

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 15 JULY 2019 AT 7.30 PM  
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

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

27 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D'Lima, Godfrey, Mrs Godfrey and Orlopp and County Cllr Mrs Storey and District Cllrs Richardson and Mrs Turner.

28 **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Catchpole declared an interest in planning application DC/19/01387 at Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing Home, as detailed on his register of interest form.

29 **Minutes of the last meeting:** 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 13 May 2019 be approved. Cllr Catchpole seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

Minute 19: St George's Church: The Parish Council noted that the event held on 2 June 2019 had been successful and that the St George's Church would receive approximately £500. It was hoped that a repeat of the event would be held in future.

31 **County Councillors Report:** County Cllr Mrs Storey submitted her report dated June 2019. A copy is attached to these minutes.

32 **District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Richardson and District Cllr Mrs Turner submitted their reports. Copies are attached to these minutes.

The Parish Council noted that the refuse collection dates had been changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays. All residents had received a leaflet outlining the changes.

33 **Police Report:** The Clerk had not received an update Police report.

34 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr Cassidy advised that the Speed Reactive Sign update would be covered under the Highways agenda item.

35 **Clerk's report:**

The Clerk had no issues to report, however advised that the internal and external auditors were happy with the Parish Council's audit documentation.

36 **St George's Church:**

Cllr Cassidy stated that the churchyard grass had been cut at least once since the last meeting.

37 **Finance Report:**

Councillors agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

38 **Planning matters:**  
Decision – DC/19/01159 Land south of Glebe Farm, The Street, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JT – Outlined planning permission had been refused.

Decision – DC/19/01387 and DC/19/01388 (Listed Building Consent) Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing Home, Kiln Lane, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JY – Planning permission and Listed Building Consent had been granted.

39 **Highway matters:**  
Cllr Cassidy updated that Cllr D'Lima and District Cllr Richardson were dealing with the ongoing issue of parking in St George's Road. It was understood that a proposal of moving parking from one side of the road to the other could be viable, however a degree of cutting out of the verge would be required to allow for car doors to open.

Cllr D'Lima had reported the Kiln Lane pot holes again but with no reply. **Cllr Cassidy agreed to report the pot holes to Suffolk County Council again.**

In Cllr D'Lima's absence, Cllr Cassidy reported that Cllr D'Lima had reported the following :-

- Reference 00244069 - Large pothole 5m north of Primrose Cottages
- Reference 00244069 - Large pothole 50m south of Kiln Lane bridge
- Reference 00244067 - Large pothole 50m north of Kiln Lane bridge

The above were reported on 11 June 2019 and allegedly inspected on 13 June 2019. Cllr D'Lima had received a reply stating they did not meet repair criteria. Whilst the criteria for repair had clearly been met if the pothole repair matrix had been checked, the reported pot holes have been rejected again. Cllr D'Lima expressed his unhappiness at the lack of support received from the County Council regarding highway matters. Cllr D'Lima had also advised that the replacement white lines near the Church and the proposed speed limit in Kiln Lane had not been progressed.

Cllr Cassidy advised that an update on Speed Reactive Signs would be provided by Cllr Godfrey at the next meeting on 16 September 2019.

40 **Correspondence:** The Clerk had no correspondence to circulate.

41 **Councillors' Forum:**  
Annual Parish Meeting Minute 7 – Chairman's Report: Cllr Cassidy reported that he did not agree with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding the village changing and it having to be accepted. He stated that change can and will happen if agreed to and supported.

42 **Public Forum:**  
None.

43 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 16 September 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The meeting concluded at 7.41 pm.

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Chairman

Date:

## **County Councillor Mrs Storey's Report – June 2019**

### **Conversations start as county council seeks solutions to bus funding challenge**

On 19 June, Suffolk County Council met with representatives from Suffolk's bus operators to see whether they can run a number of bus services without public subsidy. This follows a reduction in the amount of public money available.

The meeting, involving 11 of Suffolk's biggest bus operating companies, follows decisions taken in February 2019 on how to save £13 million from Suffolk County Council's budget, including £340,000 from the authority's passenger transport budget.

This led to a cross-party policy development panel being set up to agree how decisions should be made about the funding of services. A new, fair and thorough set of criteria was adopted in May 2019, including passenger numbers, subsidy per single ticket, integration with other services, the number of entitled students using a service, and the percentage of journeys made by concessionary pass holders.

