

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM
THE COMMON ROOM, STOWLANGTOFT**

Present: Cllrs Cuff, Marsh, Suggett and White. A Osman (clerk) was also in attendance along with two members of the public.

52 **Chair Arrangements.** In the absence of Cllr D'Lima, and without a nominated Vice Chair, it was agreed by all councillors that Cllr Suggett would Chair the meeting.

53 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr D'Lima sent apologies which were accepted.

54 **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cuff declared an interest in Item 5 in relation to costings for the village newsletter.

55 **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2023.** Cllr White proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September be approved. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The October meeting was cancelled due to no planning applications being received and no urgent actions needed.

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

Minute 32: 25 September 2023: Traffic Survey Kiln Lane. The Clerk confirmed the traffic survey was due to start in November. Cllr White indicated that the survey equipment was in place.

Minute 32: 25 September 2023: VAS Relocation. Cllr Cuff informed the meeting that the VAS at the eastern end of The Street had now been relocated.

Minute 34: 25 September 2023: Crime Prevention Meeting. Cllr Cuff reported that the planned crime prevention meeting due on 31 October had been postponed due to lack of interest and the need for such a meeting would be revisited in Spring 2024.

Minute 45: 25 September 2023: Newsletter Costings. Cllr Cuff provided an update on village newsletter costings (£50 per quarter for the current product for all households).

Minute 47: 25 September 2023: Highways Issues. Cllr Cuff reported that the faded road markings at the Kiln Lane/ The Street junction had not yet been reported. [Clerks note: This was subsequently completed on 21 November by Cllr Cuff].

Minute 47: 25 September 2023: A1088 Bridge Liaison Group Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that he had attended the meeting on 31 October and produced a report, previously circulated, that would be covered at Item 12.

Minute 48: 25 September 2023: Pride of Place Funding. Cllr Suggett reported that an application for £250 of funding from Mid Suffolk District Council for village improvements had been successful.

- 57 **County Councillor's Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the County Councillor's report that had been previously circulated.
- 58 **District Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the District Councillors combined report that had been previously circulated.
- 59 **Clerk's report.** None
- 60 **St Georges Church.** Cllr Cuff reported that a new Church Guide had been produced, the proceeds of any sales would go towards proposed Church improvements. Cllr White highlighted that a Craft and Xmas Fayre would be held at the Church on 2 December 23. Cllrs Cuff and White stated that the Diocese had identified architects to produce drawings of the proposed Church improvements to provide a community space.

61 **Finance:**

LGA Award and Finance Report. The meeting noted the LGA pay award for the Clerk and the financial report (current bank balance of £2790.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £1,100 current account and £1,500 savings account), both circulated before the meeting. Payments authorised:

SALC Payroll service	£22.80
Onesuffolk website	£60.00
Clerks Salary & Exps	£504 + Exps (to be presented to Chair in Dec)
Backdated pay award	£84.00

Cllr Suggett agreed to authorise payments.

The meeting also **agreed to fund the remaining years village newsletters** (£100).

Budget FY24/25. The meeting discussed the proposed budget for FY24/25 and **agreed to remove the comment 'assume further donations' against the donations cost centre and to insert 'village newsletters'** against village improvements cost centre. Cllr Suggett proposed that the amended budget for FY 24/25 be approved. Cllr Marsh seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

- 62 **Planning matters.** None
- 63 **Highways matters.** The meeting noted the report on the A1088 Bridge Liaison Group meeting previously circulated.
- 64 **Correspondence:**

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. The meeting noted the email previously circulated covering the review by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts. The meeting noted the email previously circulated covering the review by the District Councils.

New Suffolk Police Operating Model. The meeting noted the document previously circulated covering the new Suffolk Police operating model.

Community transport. The meeting noted email previously circulated.

65 **Councillors' Forum:**

Xmas Fayre. The meeting agreed to make the 'Common Room' facilities available for the Xmas Fayre.

Church Guide. Cllr White passed on thanks on behalf of the Church to Cllr Cuff for the work on the new Church Guide

66 **Public Forum.** Nothing reported.

67 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 January 2024 at 7.30pm in The Common Room, St George's Rd.

If any planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the November meeting, these will be considered at a short meeting on Monday 18 December 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.24pm.

