

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.15 PM
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

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

49 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Orlopp and District Cllr Richardson.

50 **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Catchpole declared an interest in the footpath diversion (agenda item 12) as detailed in his register of interest form.

51 **Minutes of the last meetings 15 July 2019 and 19 August 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 meetings dated 15 July and 19 August 2019 be approved. Cllr Mrs Godfrey seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

52 **Matters arising from the last meeting**
There were no matters arising as all outstanding items were included as agenda items.

53 **County Councillor's report**
County Cllr Mrs Storey submitted her report, previously circulated, and took questions. A copy is attached to the minutes for information.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey questioned whether the new "Hold" would see the closure of the Bury St Edmunds Records Office. County Cllr Mrs Storey advised that the majority of records were being digitalised and then requests could be made from Bury for items to be sent over from the Hold.

Cllr D'Lima questioned the current position regarding the Kiln Lane speed limit. Cllr D'Lima had been provided with the criteria for the introduction of a limit but questioned whether the residents of Stowlangtoft Hall could be included in the resident numbers? County Cllr Mrs Storey stated that she had visited the area and counted 15 residents. Cllr D'Lima added that the Highways Department had stated that a highways survey would be required and that the Parish Council would have to pay for it. **County Cllr Mrs Storey stated that if a survey were required then she would pay for it out of her highways budget.**

Cllr D'Lima also questioned the current position regarding white lines on The Street near Church View. He advised that the SCC had replied to questions raised but had basically advised that white lines would make the situation worse and that it was not SCC policy to install them, even though there are white lines in Hunston. **County Cllr Mrs Storey stated that she would investigate further and report back.**

Cllr Godfrey stated that the Parish Council had not been able to progress with Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) as, at the point of agreeing to purchase, he was advised that the criteria had changed and that there was a rota system in place where villages could share VAS. The Parish Council had agreed to progress with this route, only to be advised that there are 100 villages who had subscribed and therefore the system was on hold. Cllr Godfrey expressed his dismay at the length of time the introduction of VAS had taken. He

felt that the Parish Council should decide whether to purchase as before, or forget the whole process as the rota system did not sound like it would work. County Cllr Mrs Storey stated that she was unaware of a change in criteria and could see no reason why the Parish Council could not purchase their own VAS. She added that Westhorpe had received a presentation from a company called Westotech regarding VAS.

Cllr Kaines expressed his concern at the increase in homeless/rough sleepers in nearby area. County Cllr Mrs Storey agreed that the situation appeared to have increased and stated that the District and Borough Councils were responsible for dealing with the issue. She added that some people did not wish to be rehomed.

(County Cllr Mrs Storey left the meeting at 7.46 pm)

54 District Councillor's report

District Cllr Mrs Turner submitted her reports, previously circulated, and took questions. Copies are attached to the minutes for information. The Parish Council noted that the District Council now had a 5 year land supply.

(District Cllr Mrs Turner left the meeting at 7.51 pm)

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 reported that the main item in the report related to parking in St George's Way. **It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the reply onto Mr Stiff regarding his complaint.**

55 Police report

The Parish Council noted the Police report dated August 2019, which was available online at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>. Cllr D'Lima updated on issues facing the Bury St Edmunds area.

The Parish Council noted that there had been a recent arson attack on a stack of bales in Langham and that suspects had been charged.

56 Speed Reactive Sign Procurement

Following on from the earlier discussion regarding VAS, Cllr Godfrey stated that the Parish Council should either proceed with the purchase of VAS or scrap the proposal altogether. He acknowledged that there were some plus points to the SCC rota system, however poles had been installed ready for the Parish Council to install purchased VAS. Cllr Godfrey felt that 2 VAS should be purchased to avoid the need to move them around the village.

