken to the Spinney Pill Box for remembrance. All thanked the parishioners involved for undertaking such a wonderful act given the current restrictions regarding Covid-19. As a thank you, a parishioner made a small remembrance video which can be found at <https://vimeo.com/476733975>

Cllr Mrs Godfrey agreed that it had been a wonderful act but highlighted that the flagpole should probably be removed now in case it fell into the road.

The Chair also advised that a query had been received regarding a possible planning application at the chalk pits on the A1088. He advised that the Clerk had checked with MSDC who had advised that no new, or resurrected application had been received.

34 **Highway matters**

Cllr D'Lima stated that the proposed speed limit in Kiln Lane, and the white lines in The Street were still outstanding but the County Council were not responding.

35 **Correspondence**

None.

36 **Councillors' Forum**

Stowlangtoft Charity Bench – The Chair reported on behalf of Cllr Cassidy that the bench funded by Stowlangtoft Charity had been installed. Cllr Cassidy had suggested that the bench could be carved on the top to refer to the charity. Cllr Cassidy had queried whether the Parish Council would fund this act. Cllr Godfrey queried whether the social fund could cover the cost. Cllr Orlopp was happy with the proposal. **The Parish Council therefore agreed that the bench be carved and that the costs would be met from the social fund.**

37 **Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present, so no issues raised.

38 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 18 January 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road (via Zoom if necessary).

The Parish Council noted that a Planning meeting would be held Monday 21 December 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road (via Zoom if necessary), if any planning applications were received.

The meeting concluded at 8.08 pm.

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Chairman



The Waste North November 2020



Visit [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Here we go again....

While Suffolk County Council did not provide the Government-funded vouchers to schools for Free School Meals over the half term week, they were keen to support families and children in need so that no child would go hungry.

I have already sent out to Parish Councils the list of activities and funding that SCC passed on to the residents of Suffolk but in summary:-

DEFRA awarded Suffolk County Council £770,000 as its share of the hardship grant. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided further match funding of £800,000.

So far, the Suffolk system has spent £600,000 and this covers:

- The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme that funds supermarket, food and fuel vouchers; school uniforms; essential furniture items; white goods; and oil heating refills.
- The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber.
- A donation of £100,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation to provide grants to organisations to help communities with immediate hardship.

Suffolk County Council has committed £250,000 to Suffolk Foodbanks and awarded a further £60,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund.

The Suffolk Support and Advice Line has been set up to help address issues regarding finance, housing etc. It can help with debt advice, budgeting, mortgage, rent or credit card problems and employment queries. The number is **0800 068 3131** and is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. People can also go to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Suffolk Community Foundation

The Suffolk Community Foundation has many grants available that are there to help community groups (charity and volunteer groups) and also to provide grants for any number of consequences of Coronavirus,

for all types of organisations. It is well worth looking at their website if you are aware of a group or organisation that could benefit. www.suffolkcf.org.uk

Adopt East launches

14 October marked the launch of Adopt East, a regional adoption agency which has been established to recruit adopters across the East of England.

Adopt East will work across local authorities in Southend, Thurrock, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Bedford and Luton to find families for children who are waiting to find their forever home. Adoptionplus, Barnardo's, and Adoption UK are also part of the partnership.

The Adopt East alliance will deliver the highest quality adoption service to children and families throughout the region by bringing together the expertise and skills of all its partners.

The scale of the organisation means that adopters will have access to a larger number of children waiting for adoption. This will help partners to match children with the right family for them, at the earliest opportunity.

As someone who has always taken a great interest in the children who come into the care system of SCC, even to the extent of providing supported lodging, it is good to know that all these partners are working together to provide 'forever' homes and that Adopt East is committed to providing good quality adoption support services to support all families with their adoption journey.

Councils ready with Test and Trace Support Payment for most vulnerable

Councils in Suffolk are helping administer a Government scheme to provide financial help to those on low incomes and benefits who must self-isolate.

If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate, you are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

Those who are eligible will need to meet all the following criteria:

- Told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
- Employed or self-employed.
- Cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.
- Currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit; income-based Employment and Support Allowance; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Support; Housing Benefit; and/or Pension Credit.

Applications are made for one person only and any further applications within the same household must be made by each individual. Payments are subject to tax but not National Insurance. People must make the application within 14 days of the last day of their NHS test and trace self-isolation period.

If asked to do so by Test and Trace, you must self-isolate by law. Failure to do so will mean you are no longer eligible for the payment and steps will be made to recover the funds.

Please visit the [NHS Test and Trace](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-test-and-trace) website for more details of the NHS Test and Trace self-isolation requirements for those:

- Testing [positive](#)
- Those who have been in [contact with someone](#) who has tested positive and now has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Visit Mid Suffolk District Council website for details on how to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Post COVID – if only!

As we go into lockdown again I want to pay tribute to all those members of our communities that went above and beyond during the previous lockdown and who are preparing to do the same again. I hope it will be just for the 4 weeks and because we are in a low risk area we will be in Tier 1 again and ready to get into Christmas preparations.

Locality Budgets

We have only 6 months until the County Council elections in May. There will be a 6 week moratorium period before the election. Some parishes have bids in to the Locality Budget process already. The budgets are unlikely to be carried over so I would request that bids are put in as soon as possible.