Of the 211 bus routes currently operating throughout Suffolk, 61 are subsidised by public money. 23 of these will have their public funding removed. This does not mean that these services will necessarily end, just that public funding is no longer affordable.

In 2017/18, the 23 services were responsible for 107,624 single journeys out of a total of 14.9million journeys made across the county. This means that the services are responsible for only 0.7% of journeys per year.

A full list of the affected routes has been published on Suffolk County Council's website [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) and includes services where the council is currently paying a subsidy of £12.64 per single ticket which equates to over £25.00 per round trip.

The services that run through Thedwastre North are the 384/385 from Stowmarket to Bury St Edmunds, which has not been listed as affected, and the 456 - from Stowmarket through Bacton, Wyyverstone and Finningham, which IS listed as affected. This service was under threat a couple of years ago. I will be arguing against the cuts to this service. However, the link to SuffolkOnBoard suggests contacting the Community Transport service. The link is here <https://communities.suffolkonboard.com/my-area/mid-suffolk/>

The County Council want to explore other sources of funding to support these services once SCC funding ceases. They are also open to conversations with community groups and partners to see if local solutions can be developed.

Following conversations with bus operators and partners, the county council will review the situation at the end of July 2019 before determining next steps. The council aims to have operators taking on these services on a commercial basis from the end of October.

### **Suffolk pothole repair scheme to go countywide**

A trial scheme to tackle potholes swiftly has been so successful it is being rolled out across Suffolk. The Suffolk Highways scheme, which started in Ipswich in October 2018, changes how potholes are categorised.

The new system allows engineers to repair potholes close to each other during the same visit, tackling smaller potholes before they can expand. Previously, they fixed larger holes first and

smaller ones at a later date. The new policy reduces the amount of time workers have to travel between jobs.

The rate you pay the gangs is the same whatever they do, and the material they put in the pothole is the same, so the efficiency savings comes from the travel time - it's about looking at ways the system can be more efficient.

### **New fire engines and uniforms making Suffolk safer**

Suffolk's firefighters are now kitted out in new state-of-the-art uniforms, making them safer than ever before.

The new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) saw its first action on 1 May 2019, as firefighters responded to reports of a washing machine fire near Bury St Edmunds.

The new clothing was on display at the Badwell Ash Village Hall fete where Elmswell on call firefighters had samples of the new kit to show anyone interested. It is more lightweight, comfortable and tailored, and includes specific designs for men and women. There are also different uniforms for different incidents.

This is the first major upgrade to firefighters' equipment since 2011.

The old uniforms will be returned to their previous supplier, where they are recycled and often exported abroad, predominantly to African countries.

### **Foster carers for Suffolk children**

As a local authority, Suffolk County Council is responsible for more than 800 children in care in Suffolk. The Suffolk Fostering & Adoption service is part of Suffolk County Council, and their goal is to secure families for Suffolk children, either on a short-term or permanent basis. The service has been rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

Fostering is a big commitment, but it is an incredibly rewarding journey. Foster carers can make a real difference to a child's life, providing them with the nurturing home life they need to give them every chance of a happy childhood and to succeed in life.

Suffolk Fostering & Adoption aren't looking for perfect families. They need people with a passion and an ability to provide children in their care with love, patience and a sense of belonging. When you foster for Suffolk you:

Give back to your community and offer help and support to the most vulnerable children in Suffolk. Enrich your own family life by gaining new insights, interests and skills.

Develop your own skills and career opportunities through support and training, including a Level 3 Diploma in Childcare.

Are part of a team – the largest family in Suffolk.

Have access to therapeutic support services for the children you foster and your own family. Are given 24-hour support and up to 21 days paid leave.

Suffolk offer competitive financial rewards for foster carers. Fostering for Suffolk really can be a career choice.

**To find out what Suffolk Fostering & Adoption Service can offer foster carers:**

Call 01473 264800

Email [fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk)

Visit [www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk)

Find them on Facebook - Suffolk's Fostering Service - or on Twitter @suff\_fostadopt

Further details are on the SCC website.