The Parish Council felt that there was merit in Cllr Godfrey contacting the company who had previously quoted for the purchase of VAS to obtain up to date figures for purchasing a VAS. Following discussion, **Cllr Mrs Godfrey, seconded by Cllr D'Lima, proposed that Cllr Godfrey contact the company regarding up to date figures for the purchase of VAS, with a view to purchasing and ultimately installing 2 VAS in Stowlangtoft.**

57 Clerk's report

The Clerk had no issues to report.

58 St George's Church

Cllr Godfrey updated that Cllr Orlopp was still on the PCC, however the management of the church had been passed to Mrs Harrison in Pakenham. A meeting took place with Cllrs Godfrey, Orlopp, Reverend Katherine, Mrs Harrison and Marion Rogers regarding the care and upkeep of the churchyard.

Mr Stuart White would keep a check on the grass and would report back to Mrs Harrison if the grass needs cutting. Mrs Harrison would then contact M&TJs or a resident of the village may cut the grass. The proposal going forward would be for M&TJs to invoice Mrs Harrison, and a copy would be sent to Stowlangtoft Parish Council. Cllr Orlopp had proposed that instead of giving a yearly allowance to the PCC that the Parish Council would pay the invoices as they arose. M&TJs would charge £156.00 per cut.

The insurance for the church had increased and the lightening conductor needed replacing. The PCC are also considering the option of selling the carvings to contribute towards the churches upkeep.

59 **Finance Report:**

Councillors agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk reported that MSDC had confirmed that a large dog waste bin would be emptied at the same cost as the current bin. Therefore the Clerk had investigated the cost of a large bin, which would come out of the locality budget payment received from District Cllr Barker.

The Parish Council agreed that Cllr Kaines would source and purchase a replacement, larger dog bin.

60 **Planning matters:**

DC/19/0346 – The Clerk advised that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant.

(Cllr Cassidy stated that he did not have an interest in the following application and therefore felt it appropriate to remain at the meeting, discuss and vote)

DC/19/03862 – Full Planning Permission – Erection of 1 no dwelling and garage at Street Farm, The Street, Stowlangtoft – The Parish Council noted that they had received the application before and submitted comments, however the application had been amended.

The Parish Council noted that the revised application was for a large house and garage with the cart lodge having 3 bays as opposed to the previous 2 bays.

Cllrs raised concern that there was a large driveway included in the application which went to land at the rear of the site and the garage did not appear to be a garage as it included bathroom facilities which implied future use as a second property. Cllr Cassidy stated that he had email questions to MSDC but had received no reply. He expressed concern that the plans were incorrect.

As the applicants were present, Cllr D'Lima allowed them to clarify the points of concern raise by Cllrs. They advised that the agricultural barn which had been located at the rear of the site had been demolished and was being rebuilt to use as storage and so it was more in keeping with the surroundings; during the build, building materials and supplies would be stored in it. The applicant also advised that the planning application/site had a condition on which limited development to one dwelling and all permitted development rights had been removed.

Following the explanation from the applicants, Cllrs concluded that they had no objection to the amended application. It was therefore agreed that **the Clerk would submit the Parish Council's view of no objection to application DC/19/03862.**

Proposed Diversion of Stowlangtoft Public Footpath No 3 (part) – The Parish Council noted the proposed diversion and the reasons behind it and raised no objection. The Parish Council voted to support the application. **It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the necessary paperwork and return on behalf of the Parish Council advising of the Parish Council's support for the diversion.**

61 **Highway matters**

Cllr Cassidy stated that he had been chasing the Highways Department regarding ongoing pot holes within the village. He explained that he had highlighted other pot holes which had been repaired which had not been as bad as those which he had reported. He will chase again and report back.

62 **Correspondence**

The Parish Council noted that the Joint Local Plan was out for consultation with a deadline of 30 September 2019. Cllr D'Lima suggested that any Cllr who wished to submit comments should do so individually.

The Clerk advised that the Highways Department had circulated a Grit Bin guidance document. The Parish Council noted the content.

