

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 17 MAY 2021 AT 7.30 PM
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, THE STREET**

The Annual Parish meeting was held in St George's Church to ensure Covid 19 restrictions were adhered to.

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

9 **Election and appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Cllr Godfrey proposed that Cllr D'Lima continue as Chair for 2021 – 2022. Cllr Mrs Godfrey seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Cllr D'Lima then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Godfrey proposed that Cllr Cassidy be appointed as Vice-Chair for 2021 – 2022. Cllr Mrs Godfrey seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Cllr Cassidy then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

10 **Co-option of Parish Councillor**

Following the resignation of Nigel Kaines, the Parish Councillor vacancy had been advertised on the village noticeboard. At the conclusion of the specified period, no election had been called. Therefore, Cllr Mrs Godfrey proposed that Mrs Anna Suggett be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Cllr Mrs Suggett the signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office and completed a Register of Interest form which the Clerk would forward to MSDC.

11 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Mrs Turner who had to attend a neighbouring Parish Council meeting.

12 **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were declared.

13 **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021**

The Chair summarised the minutes for the benefit of members of the public who had not read them. Cllr Godfrey proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 be approved. Cllr Orlopp seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

14 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

Minute 57: SID / Vehicle Activated Signs – The Chair advised that he had not heard from Mr Motteram since the meeting. The signs were working well.

Minute 59: Charity Bench – Cllr Cassidy would contact Nigel Kaines for an update on the brass plaque.

Minute 69: Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – Cllr Cassidy reported that a cheque for £100 had been sent. The CAB had contacted the Clerk to record their thanks.

15 **County Councillor's report:** County Cllr Mrs Storey's report had been covered at the Annual Parish Meeting.

16 **District Councillor's report(s)**
District Cllr Richardson's and Mrs Turner's reports had been covered at the Annual Parish Meeting.

17 **Police report**
The Police report had been covered at the Annual Parish Meeting.

18 **Clerk's report**
The Clerk had no issues to report.

19 **St George's Church**
The Parish Council noted that the work Mr Dixon had been progressing regarding the church clock had not yet been actioned. It was noted that Mr Dixon was going to contact the CCT. **It was agreed that the Chair would contact Mr Dixon and circulate an update.**

(Following the meeting, the Chair contact Mr Dixon who provided the following update :-

"... I have not been able to get a response from Clockwise Restorations since his last email. I will email him again today (26 May 2021), but due to personal commitments I won't be able to assist him in the tower until I am back in action in Suffolk again. He seems to be a "one man band" so the problems he has had with his newborn may have interfered with his work schedule.

Following my meeting in April with the Historic Churches Trust representative, I was assured that the work on the clock is not part of their remit, and as long as it is funded independently, they have no objection to the work being completed. I believe the PCC still supports the repair of the clock.")

20 **Speed Reactive Signs**
The Parish Council noted that the signs were working well.

Cllr Orlopp queried what was happening regarding signs on the A1088. The Chair advised that the Parish Council had budgeted for 2 signs on the A1088 and the location for the posts had been approved by Highways. However, the SCC are now charging for the post installation as they have no budget. The cost for the new posts to be installed, which would be capable of carrying the solar powered signs, would be £1,300.

The Parish Council felt that very little assistance had been received when installing the signs on The Street and that the **Clerk should contact the new SCC Cllr Mellen and the two District Cllrs to seek financial support for the post installation.**

21 **Finance**
The Chair reported that the Clerk had sent of a mandate change form to remove Nigel Kaines as a signatory and to add Cllr Cassidy on.

Annual Governance Statement and Audit: The Chair and Cllrs noted that the Auditor had been happy with the content of the Annual Governance Statement. However, the Auditor had scheduled to return the document to the Clerk on Tuesday 18 May. With this in mind, all present agreed that the Chair should sign the document as being correct. The Clerk reported that a copy would be published onto the village website.

Adoption of accounts 2020 – 2021: The 2020 – 2021 accounts would be returned by the Auditor on Tuesday 18 May with positive comments and no suggested amendments. The Chair proposed the adoption of the accounts; seconded by Cllr Orlopp and the adoption was unanimously carried.

Risk Assessments: Cllrs reviewed the risks for which the Parish Council were responsible and agreed the measures taken to minimise these risks were adequate. All those present unanimously supported the risk assessments.

Insurance: The Clerk advised that the renewal had been received from BHIB Limited. The premium was agreed.