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Chair

Parish Report – Nov 2023

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Thedwastre North division

Councillor Andy Mellen

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Supporting Suffolk Farmers

The council meeting on Thursday 19 October saw councillors vote to approve a motion supporting local farmers and food producers by ensuring that local meat and dairy, as well as plant-based produce, is served at council events. The council's facilities and catering arm, Vertas, has 68% of its spend with Suffolk suppliers and 86% with regional suppliers. In order to tackle the county's environmental priorities and boost the local economy, the council also pledged to encourage Suffolk residents to buy local produce and shop locally wherever possible. Although this was clearly a "political" motion designed to highlight differences between the parties, I decided to vote in favour of it.

Walking and Bridleway Access

At Cabinet on Tuesday 10 October, members of the Suffolk Local Access Forum joined the meeting to provide their annual report, which included the work they are doing to improve and maintain footways and access around the county, particularly with Network Rail and National Highways to make sure that new developments take foot traffic and walkers into account. They are keen for the council to promote the East Anglian sections of the newly named King Charles III England Coast Path. The forum expressed concern about the significant large-scale energy infrastructure projects planned for the county and could impact on Suffolk residents' enjoyment of the green access network and impact on the county's natural environment.

Suffolk Pharmacies

On 11 October, councillors from my group attended Health Scrutiny which was looking at the service provided by pharmacies in Suffolk and the challenges they face with funding, staff recruitment, medicine shortages and pharmacies closing. Representatives from the NHS, Suffolk GPs and the Suffolk Pharmaceutical Committee joined the meeting and recommendations were made to write to minister about funding, and work with local schools and the University of Suffolk to promote pharmacy as a career path. It was noted that in order to provide extra services (such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests and asthma advice) which take pressure off GP surgeries, more space and consulting rooms would be required than Suffolk pharmacies currently had available.

Budget Consultation

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities as it decides how it will spend money next year and has launched an online consultation to give Suffolk residents a say in budget setting for the financial year 2024-25. There will also be a number of focus groups to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

There are three key questions, the first is on which services people have recently used, the second asks for thoughts on seeking a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services, and the third on which service area you would like to see more money spent. The online survey can be found at the link below – please give us your views! http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/

Storm Babet Flooding

The council would like to extend thanks to residents around the county who helped other residents whose homes and travel were affected by the rains and flooding that struck Suffolk on Friday 20 October. The way the emergency services, volunteers, farmers and local communities worked together to help children get home from school, move people to safety and protect buildings from flooding was truly inspirational.

If you have been affected by the Storm Babet and the recent flooding, please use link below for SCC support and advice: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

A1088 bridge re-construction at Stowlangtoft

A liaison group has been formed between affected parishes, councillors, hauliers and highways staff, the first meeting took place on 31st October where plans and a timeline for the reconstruction work were discussed. This will involve a full closure of the A1088 for 4 months while the bridge is demolished and rebuilt on new foundations. Work is proposed to start late May 2024 but timing may be dependent on when the A14 works are completed.

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Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkqli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

October 2023

MSDC Meeting.

Mid Suffolk District Council meeting held in October. MSDC would like all residents views on what matters most to each of our communities. Please let MSDC know by completing the survey which is available the website until the 15th November.

Working with Groundwork East MSDC is providing help to local businesses to reach net zero.

MSDC's business CIFCO is completing the purchase of the Co-Op building in Stanton.

MSDC will be launching its 'cozy homes' initiative next month which will make insulation available to appropriate households in our District. This is the £2 million special provision set aside in our Councils 2023/24 budget.

Council passed a planning guidance note on Solar Farms. Applicants are encouraged to work closely with local communities before making an application. Weight is given to food production and also landscapes, however, there has been no response to the request to the Minister for guidance.

Planning

MSDC is still awaiting the outcome the legal challenge to the Planning Inspectors decision to approve the Gladman application.

David and Austin have various meetings on applications DC/23/02429 and DC/23/02430.

District CIL

Norton Village Hall request for District CIL has been supported by David and Austin. We have also supported the application of the New Green Centre to replace all the exterior doors.

Network Rail.

Participated in CIL funded feasibility study on Thurston railway crossing. Need the opinion of Thurston Parish Council on level of District CIL to be committed. Final report due by the end of November.

Thurston Community College

Appreciate that the college has given access to various clubs to use the sports hall.

Next month the fitness suite should be available for community use.

A14

Supporting the Tostock campaign to have the village speed limit further along Church Road.

Locality grants

We have agreed to support Thurston Primary School as their request for Pickleball equipment.

David Bradbury & Austin Davies

Mid Suffolk District Councillors

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