

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM  
VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllrs I Cassidy (Vice Chair), D D'Lima (Chair). H Godfrey, Mrs J Godfrey and N Kaines and District Cllr Richardson. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. No members of the public were in attendance.

1 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Catchpole and J Orlopp, County Cllr Mrs Storey and District Cllr Mrs Turner. The Parish Council approved the absences.

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

3 **Minutes of the last meeting: 16 March 2020**

The Chairman presented the minutes previously circulated. Cllr Kaines proposed that the minutes of the meeting dated 16 March 2020 be approved. Cllr Cassidy seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

4 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

Minute 113 – County Councillors Report – The Chairman had emailed the County Councillor again but no update received.

Minute 122 – Stowlangtoft Charity – Cllr Cassidy had progressed the matter and would update later in the meeting.

Minute 122 – Dog Bin – Cllr Kaines had adapted the dog bin to remove the requirement for a key.

Minute 123 – Kiln Lane Surface Water – The Chairman had chased the County Council but received no update. However Cllr Godfrey stated that a repair had been undertaken which had hopefully addressed the issue.

Minute 123 – Laurel bushes – The Chairman had contacted MSDC and been advised that permission would not be required. To date no new laurel bushes had been planted, however this was probably due to the Covid pandemic.

Cllr Kaines advised that the litter pick had not happened due to the Covid pandemic.

5 **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.

6 **District Councillor's report**

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

District Cllr Richardson presented his report, previously circulated. A copy is attached to the minutes for information. District Cllr Richardson added that the white paper on Government

reform would be released in mid October and he would provide a more informed summary in his next report.

*(District Cllr Richardson left the meeting at 7.45 pm)*

7 **Police report**

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

8 **Speed Reactive Sign Procurement**

Cllr Godfrey reported that the VAS were in place and he felt had had an impact on the speed of traffic through the village. He advised that 3 other local Parish Council's had been in contact for further information regarding supplier etc. Cllr Godfrey reported that speed information can be downloaded if the Parish Council wished to pursue this.

9 **Clerk's report**

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

10 **St George's Church**

The Parish Council noted that there was no update since March due to the Covid pandemic.

11 **Finance Report:**

Councillors agreed the financial report, previously circulated and the cheques would be signed and returned to the Clerk for action. The Clerk highlighted payments made during the recent lockdown.

12 **Planning matters:**

The Parish Council noted that planning permission had been granted for Bryony Cottage (DC/20/D01173) during the lockdown. The Parish Council had not objected to the application.

The Parish Council noted that a planning application had been received regarding land West of Ixworth Road, Norton (DC/20/02990). The Parish Council had not objected to the application, however had raised our disapproval that we had not been consulted on the previous application and that the Parish Council felt that MSDC had failed us. The Parish Council had also requested that process be put in place to prevent this happening again.

13 **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.

Cllr Cassidy reported that a bench had been purchased for installation at the junction of Kiln Lane/The Street. A license for installation had been granted. HART Farm Services would install the bench after the harvest period.

14 **Correspondence**

The Parish Council noted the following consultations:-

- PC10-20 – Changes to the current planning system (NALC deadline 17/9/2020)
- PC11-20 – White paper – planning for the future (NALC deadline 15/10/2020)

- PC12-20 – Transparency & competition – Data & land control (NALC deadline 16/10/2020)
- Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council – 5 year housing land supply consultation (deadline midday 14/9/2020)
- Stowlangtoft footpath Number 3 – diversion – noticeboard 20/8/2020 – 17/9/2020

15 **Councillors' Forum**

Neighbourhood WhatsApp Group - Cllr Mrs Godfrey reported that she had received a link to join a local neighbourhood WhatsApp group which she felt may be useful. She agreed to circulate the link.

16 **Public Forum**

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

17 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 16 November 2020 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road. The meeting would be held at 7.30 pm by Zoom if Government guidelines had not been changed.

The Parish Council noted that a Planning meeting would be held Monday 19 October 2020 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road (at 7.30 pm via Zoom if necessary), if any planning applications were received.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

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Chairman



# September 2020 Thedwastre North

## Highways works in your area

When a utility company or Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways make plans to dig up a road or pavement because of repairs or development they will generally check with other departments and companies to see if there is work that can be done at the same time – in order to save time and money. Sometimes this is not possible and this can be very frustrating for members of the public.