Cllrs agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

Further to the Annual Parish meeting, and the request from the CCT to contribute towards copies of the Village News for households in Stowlangtoft, the Parish Council approved to contribute £200.00 for the 2021 – 2022 distributions. **It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Village News editor.**

22 **Planning matters**

DC/21/02553 (Listed Building Consent) to replace 1 no dormer window to front elevation, replacement of 6 no windows and 1 no door to rear elevation at 3 Almshouses, The Street, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JN – The Parish Council noted the application. The Parish Council felt that the Almshouses were important buildings in the village and felt that the Listed Building tag should be strongly enforced.

Concern was raised as to why, having purchased a listed building, the owner would then remove the windows which were an integral part of the property. Cllrs were also concerned that if the application were approved, it would set a precedent for the remaining Almshouses.

(Suffolk County Cllr Mellen arrived at 7.53 pm)

Following discussion, the Parish Council concluded that the Clerk should report that: -

Stowlangtoft Parish Council object to application DC/21/02553 on the basis that the current windows were an integral part of the character of the listed building and should be retained. The Parish Council objected to the style of the proposed replacement windows. It was felt that secondary glazing would be more appropriate. The Parish Council were concerned if the application were approved, of the precedent set for the remaining Almshouses.

(District Cllr Richardson arrived at 7.56 pm)

The Chair welcomed Cllrs Mellen and Richardson and thanked them for attending considering clashes with neighbouring Parish Councils. The Chair welcomed any comments from the Cllrs.

Suffolk County Cllr Mellen paid tribute to Jane Storey who had served Thedwastre North for 19 years. Cllr Mellen advised that Jane had provided notes which would be useful moving forward. The Parish Council noted that the SCC had a Conservative majority, however the Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Independents had formed a coalition so were the opposition.

District Cllr Richardson advised that he had circulated his report previously, a copy of which would be attached to the Annual Parish minutes. Cllr Richardson added that the Planning Bill could impact on MSDC and how they respond to planning applications. The Bill could introduce a zoning system. It was felt at present that towns and small cities were more likely to be affected by the proposed changes. Cllr Richardson would provide further information once known.

23 **Highways matters**

The Chair advised that potholes were being repaired and recommended that people continue to report potholes using the online tool.

Cllr Godfrey queried what was happening regarding the flashing speed signs on the A1088? He explained that they no longer worked. The Chair reported that a request had been made in the past to the SCC for them to be removed. The SCC had not committed to their removal. **The Chair queried whether Cllr Mellen could progress to see if the signs could be removed.**

The Chair commented that the only other highways issue was the installation of white lines along the main street through Stowlangtoft. The Chair explained the background to Cllr Mellen. Cllr Mellen noted the ongoing issue.

24 **Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that the advert for the Parish Clerk vacancy would be displayed on the village noticeboard and would be emailed through to SALC. SALC would distribute the advert with their weekly newsletter.

25 **Councillors' Forum**

Bridge Farm Footpath: Cllr Catchpole queried whether the footpath by Bridge Farm had been officially diverted and queried the installation of the earth bund. The landowner who was present at the meeting confirmed that the earth bund was to assist with the impact of traffic noise on a residential property. He confirmed that earth can be moved around private property without the need for planning permission. He also clarified that the footpath had not been diverted, in fact it had been made wider and longer. The landowner advised that a gate would be installed near the residential property, but this would not be locked so the public could still access the footpath.

(Cllr Richardson left the meeting at 8.10 pm)

26 **Public Forum**

Wildflower areas: Mr Chris Hainsworth, a resident of Stowlangtoft, had met with Cllr Mrs Godfrey to progress the proposal to install wildflower areas, as discussed at the Parish Council meeting in March 2021.

Mr Hainsworth outlined his proposal, as supported by documents circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Godfrey welcomed the proposals, however she raised concern at the amount of work involved for one person and questioned what would happen if Mr Hainsworth moved away from the area. Cllr Godfrey also expressed concern at the size of the area behind the Church and highlighted that the rabbit inhabitants would need addressing before planting.

The Parish Council welcomed Mr Hainsworth's proposal and approved a £100 contribution towards some more established shrubs to plant near the village sign. The Parish Council also noted the MSDC grant which Mr Hainsworth could access.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: The Chair highlighted a poster from a resident regarding a coffee morning on Friday 2 July. Details would be published on the village noticeboard.

27 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 19 July 2021 at 7.30 pm in St George's Church.

The Parish Council noted that a Planning meeting would be held on Monday 21 June 2021 at 7.30 pm in St George's Church, if any planning applications were received.

The meeting concluded at 8.26 pm.

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Chair