

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM
VIA ZOOM

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

39 **Apologies for absence:** No apologies for absence were received.

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

41 **Minutes of the last meetings:
16 November 2020**

The Chairman presented the minutes previously circulated. Cllr Godfrey proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 16 November 2020 be approved. Cllr Mrs 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.

42 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

The Chairman confirmed that all matters arising would be covered as agenda points.

43 **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.

Cllr D'Lima highlighted the County Council's proposed 4% council tax increase which would be considered at full Council on 11 February 2021.

44 **District Councillor's report**

District Cllr Mrs Turner advised that she omitted to circulate her report before the meeting. The Clerk confirmed a copy would be attached to the minutes for information. District Cllr Mrs Turner reported that the brown bin collections had been postponed and the full Council would consider the budget on 26 February 2021. No questions were asked.

District Cllr Mr Richardson presented his report, previously circulated, and welcomed questions. He highlighted MSDC's full Council meeting scheduled for 26 February 2021 and advised that procedures from lockdown 1 had been reactivated. No questions were asked.

(District Cllrs Mr Richardson and Mrs Turner left the meeting at 7.38 pm)

45 **Police report**

The Parish Council noted the Police report. Cllr D'Lima added that via Police Connect a report of power tools being taken from a vehicle on Ixworth Road had been received.

The Parish Council noted that copies of previous newsletters were available at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>.

46 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted MSDC regarding the cleansing wheeled bin as it had not been emptied since mid-Summer. MSDC had outsourced the emptying to an external company which they would contact to ensure the bin were emptied.

(As Cllr J Orlopp had not arrived, the Parish Council agreed to consider agenda item 10 (Finance) and come back to agenda item 9 (St George's Church)).

47 **Finance Report:**

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

Precept

The Parish Council felt that the precept should remain at £3,300 per annum with a view to purchasing VAS signs for use on the A1088.

The Clerk agreed to complete the necessary paperwork and return it to MSDC by 31 January 2021, on the basis of the 2021/2022 precept being £3,300.00.

2021 – 2022 budget

The Parish Council considered the budget figures for 2020 – 2021 to inform their discussion for 2021 – 2022. It was felt that the majority of figures would remain the same, however the cost of emptying the litter bins would increase to £37.13 per annum (excl VAT) and dog bin emptying increase to £43.49 per annum (excl VAT), the street cleansing would be set at the same level as the MSDC grant, namely £695.00 per annum. It was agreed that consideration in future years would be given to the installation of VAS poles and signs on the A1088 so £4,000.00 would be added for the installation.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey queried why the cleansing grant from MSDC was low. She also queried why the cleansing operative had not claimed the whole grant amount. The Clerk reported that the figures ran to 18 January 2021 so the last quarter had not yet been included.

The Clerk reported that HART Farm Services had provided a quotation for repairing the white gates. She explained that they had the necessary wood and paint which they would donate and then the hours used to repair them would be covered by the cleansing grant.

The Clerk would update the budget document for 2021 – 2022 and present it to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 15 March 2021.

(Cllr J Orlopp arrived at 7.52 pm)

48 **St George's Church**

Cllr Orlopp reported that no update had been received from Reverend Valentine regarding the Churches Trust taking over the responsibility for St George's Church. **Cllr Orlopp would chase.**

49 **Planning matters:**

DC/20/04291 – *Rosetree House, 1 Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft* – The Parish Council noted that the planning application had been granted and that the parish Council had not objected to the application.

DC/20/05696 & DC/20/05697 – *Cocksedges, The Street, Stowlangtoft* – Cllr D’Lima advised that the planning application had been received after the December planning meeting had been cancelled. Therefore, all Councillors had considered the application via email. The Councillors had unanimously concluded not to object to the planning application. The Clerk had emailed the decision through to the Planning Department.

DC/20/05597 – *Toft Barn, The Street, Stowlangtoft* – The Parish Council noted that the non-material amendment to application DC/19/03862 had been refused by MSDC. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had not been consulted on the application as it was a non-material amendment which MSDC consider under delegated authority.

DC/21/00184 - *Full Application - Insertion of 3No Dormer windows to garage (replacing approved rooflights) at Toft Barn, The Street, Stowlangtoft* – The Parish Council noted that the planning application had been received after the agenda papers had been distributed.

Cllr Godfrey stated that he felt the amendment was creeping development with a view to applying to change the use into a dwelling in the future. He added, however, that the Parish Council did not have any grounds to object to the application to amend the windows. Cllr Mrs Godfrey added that the planning statement referred to the garage as a private dwelling which raised concerns.

Cllr Cassidy highlighted that condition 11 of planning application DC/19/03862 stated that there was an occupation restriction in that the accommodation above the garage could only be used for purposes incidental and ancillary to the main dwelling. Cllr Godfrey added that that condition had been added by the landowner.