Several years ago SCC stopped putting notices of intended works in the local press and advising local parishes. Instead they use a website called <https://one.network/> This can be used for a particular council area, village, or other designation and includes the option to be notified for any up and coming works. It is particularly useful if a sign of intended works appears – the website gives information on who, why, when and diversions, if applicable.

Other useful sites:-

Highways Reporting <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

To check to see if the highway problem meets the criteria for remedy

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/how-we-manage-highway-maintenance/Suffolk-Highway-Maintenance-Operational-Plan.pdf>

For HGV incident reporting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/report-a-heavy-goods-vehicle-incident/>

## Preparations are finalised for SCC funded school travel for the new school term

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have made preparations to ensure all pupils who are eligible for SCC funded school travel are transported to school safely for the start of term. SCC transports approximately 12,000 pupils, which is around 12% of the school population.

There are three types of school transport that children travel on - either a dedicated closed contract, shared route, or public transport route. The guidelines for these routes are slightly different.

The majority of eligible pupils travel to school on dedicated, closed routes. This means that the vehicle only carries school children. On these routes, social distancing will not apply. There will be other measures in place to ensure pupils' safety. For example, children need to make sure they wash their hands before and after travelling, and no eating and drinking will be allowed on these vehicles. Face coverings are also recommended for children aged 11 and over.

Some children travel to school on shared routes. This is where most passengers are pupils going to school or college, but there are also a few members of the public travelling on the vehicle. SCC have worked closely with operators to ensure that there is enough space on these shared transport routes. Pupils should observe social distancing guidelines with members of the public and sit in the seats marked; they can sit next to members of their family or fellow pupils. On these routes, face coverings will be mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one, in line with guidance. For further information visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com).

## Working together to ensure a safe start to the new school year

The start of the new school year can present challenges for families and schools alike. The prospect of walking back through the school gates for the first time since mid-March may feel both exciting and daunting.

COVID-19 has impacted on all of us in different ways and for many children and young people this has affected their education, with thousands not being in school for five months. Parents and carers across Suffolk have done a wonderful job educating their children at home.

## New project website for Suffolk County Council's A140 improvement scheme

Suffolk County Council has partnered with Interserve Construction to deliver a vital upgrade to the A140 road near Eye, Suffolk.

It is hoped that the scheme will improve journey time reliability and road safety in the area, and advance access to the Eye Airfield Development Area.

The improvements include:

- Two new roundabout junctions on the A140 Castleton Way and south of Rectory Road.
- A link road through to B1077 from the Northern roundabout.
- Restricted movements at the A140/B1077 junction: prohibit right turns in and out, improving journey times and safety.
- Closure of the A140/Rectory Road junction.
- Landscaping and new pathways for walkers and cyclists.

<https://eyea140scheme.co.uk/> aims to update all interested stakeholders regularly about the project's recent activities and any traffic management measures which may be in place to help support the work. A phone number is also available (07917 598 686) to directly contact the project's representatives.

## Suffolk celebrates 1,000 miles of newly surfaced roads

Suffolk Highways has completed its 1,000th resurfaced mile, following the Council's commitment to relay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk's road network.

In 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of road across Suffolk over a four-year period; in a bid to improve the quality of roads, reduce the number of potholes and to help stop potholes from forming in the first place.

The commitment also makes sound financial sense, as preventing the deterioration of road surfaces by machine surfacing or surface dressing helps reduce the need to spend more money on reactive maintenance repairing potholes now, and in future years. The 1,000th mile was laid at Horham Road in Eye on Tuesday 4 August 2020.

## Free cycling sessions for the people of Suffolk

The County Council's Bikeability team is now offering FREE cycling sessions to provide practical skills on how to cycle on today's roads. Everyone is welcome to take part - adults, families, and children. The sessions are aimed at those who want to cycle more regularly, whether to keep fit, to commute to work or school, or to visit friends.

A session lasts between 2 and 2.5 hours and is delivered by a fully qualified Bikeability Cyclist Trainer. The trainer chats to you first about what you are trying to achieve and tailors the session to your specific needs.

Travel behaviour has transformed during lockdown, both nationally and in Suffolk, as more people turn to cycling for essential journeys and exercise. It has been a cycling revolution!

- Journeys made by bike rose by 120% during the pandemic, while bus, rail, ferry, plane and car journeys fell by as much as 95%.
- Latest research also suggests that as much as 16% of the population in England (8.9 million people) have been cycling per week during the pandemic.