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

## **District Councillor Mrs Turner's Report: Stowlangtoft Parish Council - July 2019**

Draft Joint Local Plan	<p>A preliminary copy of the draft Joint Local Plan was published as part of the papers for the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. This is the Regulation 18 version and includes maps of allocated sites and settlement boundaries. <b>It has now been agreed that the Draft Joint Local Plan will go out for a 10 week public consultation in July.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-consultation-document/">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-consultation-document/</a></p> <p>Page 37 – Stowlangtoft is classified as a Hamlet  Page 62 – information on Clusters and Hamlets Policy LP01  Pages 468-469 Settlement maps</p>
Councillor Locality Budget	<p>Another round of Councillor Locality Budgets has been launched. Each member has £7,350 to allocate to community projects and groups in their ward. The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> January and any community group wishing to apply for funding needs to contact the ward member. The minimum award amount is £250 and any grant awarded must meet one of the Council's strategic objectives.</p>
Bin collection day change	<p>In order to optimise bin collection routes there will be some changes to bin collection days from July. The new schedule should be published on 1<sup>st</sup> July and the new routes will become operational week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rubbish will be collected on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>Recycling will be collected on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July</li> </ul>
Housing delivery test action plan	<p>As part of the Government's housing reform a Housing Delivery Test has been introduced to monitor housing within local areas. The Council has to publish a Housing Delivery Test Action Plan because it was only meeting 81% of the target figure. Some of the recommended actions include better engagements with developers of stalled sites. This action plan was agreed by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June</p>
Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Stowupland Neighbourhood plan held its referendum earlier on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The results showed a 92% vote in favour of the plan and it was adopted as planning policy by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June. This is the fourth neighbourhood plan to be adopted in the district.</p>
New directors for CIFCO	<p>Three new directors for MSDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd. The directors are now Cllrs Gerard Brewster, Rick Meyer, Peter Gould and Paul Ekpenyong.</p>
	<p>Wendy Turner Cllr  wendy.turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk  Phone number 07799402531</p>

## **District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson – July 2019**

At our recent meeting on Thursday 27th June Mid Suffolk District Council approved the draft joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk, which will now proceed to a consultation period. This will run between July and September of this year and will enable residents, local business and stakeholders to express their views and to offer any feedback on the contents of the Plan. The Local Plan proposes a set of planning policies that will be used to inform decisions on planning applications and appeals. The Councils began gathering a range of evidence to inform the preparation of a new joint Local Plan during 2016, which has included studies on retail, economic land needs, housing land availability and housing market assessments.

An early draft plan identifying broad issues and options was produced, and consultation undertaken during Autumn 2017. Following submission of more than 14,000 comments from over 1,300 people and input from both statutory consultees and a cross-party working group of Councillors, this preferred options Plan has now been developed.

The key points of the document include:

- A housing requirement of 10,008 new homes in Mid Suffolk between 2018 and 2036, which translates into a requirement of 556 dwellings per year in the District, in accordance with Government guidance based on published evidence;
- Prioritising new retail and town centre uses in the strategically important retail centres of Sudbury, Hadleigh and Stowmarket;
- A drive for 35% of homes in relevant applications for 10 or more dwellings to be affordable;
- A development approach that takes into account the long-term implications of climate change, including flood risk, water supply and biodiversity.

With regards to Stowlangtoft in particular, the parish has been designated as a 'hamlet village' and so the Local Plan has subsequently fixed the existing settlement boundary in its present position. While this does not represent an outright prohibition on any development outside this boundary, it does make any such planning application significantly more difficult and will prevent any large-scale development of the kind seen in Thurston. Though the Plan may theoretically be modified in the future, our expectation is that this will remain in place and will guide the Council's approach to planning until 2036.

Both Stowlangtoft Parish Council and residents may submit comments during the consultation phase from the end of July, but I have not been given any indication that the proposals with regards to the village will change in any substantial way. I have included the relevant pages in the Local Plan, with the indicative settlement boundary, at the end of my report for your reference. I am pleased to say that the Local Plan enjoyed cross-party support and the Council voted unanimously to advance the Plan to its consultation phase; my sincere hope is that this consensus will continue when the Plan is finalised by the Council later this year.

In addition, the Parish Council (and indeed any other local stakeholders) may like to know that the District Council has commenced its Councillors' Locality Awards for this year. The programme means that each Mid Suffolk councillor has a £7,350 pot that he or she can use to award to projects or organisations, including community groups and charities, that have a direct impact on Mid Suffolk communities.