Cllr Godfrey advised that the proposed change from rooflights to dormer windows would not affect neighbours as the garage faced East.

Following detailed discussion, the Parish Council concluded that they did not object to the amendment to application DC/19/03862 to replace rooflights with dormer windows, however felt that MSDC should refer to the constraints in condition 11 regarding the garage not becoming a separate dwelling. **The Clerk agreed to submit the following comment to MSDC:-**

Stowlangtoft Parish Council do not object to application DC/21/00184, the amendment to application DC/19/03862 to replace rooflights with dormer windows in the garage; however the Parish Council wish to highlight condition 11 of planning permission DC/19/03862, namely:-

11. SPECIFIC RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT: OCCUPATION RESTRICTION
This permission shall only authorise the use and occupation of the accommodation above the garage for purposes incidental and ancillary to the principal dwelling on land to the east of Street Farm and does not permit the use of the accommodation for a separate household. Reason - The proposed garage/living accommodation constitutes a physically separate unit of accommodation which would not be acceptable having regard to its particular relationship with the principal dwelling and the potential for noise, activity and disturbance detrimental to the amenity of that principal dwelling were the development to be occupied as an unrelated dwelling.

(Cllr Catchpole left the meeting at 8.10 pm)

50 **Highway matters**

Cllr D'Lima stated that he had reported potholes and damaged road signs to the Highways Department using the online reporting tool. Some of the potholes had been repaired so he stressed the importance of reporting any issues online.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey highlighted the flooding near their property recently. Cllr Godfrey added that a gully machine used to come round villages. Cllr D'Lima suggested reporting it as a problem as the gully machine sometime visited when there had been no rain so they were unaware of where water sat during heavy rain.

Cllr Kaines advised that during recent walks around the village he had noticed that some of the footpaths had become quite narrow due to moss and grass growing outwards. He queried whether HART Farm Services could address this as part of the village cleansing. **The Parish Council agreed that HART Farm Services would be advised.** The Clerk added that a report of litter in Kiln Lane between the water tower and the Walsham Road had been received. The cleansing operative would therefore extend his litter pick to include all of Kiln Lane and not just to the village boundary.

51 **Correspondence**

None.

52 **Councillors' Forum**

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – Cllr Godfrey reported that neighbouring villages had been in contact and were very interested in Stowlangtoft's VAS. These villages are processing applications for themselves. Arising from these applications, Mr Mottram, Road Safety, Speed and Traffic Manager for Suffolk Highways had been in touch via himself and the Clerk directly querying the way the village use the VAS. Cllr Godfrey explained that Mr Mottram had questioned whether the VAS were being removed and relocated on a regular basis. He explained that when the VAS were installed there was a recommendation to move them but not a requirement. He therefore sought the Parish Council's views. Cllr D'Lima queried whether the signs can be switched off as the logistics of taking the signs down and storing them could cause unnecessary damage.

Following discussion, **the Parish Council requested that the Clerk contact Mr Mottram requesting a copy of the rules and regulations relating to the installation of the VAS.**

Stowlangtoft Charity Bench – Cllr Cassidy reported that following the installation of the bench, discussions had been held regarding the carving of an inscription referring to the Stowlangtoft Charity. Cllr Cassidy advised that a quotation had been received but the Charity had no funds and the Social fund had offered help towards the total but there was a shortfall. The Parish Council noted that an alternative of a brass plaque had also been proposed.

Cllr Godfrey highlighted that a brass engraved plaque would be a cheaper alternative to carving and could be met entirely from the social fund. Cllr Kaines added that he had some brass which he would donate to be engraved. **The Parish Council agreed for Cllr Kaines to provide a brass plaque and get it engraved with the social fund covering the cost.**

53 **Public Forum**

A parishioner highlighted the footpaths becoming narrow due to overgrowth by the Armshouses. He also queried why the bus shelter had not had leaves removed by the cleansing operative. The parishioner also highlighted the blocked gully near Lilac House. The Parish Council noted the concerns raised.

Cllr D’Lima suggested that if any parishioner have concerns regarding potholes, gullies etc they should go online and report them to Highways rather than wait for a Parish Council meeting. **Cllr D’Lima agreed to report the blocked gully by Lilac House.**

A parishioner also raised concern regarding the church clock as it was not keeping time. The Parish Council noted the concerns raised, however the Parish Council were unable to undertake repairs to the church. It was agreed that the concerns would be discussed further outside of the meeting.

54 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 15 March 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 15 February 2021 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 8.47 pm.

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Chairman



Thedwestre North January 2021



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Current infection rates are increasing and we all need to be careful

I probably was not the only person who said 'good riddance' to 2020 when the clock struck midnight on 31st December.

Suffolk's current COVID infection rates, local hotspots and pressure on hospitals are still giving cause for concern and why we, along with many other areas of the country are now in Tier 4.

Congratulations to all at Woolpit Health Centre for getting the first batch of Covid-19 vaccinations done mid-December.

There is a wealth of information on the internet – not just to find out the current infection rates but also advice on what the Tier 4 restrictions really mean, how to get the message out to others and sources of funding for those who might need some help.

Information on current rate of infections - among the most of the local newspaper websites will give this information but Radio Suffolk seem to have this news daily on the breakfast show.

Information on Tier 4 restrictions – the Covid-19 app has this but it can also be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>

There is a group called the 'message cascaders' which can be signed up to. Be a Message Cascader and help to Keep Suffolk Safe – to share with your family, friends, colleagues and wider networks! Sign up by sending an email to message.cascaders@suffolk.gov.uk. You will get regular updates and A4 posters that can be distributed. I print them and then put them up on my fence for people to read as they walk past. I'm on a popular route to the school and the Health Centre.

The helplines are all still open - the Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, can help access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes. The telephone number is freephone **0800 876 6926** and is staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Also available is the Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber (**0800 068 3131**) which helps those with debt, benefits, employment, or housing worries.

There are grants available from the Suffolk Community Foundation for help with heating costs and other costs. Look at their website www.suffolkcf.org.uk for more information - telephone [01473 602602](tel:01473602602) or email: info@suffolkcf.org.uk

Primary School application deadline approaches

Parents and carers have until Friday 15 January 2021 to submit an application to secure their child's place at a Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2021. Applications should be made for children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 who are due to start primary school from September 2021. An application for a full-time school place must be made even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Council budget proposals

These gained little publicity when they were announced just before Christmas. There was an item on the radio and the EADT carried the story on Dec 22nd – announcing a 4% increase on our bills for 2021/22. The council's scrutiny committee will consider the budget and make any recommendations on January 7 before it goes to Cabinet on January 26. It will then go for full council decision on February 11. The agenda for the Scrutiny Committee Budget Meeting 7 January 2021 meeting along with a link to the papers can be found on the SCC website (council & democracy and then committees). At the time of writing committee services have not yet published the link to the remote meeting but I have been assured that it will be published soon.

Jane Storey

4th January 2021

District Councillor Report: January 2021

COVID-19	The Home but not Alone service was operational over the Christmas period and will continue to be available for those who need help. The phone number is 0800 876 6926
Draft Budget and Housing Revenue account 2021/22	<p>The draft budget and housing revenue account for the coming year will be discussed by Cabinet in early January. The proposals include a 1.66% increase in Council Tax. The HRA proposals suggest that Council house rents are likely to increase by 1.5%. Sheltered housing service charges look set to increase by £1 per week, and both garage rents and sheltered housing utility charges are to remain at the same level.</p> <p>The Green and Liberal Democrat group will be discussing their alternative budget arrangement with officers over the next few weeks.</p>
Brown bin postponement	All brown bin collections have been postponed for the time being due to Covid related absence
Waste fleet	The Cabinets of both councils are to discuss the use of hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) as a fuel for the waste fleet. If this is agreed, it will mean up to 90% reduction in carbon emissions as it is using a waste product. Conversion of the tankers to use the new fuel is expected to be about £50k, but it should result in lower maintenance costs in the longer term, as well as helping the environment.
Locality Budget	<p>The deadline for applications for grants from the Member Locality Budget scheme has been extended to Friday 26th February 2021. Please contact me for further details and an application form if your group would like to apply for funding.</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2020-21/</p>
Housing numbers	The Minister for Housing and Communities issued a statement about housing numbers just before Christmas. It is confirmed that the number of new houses in Mid Suffolk will not be changed, so that the basis on which the JLP was written remains unchanged.
Covid 19 Grants	Covid 19 business grants continue to be paid out, £777,624 of which has been paid to 527 businesses in Mid Suffolk. The Additional Restrictions Grant, which requires businesses to supply more evidence of the financial impact of lockdown has so far paid £114,000 to 63 businesses in both district Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Cllr Wendy Turner

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

Ward of Thurston Email: Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07548155748

**District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson
January 2021**

Mid Suffolk District Council did not meet in December as per our usual timetable, so in lieu of a full report I have included below a summary of the major updates across the District:

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Regular 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.

Support payments available for those told to self-isolate on low incomes

More residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extend support payments to help more people.

Councillors to consider budget for 2021/22

Councillors are set to discuss the first draft of Mid Suffolk District Council's budget for 2021/22 – designed to deliver a healthy future for post-Covid Mid Suffolk.

Councils look to slash fleet emissions

Babergh and Mid Suffolk will consider proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.

Green light for Emergency Services Hub funding

Mid Suffolk District Council recently approved £431,740 in funding from housing growth to progress plans for a shared Emergency Services Hub in Stowmarket – paving the way for collaborative working and enhanced 999 services.

Voting safely at this year's elections

On Thursday 6 May 2021, residents in Suffolk will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at Suffolk County Council and who will represent them as the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The elections may be a way off, but we are already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting their vote.

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

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