For further information on the active travel measures Suffolk County Council is putting in place across Suffolk and to sign up for a free cycling session visit: [suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking](https://suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking)

## Suffolk and Norfolk businesses set for extra boost for apprentices

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk are launching a reward package, **Recruit Retain Reward**, providing £1,000 grants for businesses taking on new and/or redundant young apprentices, aged 16-24.

In a bid to give small and medium-sized Suffolk and Norfolk businesses as much support as possible, the project aims to offer a flexible 'Apprenticeship Incentive Fund' of £1000, giving businesses a boost to recruit their workforce for the future.

Employers who take on apprentices can experience a wide range of benefits. Developing apprentices' skills to be relevant to the organisation, along with improved productivity, better quality of product or service, and higher staff morale are benefits highlighted by around three-quarters of employers. More than 8 out of 10 employers recommend an apprenticeship to others \*

In addition to the one-off financial payment, there will also be continued support for organisations who are new to apprenticeships. A collection of online resources is being created to support businesses employing an apprentice for the first time. This includes practical guidance and useful information from existing, local apprenticeship ambassadors to help add real value to the business.

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk provide an impartial service to all employers, providers, apprentices and stakeholders. Further details of the project can be found here: [apprenticeshipssuffolk.org](https://apprenticeshipssuffolk.org) and [apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org](https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org)

\* Data source: [GOV.UK publications](https://gov.uk/publications)

## New resources will help young people understand the link between movement and mental health

New resources have been published to help young people in Suffolk understand how movement and physical activity can improve their emotional wellbeing. The resources, which include a handy, pocket-sized information card, have been developed for young people with input and feedback from young people.

Made possible by Suffolk Mind and the Suffolk Most Active County Partnership, with assistance from Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's engagement hub, the resources provide essential information about seven ways young people can improve their mental health through movement.

They also include three simple and effective ideas that young people can try straight away to help them take control of their mind and mood through movement, as well as a range of key local contacts for further support.

The resources will be distributed to schools, GP surgeries and libraries across the county. They are also available as a direct download from [keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing](https://keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing) and [thesource.me.uk/move](https://thesource.me.uk/move).

 <p>Thurst Cafe</p>	<p>Having been alerted to the imminent closure of the Thurst Café (New Green Trust) due to loss of revenue as a consequence of Covid, I was happy to step in and offer financial support by using funds from my locality budget. I asked Cllr Harry Richardson if he wanted to support the café, he was happy to match my funding of £3000. This will give the café at least a year to plan for a sustainable future.</p>
<p>Thurston Oakes</p>	<p>Final stages of the cycle/foot path plans are underway with MSDC planners working hard to find the best solution to have a safe cycle/pathway that promotes sustainable travel whilst limiting further destruction of the remaining trees. It seems highly likely that the remaining big oaks T49, T42, T32 will not be felled. There are issues with some of the pollarded trees which may have to be replaced with new healthier trees to enable the footpath to be routed safely.</p>
<p>Affordable Homes</p>	<p>Plans have been approved to transform the former Stowmarket middle school into 'affordable homes' for Stowmarket. The properties offer a mix of affordable housing: to be offered either as shared ownership, or as social or affordable housing, where rent is calculated below the private market rate to help households on low to moderate incomes. They are amongst more than 200 homes in Mid Suffolk's social housing pipeline over the next two years – part of a multi-million-pound investment by the council in social housing across the district.</p>
<p>MSDC to install solar carport</p>	<p>Babergh and Mid Suffolk are to share a £800,000 grant from the "Getting Building Fund" for the introduction of micro-generation and electricity storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. The funding will provide 50% of the budget for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council to install multifunctional solar carports that will generate and store electricity and provide a point for electric vehicle charging. The locations currently being assessed are surface carparks at Station Road, Sudbury and Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket. A detailed feasibility study is expected to be complete by November 2020 and the two initial projects completed by March 2020.</p>
<p>Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre</p>	<p>A new 2.2million upgrade and extension to Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket including a new gym, poolside features and changing rooms, is now underway forming a key part of the Council's plan to invest in and upgrade their leisure provision in the district. The works, carried out by Callix Leisure Ltd and expected to be completed by Winter 2020. For more information visit: <a href="https://www.everyoneactive.com/reopeningmeasures/">https://www.everyoneactive.com/reopeningmeasures/</a></p>
<p>New school Woolpit</p>	<p>Detailed plans for 300 new homes at Woolpit received the go-ahead last week – securing "affordable homes" for low income house-hunters, highways improvements and a new primary school for the village.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council will have additional land for use as the site of a new 420-place primary school, together with a 90-place pre-school centre. These new provisions will be partly funded by the developer, with s106 conditions requiring a contribution of over £1million on completion of the new homes.</p>
<p>Innovation Awards 2020</p>	<p>Forward thinking businesses, large and small, are being invited to enter the inaugural Innovation Awards 2020, being run by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.</p>