Applicants selected for an award must be able to demonstrate that their project, event or group meets one or more of Mid Suffolk's Strategic Priorities and where relevant should be able to demonstrate its sustainability over the coming years. Applications must be submitted to ward

members by 31st December 2019, and any prospective applicants should contact Wendy Turner or myself in order to receive the relevant form and/or ask any questions about the scheme.

In addition, I have also been made aware by Cllr D'Lima and Mrs Bryant of the ongoing issues with parking on St George's Road, and so I will be looking into this at a District Council level. I am still in the process of investigating the potential options available to us and the feasibility of these – including mandating parking on the opposite side of the road – and so will aim to provide a further update to the Parish Council once I am in a position to offer more clarity about the next steps.

I have also been observing the progress of the outline planning application DC/19/02090 that was submitted on 30th April for the erection of up to 210 new dwellings on the land East of Ixworth Road in Thurston. Given the size of this development this will be discussed at one of the Council's two planning committees, but we have not yet been informed of the date for this meeting.

On a similar note the emerging proposals from Bloor Homes for the erection of 200 new dwellings on the land South of Beyton Road in Thurston will likely be submitted as an outline planning application in the first few weeks of July. While these applications are not within the Stowlangtoft parish, I am sure that the accumulative impact on local highways, etc. will be something that the Parish Council will wish to monitor closely.

Across the District more broadly there have been a number of new announcements in recent weeks now that the newly formed Administration has started to resume its normal work following on from the local elections. A summary of these updates can be found below:

### **Women's Tour**

On Monday 10 June, the OVO Energy Women's Tour headed to Suffolk for the Stage 1 race from Beccles to Stowmarket. The event, which sees the world's top female riders go head to head in stages across the UK, returned for its fifth visit to the county schools, businesses and residents across Mid Suffolk organising community events across the district to show their support for the riders. Details about the day, including where to watch the highlights and more can be found on the Women's Tour website.

### **Changes to recycling**

The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Gt Blakenham, where recycling collected from Suffolk households is sorted, will be undergoing a major refurbishment. This follows a new contract for the operation of Suffolk's countywide network of 11 Recycling Centres, and will result a state-of-the-art facility for Suffolk, with the latest mechanical and optical sorting equipment.

During the renovation period, kerbside recycling will be collected as usual and will be delivered to other UK sorting facilities. Residents should note, however, that drink cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak) and metal pots, pans and trays will no longer be accepted in their recycling bin and instead can be recycled at all 11 of Suffolk's Recycling Centres. For a full guide of what can be put in your bins, please visit the Suffolk Recycling website.

### **Home-Start Charity Named as Chair's Choice**

Cllr Lavinia Hadingham, Councillor for Fressingfield and newly elected Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council, has named Mid Suffolk Home-Start as her Chair's Charity for the year. Home-Start is a charity that recruits and trains volunteers who have parenting experience themselves and offer families informal, friendly and confidential support. Their work emphasises early intervention that prevents situations turning into a crisis. The charity seeks to empower parents to help themselves through the support of volunteers who have parenting experience themselves.



### **Councils' cutting-edge database shortlisted for Paperless Awards**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Exacom database has been shortlisted for the Public Sector Paperless Awards' Big Data Project of the Year. The awards, that celebrate what can be achieved through digital innovation, announced their shortlist last week ahead of a national Awards ceremony in July. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Exacom database was shortlisted alongside projects from Dorset County Council, Westminster City Council and North Lanarkshire Council for the Big Data Project of the Year category.

### **Towns and Parishes get £290k CIL Boost in Mid Suffolk**

Town and Parish councils across Mid Suffolk will receive a total of £289,114.30 of community infrastructure funding from the Council's CIL scheme. The Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds were collected from property developers between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019 will provide a much-needed boost to town and parish councils and parish meetings in the and Mid Suffolk area.

### **New Electric Vehicle Charging Point come to Needham Lake**

Motorists across East Anglia can now recharge their electric vehicles in as little as 30 minutes at one of a network of 11 new rapid chargers, installed along the region's strategic road networks. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are leading a Highways England funded project of seven local authorities, in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex, working together to install rapid charging points along strategic roads in East Anglia, with one of the first now operational in Needham Market.

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