Jane Storey

2nd November 2020

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District Councillor Report: Cllr Wendy Turner - November 2020

Extraordinary Council meeting	An extraordinary Council meeting has been called for 11 th November when both the Joint Local Plan and the revised CIL charging schedule will be discussed.
Council response to planning review consultation.	Following the decision at the last full Council meeting, a cross-party group from both Councils have been working with officers on the Joint response to the Government white paper on Planning reform. Whilst there are aspects of the proposals which can be supported, such as greater emphasis of pre-application working and greater community engagement, there are other suggestions which are not considered favourable. The 40-page response highlights the need to ensure that all development needs to be appropriate to its surroundings and that safeguards are in place to protect our countryside, market towns and villages
CIL review	In response to the new Government regulations on CIL spending, a cross-party working group is reviewing both Council's CIL expenditure framework for 2021. Alongside that review the group has also made recommendations to Council about new CIL charges and the instalment schedule for developers. The current proposals suggest a fee structure which aims to promote development of brownfield sites over greenfield sites within the districts.
Digital car parking meters	Babergh and Mid Suffolk car parks have become digital, with the introduction of MiPermit system. Virtual tickets are available online, via the MiPermit app, by phone or by text, so this should reduce paper waste. A cash payment option is still available. More information can be found at https://secure.mipermit.com/bmsdc/application/home.aspx
2020 Innovation Awards	The winners of the new Innovation Awards will be announced on 3 rd November, at a virtual event. 28 businesses have been shortlisted, and the winners will be rewarded with both a cash prize and some bespoke professional advice, support or training.
Self-isolation payments	Residents on low income and unable to work due to NHS Test and Trace notification, are able to apply for £500 payment. Details of the scheme and how to apply can be found on our website. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/self-isolation-support-payments-for-low-income-earners-in-babergh-and-mid-suffolk/
Free school meals	Suffolk County Council are not providing Government-funded vouchers for free school meals over half term week, but they are still supporting families in need. SCC has committed £250,000 to Suffolk Foodbanks and a further £60,000 to Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund. The Suffolk Support and Advice Line has been set up to help address these issues. It can help with debt advice, budgeting, mortgage, rent or credit card problems and employment queries. The number is 0800 068 3131 and is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
Locality Budget	There is funding available, please contact me if you know of any group that needs some help with a project. Two awards have been granted so far, £3000 to Thurst Café and £750 to TRINC. I still have £3600 available.
Skylark plots	A positive response has been made by Rougham Estates as to providing skylark plots. SCC planning department has the details and are looking into whether this could provide a solution to the lack of Skylark provision in Thurston.
Damaged Oak Tree	Still waiting for a response from SCC/MSDC as to whether the damaged oak tree on the Ixworth Road in Thurston is safe or will need to be felled.

Cllr Wendy Turner
 Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)
 Ward of Thurston
 Email: Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk

District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson

Mid Suffolk District Council did not meet in October, however in addition to our planned November meeting we have also convened a special session of the Council on Wednesday 11th November to consider progressing our draft Joint Local Plan to the examination stage.

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:

Keeping up-to-date on Covid-19 across Suffolk

Mid Suffolk District Council is part of the Suffolk Resilience Forum – working with our neighbouring authorities, emergency services, public health and our NHS colleagues to protect our residents and communities. We are working together to share information and advice across our communications channels – including our regular councillor updates, our website and social media channels.

To help you stay abreast of the situation across the county, regular Suffolk Coronawatch

Bulletins are being produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins via the Suffolk County Council website.

Home, But Not Alone Phonenumber goes live again

The Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, is up and running again in light of this week's lockdown announcement.

The phonenumber helped thousands of people and families across Suffolk, who often didn't have a network of family or friends to call upon, to access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes during lockdown earlier this year.

The telephone number is freephone 0800 876 6926 and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The Home, But Not Alone phonenumber complements The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries.

Self-isolation support payments for low-income earners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Residents on low-incomes and unable to work because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, can now claim a £500 payment to compensate for loss of earnings.

Great Run Local

Great Run have taken the difficult decision to cancel the Great Run Local (GRL) scheme with immediate effect. An email has been sent to all GRL co-ordinators and participants advising of this update. Following the success of GRL events in Needham Market and Walsham-leWillows we will continue to work with Suffolk County Council and other partners to try and find an alternative local solution, as part of ongoing our commitment to bright and healthy futures for our communities.

Councils demonstrate they can meet future housing requirement

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently published their Five-Year Housing Land Supply position statement, evidencing that Government housing requirements can be met by the districts until 2025 and beyond.

Visitors can scrap the paper with new digital parking

Motorists parking in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can now scrap their paper ticket and go digital – to help protect their health and the environment.

Cross-party councillors in agreement on response to planning system overhaul

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councillors are united in their response to the Government's Planning for the Future consultation – insisting that proposals must not be at the detriment of local communities and should not lose focus on the challenges facing rural districts.

CIL funding boost

Town and parish councils across Mid Suffolk recently received much-needed CIL funding collected between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020. A total of £312,507 was allocated to 29 town and parish councils in the district. Parish councils receive this money automatically and are eligible for up to 15% of collected funds from their area, subject to a financial cap, with the potential for this to increase to 25% if they have successfully adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.

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
Cabinet Member without Portfolio
E: harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk

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