63 **Councillors' Forum**

Cllr Mrs Godfrey advised that Hart Farm Services who had been appointed to cleanse the village had undertaken some work, however as June to October were their busy time, the additional hours would be made up during November to May. Cllr Godfrey requested that Cllr Catchpole install an additional log on the spinney to deter vehicles from parking on the verge.

64 **Public Forum**

No items were raised.

65 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 18 November 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

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Chairman



Thedwastre North

Sept 2019 Newsletter

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/m²). 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 schemes 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 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
1st September 2019

District Councillor Mrs Turner's Report: Stowlangtoft Parish Council

August 2019

Draft Joint Local Plan	The Draft Joint Local Plan is out for public consultation from 22 nd July until 30 th September. Some public consultation events are arranged around both districts. The most local one is to be held in Thurston New Green on 2 nd September 2pm to 6pm. Other events may be organised and details will be posted on the MSDC website, where you can make your response to the consultation. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/have-your-say-on-our-draft-joint-local-plan/
Five Year Land Supply annual position statement/	A four-week consultation period for the annual position statement on the 5- year housing land supply runs from 19 th July to 16 th August. The statement claims that MSDC has a 5.6-year land supply.
Climate Emergency and Biodiversity motions at Council meeting.	At the July Council meeting MSDC acknowledged a 'Climate emergency', and agreed to set up a cross party task panel to explore way to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The Green group also proposed a biodiversity motion so that the task panel also explores ways to promote biodiversity, particularly as the accelerating rate of species extinction is now a biodiversity emergency and will be compounded by climate change.
CIFCO annual statement and 2019/20 business plan	The Council noted the annual report from CIFCO which stated a £3.1M loss, which includes the one-off costs of acquiring the assets and an adjustment in valuation following the year-end revaluation. 6 properties have been purchased during this year and the total rental income is now the total annual rent to £3,119,558 (for both Councils). The 2019/20 business plan is slightly different to the original plan, accepting a slightly lower return and less risky investments due to changes in the market. There will be less emphasis on High Street investments and more on commercial properties, for the second tranche of £50M (for both councils).
Equality and Diversity policy	The council adopted an Equality and Diversity Policy to ensure that MSDC complies with the Equality Act 2010.
Fake Council Tax Refund	Both Ipswich and Babergh/MSDC issued a warning for members of the public to be alert to scams for council tax refunds being sent via text messages. The Council do not send texts messages for these types of matters. Please contact Trading Standards on 03454 040506 or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 if you have been contacted.
Community Energy saving Schemes – to reduce CO2 emissions.	Some ideas in the link below of agencies that may help with funding for any future community energy saving projects – ie new energy efficient heaters for the community spaces in Thurston (New Green) or vulnerable households. https://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/get-help-with-your-big-idea-9077811/
Zero Waste Week	Now in its 12 th year Zero Waste Week 2019 takes place September 2 – 6 and organiser Rachelle Strauss is looking for organisations to sign up and play a part in this year's campaign to help reduce the UK's non-recycled waste and to rethink rubbish as a resource. https://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/can-you-rise-to-the-challenge-9077813/