	<p>2020 has been a challenging year for businesses, many of whom have had to adapt and change their way of working to overcome the restrictions caused by COVID-19.</p> <p>The Innovation Awards will celebrate and recognise businesses who have put innovation at the heart of the of what they do, creating new initiatives, supporting customers, and leading best practice across the districts.</p> <p>The awards are for businesses, based in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, who want to showcase how they are using innovative practices, cutting edge technology, sustainable solutions or delivering outstanding customer service.</p> <p>Entering the awards is free and there are 11 categories in a range of sectors including food, retail, and healthcare.</p> <p>The awards are open to organisations of any size and will recognise businesses, teams, and individuals. There is a category for SMEs and an opportunity to find the innovators of the future with an award for those aged 16-25.</p>
Planning	<p>Due to Covid-19, Mid Suffolk District Council's Development Control Committees cannot meet in person and are now regularly meeting virtually. However, the nature of virtual meetings means that it is not possible for the committees to consider many applications at each meeting. To allow Mid Suffolk District Council to continue to comply with statutory determination deadlines, the delegation given to the Chief Planning Officer in April 2020 has been extended until 30 September 2020, with this ceasing earlier if face to face meetings can resume before this date.</p>
Littering resources for community groups and parishes	<p>As included previously, the UK has seen an increasing trend of litter being left behind in parks and open spaces following the continued easing of lockdown.</p> <p>We continue to use our social media channels to encourage our communities and visitors to put their litter in the bin or if full to take it home with them. It would be great if you also could share and retweet these posts on your own channels.</p>
Locality Budget	<p>There are funds available for groups or organisations that might need help. Please contact me if you want to apply.</p>

## **Clr Wendy Turner**

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

Ward of Thurston

Email: [Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Tel: 07548155748

## **District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson**

In lieu of a full Council meeting in August I have provided below a summary of the key announcements made within the District over the last few weeks:

### **Babergh and Mid Suffolk receive Government funding to install solar carports**

Environmentally-friendly initiatives across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, including electricity micro-generation and solar storage carports, received a major boost last month, with government matched funding of up to £800,000.

### **Shopping local could provide lasting impact on the high street**

High Streets across Babergh and Mid Suffolk could benefit from almost £19m of additional income over the next 6 months, if all adults spent an extra £5 by shopping local every week.

### **New leisure facilities for Stradbroke**

The first step in Mid Suffolk District Council's plans to upgrade leisure provision in the district is now complete, following the refurbishment of facilities at Stradbroke Pool and Fitness Centre.

### **£2.2m leisure upgrades in Stowmarket get underway**

A new £2.2m upgrade and extension to Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket, including a new gym, poolside features and changing rooms, is now underway.

### **Business innovation to be celebrated at new awards event**

Forward thinking businesses, large and small, are being invited to enter the inaugural Innovation Awards 2020, being run by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

### **Approval for plans to transform school into 'affordable homes' for Stowmarket**

Plans by Mid Suffolk District Council to regenerate the former Stowmarket Middle School site into 38 homes to help lower-income house hunters received the formal go-ahead this week.

### **Littering resources for community groups and parishes**

The UK has seen an increasing trend of litter being left behind in parks and open spaces following the continued easing of lockdown. You may wish to share Keep Britain Tidy's #LoveParks campaign resources and DEFRA's 'respecting the outdoors' campaign graphics to encourage our communities and visitors to put their litter in the bin or if full to take it home with them.

### **2020 Annual Canvass text messages**

The Annual Canvass process is now well underway, with the initial letters going out earlier this month. To help streamline the process we are encouraging an electronic process. Electoral services will be trialling the free gov.uk notify service - sending text message reminders to electors that have notified us they are new to a property, but are still required to complete the registration process, to ensure that they are able to register to 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

E: [harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:harry.richardson@midsuffolk.gov.uk)