Wendy Turner Cllr

wendy.turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk

District Councillor Report: Wendy Turner

September 2019

Draft Joint Local Plan	<p>The Draft Joint Local Plan consultation period ends at 4.00 pm on 30th September. A further programme of public consultation events have now been arranged. Local ones include, Thurston New Green on September 2nd 2pm -6pm, Bacton Village Hall 9th September 2.30 - 6.30 pm and The Mix in Stowmarket 19th September 12.30 - 4.30 pm. More details about the Joint Local Plan can be found on the MSDC website. Paper copies of the draft document are available at all the local Libraries</p> <p>https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-preferred-options-july-2019/</p>
Community Infrastructure Levy	<p>The Government has abolished the CIL 123 list regulation and replaced it with new CIL regulations which come into force from 1st September. MSDC is adopting a new position statement to comply with the new regulations, but there is practically no difference from the 123 list.</p> <p>There were only 2 valid bids received for CIL funding in the May 2019 bid round, and both of these bids are to be endorsed by Cabinet this week.</p>
Performance monitoring	<p>The Quarter 1 performance report has been published as part of the Cabinet papers. Planning applications determined within deadlines has improved. One of the major areas of concern is the Council House repairs performance where there are several overdue jobs which the team are working hard to complete which affect the % of jobs completed in the agreed timescale. Performance management is taking place to enhance service delivery.</p>
Waste collection	<p>It has become apparent that there were more issues with the new Waste Collection rounds which were introduced in July. Hopefully things will settle down again now, once the crews have found all the properties they need to collect from. If there are any further cases of missed bins, please get in touch with us. Information about what to put in your recycling bin can be found on the MSDC website here: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Waste-Services-Bins/Documents/guide-to-recycling-2019.pdf</p>
Active Schools	<p>A new Active Schools programme has been launched at two schools in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, aiming to increase physical activity in primary schools and combat rising childhood obesity.</p>
Locality Budget	<p>I have received some bids for locality funding. Please could any group wishing to apply for funding get in touch with me. The application deadline is December, but it would be helpful if I received all bids by the beginning of November.</p>

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 August as per our standard procedures, however I do have an update regarding the issues with parking in St George's Road, as well as the usual update about developments across the District.

I have been liaising with the relevant officers at Suffolk County Council regarding St George's Road and have received the following response from Highways:

'Dear Councillor Richardson,

I have received your enquiry into parking and footway issues on St. Georges Road, Stowlangtoft. As shown on the below map, Suffolk Highways own the existing footway and the carriageway in this location. The land immediately adjacent to the carriageway is not maintainable highway and so we would not look into creating a footway in this location.

Swapping the single existing footway to the opposite side of the road would not be practical as this would mean that pedestrians leaving the properties would have to exit directly onto the carriageway and would pose an unacceptable risk. There is insufficient width of road to consider laying a footway on the opposite side of the road as this would serve to narrow the Carriageway below the current 2 vehicle width and would have the knock on effect of compounding any parking or access issues.

Parking issues are always a slightly contentious problem and strictly they are the responsibility of the Police (if illegally parked or blocking private driveways/access).

If there are specific issues involving particular properties please do get in contact further but there is very little SCH can do in this area owing to the nature of road, widths etc.'

I appreciate this will do little to mitigate the existing problems in St George's Road but from Suffolk Highway's perspective there is little that they are able to do. I will contact the relevant PCSOs to gain a better understanding of what enforcement action they can undertake, but it would seem that any structural changes to the road itself are unlikely to be feasible.

Across the District more broadly there have been a number of new announcements in recent weeks, a summary of which can be found below:

Draft Joint Local Plan Consultation Continues

Over the past month Mid Suffolk and Babergh have held 9 public events discussing the draft Joint Local Plan with residents, with 11 more planned this month before the consultation ends on 30 September.

The draft Joint Local Plan proposes a set of planning policies that will be used to inform decisions on planning applications and appeals over the next 18 years, up to 2036. Residents can take part online, or by visiting one of 18 public consultation events planned across the two districts.

Gateway 14 expansion set to deliver multi-million pound boost for region

Mid Suffolk District Council's subsidiary company Gateway 14 Ltd has completed the purchase of a key site at Stowmarket East, unlocking development plans and a potential multi-millionpound boost for the local economy.

Crews bed-in to new collection routes

Thank you to everyone for their patience while we transitioned to our new collection rounds. This was a huge undertaking for our waste team, as well as an essential step to make the routes more fuel efficient, ensure we have the capacity to meet future home growth and to reduce our environmental impact in line with our climate change ambitions. Our crews are bedding into their new routes with the support of the team.

If you have any questions about the collection day changes please visit the FAQs on our website or alternatively, get in touch with the waste team.

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

Date: