

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, THE STREET**

Present: Cllrs I Cassidy (Vice Chair), H Godfrey, Mrs Godfrey, J Orlopp and Mrs Suggett. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. Members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed Mr Osman to the meeting. Mr Osman would be taking over as Parish Clerk with effect from 1 October 2021.

- 54 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Catchpole, D'Lima and District Cllr Mrs Turner. The Parish Council approved the absences.
- 55 **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were declared.
- 56 **Minutes of the meetings held on 19 July and 16 August 2021**
19 July 2021 - The Chair summarised the minutes. Cllr Cassidy proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2021 be approved. Cllr Mrs Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

16 August 2021 – The Chair summarised the minutes. Cllr Cassidy proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021 be approved. Cllr Mrs Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.
- 57 **Matters arising from the last meeting**

Minute 45: 19 July 2021: Highways matters – The Chair advised that the road edges have been repaired.

Minute 47: 19 July 2021: Councillors' Forum – Cllr Mrs Godfrey had chased the SCC regarding the location, and possible move, of the Chalk Pit footpath but had received no reply. The landowner was present at the meeting and confirmed that the SCC had been involved with any changes. The gate which had been installed was open during the day but closed at night to prevent vehicle access which had become an issue.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey also queried whether the footpath behind Stockings Wood, between there and Norton had been cut as a Parishioner had been in contact to state it was unpassable. Following discussion, it was noted that the landowner within the immediate vicinity of Stowlangtoft had cut their footpaths, and the SCC had been out and cut any which they had responsibility for. It was felt that there were other landowners who maybe had not yet addressed the overgrown footpaths. **Cllr Mrs Godfrey agreed to walk to the footpath in question to see if it had been cut back. If there appeared to still be an issue, she would contact the neighbouring landowners to seek action.**

Minute 47: 19 July 2021: Councillors' Forum – The Chair reported that he had intended to speak to Cllr Catchpole regarding the location of a tree for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022. **Cllr Cassidy to contact Cllr Catchpole regarding a location for the tree.**
- 58 **County Councillor's report:**

County Cllr Mellen had not submitted a report prior to the meeting. However, a report was received afterwards which is attached to the minutes for information.

59 **District Councillor's report(s)**

In District Cllr Mrs Turner's absence, the Chair presented the Cllr's report, previously circulated. The Parish Council noted the contents. No questions were asked. A copy is attached to the minutes for information.

District Cllr Richardson had not submitted a report.

60 **Police report**

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

61 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk had no issues to report.

62 **St George's Church**

The Chair advised that no further information had been received regarding the Church clock repair. **Cllr D'Lima would provide an update at the November 2021 meeting.**

The Parish Council noted that the first CCT event in the Church had unfortunately been cancelled due to Covid 19. A Jazz Duo were due to play on 23 October 2021. A poster had been displayed in the Parish Council noticeboard.

Cllr Cassidy stated that he would contact the CCT for an update on the current situation regarding the Church, events, and visitor numbers.

63 **Speed Reactive Signs**

The Clerk reported that the locality budget funding from SCC Mellen, District Cllr Richardson and Mrs Turner had been successful. The Clerk clarified that the funding had been sought to cover the cost of installing posts on the A1088. The Parish Council noted that the SCC funding could not be released until the Parish Council were within 6-8 weeks of spending the money.

Following discussion, it was agreed that **Cllr Godfrey would obtain some quotations for the installation of posts onto the A1088 into the agreed SCC locations.** It was agreed that the quotation information would be emailed round to all Cllrs. To avoid any further delay, the Parish Council agreed that Cllr Godfrey could instruct someone to install the posts without the need to wait for the November 2021 meeting.

64 **Finance**

Cllrs agreed the financial report and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk advised that the Cleansing Operative had queried whether the Parish Council wished him to cut the church bank and some verges within the village, which the SCC did not appear to have cut. All present agreed and also requested that some locations on The Spinney near the junctions with the A1088 also be addressed for safety reasons.

65 **Planning matters**

DC/21/03602 3 Almshouses, The Street, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JN – The Parish Council noted that the application had been refused again.

66 **Highways matters**
Cllr Cassidy highlighted that the white lines on The Street near Church View had never been addressed. **Cllr Cassidy would discuss the issues with SCC Mellen.**

Cllrs Cassidy and D'Lima had discussed the recent road closures within the village vicinity, and both felt that the closure signs being on the A1088 for a closure in Badwell Ash was unacceptable. Both Cllrs had concluded that the signage for road closures should be clearer. Cllr Cassidy reported that Highways had to pay an enhanced fee for more detailed signage and both Cllrs felt it should be mandatory. **Cllr Cassidy would discuss road closures and signage with SCC Mellen.**

67 **Correspondence**
The Clerk reported that the bank mandate change form had been received. **The Clerk would forward this onto Mr Osman for action.**

68 **Councillors' Forum**
Vulnerable Residents: Cllr Orlopp reported that a Parishioner had mentioned a vulnerable resident within the village. All Cllrs were aware of the resident and stated that where possible Cllrs did speak to everyone they met and assisted where necessary.

69 **Public Forum**
None.

70 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.30 pm in St George's Church.

The Parish Council noted that a Planning meeting would be held on Monday 18 October 2021 at 7.30 pm in St George's Church, if any planning applications were received.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the Clerk for all her hard work over the years and wished her well in the future.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

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Chair

Parish Councils Report – Thedwastre North Division

Andy Mellen (SCC Councillor)

Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

This document was released in June by the 'Suffolk Leaders Group' (County, District and Borough Council leaders) as a follow up to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership report of 2019.

This sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030 by means of measures of: 'transitioning to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes; improving energy efficiency; behavioural change to use less energy; low carbon travel; reducing car use; more efficient freight transport; reductions in commercial and industrial carbon use; improvements in renewable energy production and a flexible grid' among others.

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council is putting a motion forward to the Council Meeting on the 8th Sept. asking the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

For example: In July 2020 the Government's Gear Change paper called for a doubling in the amount of journeys walked or cycled. This spring, Suffolk Conservative's county council election manifesto said "we have identified over £20m of upgrades for our cycle network"

We will ask for this money to be allocated to specific projects to improve our cycle network.

Review of SEND provision

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. We await it with interest.

Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec. of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together.

It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

Zero Carbon battle bus visiting Suffolk

The purpose of the Zero Carbon Tour is to discuss the concept of net zero carbon and why it is critical for businesses. Suffolk's businesses, organisations and community groups will share their stories about how they have started their journeys to net zero. This will inspire and give confidence to those considering how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Steve Malkin, Founder and CEO, Planet Mark, said:

"There is no doubt, we are living in a seminal and historic moment in time. 2020 – 2030 has been coined the Decade of Action, a period in which we need to tackle the climate crisis and halt biodiversity loss. The global pursuit of net zero carbon emissions is a huge undertaking, and only possible with help from businesses and communities alike.

"We are excited to bring the net zero message to Ipswich, and share the 'carbon stories' of organisations, community groups and individuals playing their part in creating a sustainable future for Suffolk, the United Kingdom and beyond."

This event and others are taking place across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26, as part of Suffolk's collective campaign of Creating The Greenest County, and be net zero by 2030. As part of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, these events look to encourage collaborative action by educating and engaging with residents and businesses to develop net zero journey.

Other events which are being planned in Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 include:

- 1 September – Zero Carbon Tour visits Ipswich
- 12 October – Ten Steps to Net Zero (Suffolk Chamber of Commerce)
- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)
- TBC October - A Greener NHS day
- 12 November – Greenest County Awards (Suffolk County Council)
- 23-25 November – Low Carbon Homes

All events are subject to change, visit www.greensuffolk.org for the latest details and information about starting your journey to net zero.

Andy Mellen
County Councillor for Thedwastre North Division
Green, Liberal Democrat, and Independent Group

District Report September 2021 – Councillor Wendy Turner

New Homes	Mid Suffolk District Council and Norse Group open show homes on the former Needham Market office complex. This joint venture was set up to deliver housing and promote sustainable growth across the district. There will be a total of 133 new houses, flats and bungalows, a natural community space, walk and library. Green party councillors were disappointed that the homes were not exemplar social housing built to the highest passive standards, which would have provided much needed homes for local people and secure an income for the Council for years to come.
Gateway 14	Planning permission for the controversial Gateway 14 156 acre business and logistics park which is to be sited between the A14 and the A1120 at Stowmarket have been approved, despite heavy opposition from local people, ward Councillors, Creeting St Peter Parish Council and the Gateway 14 Residents Campaign Group. Concerns about the increase in traffic, HGVs using narrow country lanes and the reduced landscaping areas around the site were raised.
Woolpit car park	Construction began on a community car park at Woolpit Health Centre which will see an additional 120 spaces created. The health centre worked with Suffolk County Council, NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Woolpit parish council to make this happen.
New Taxi legislation	Taxi Drivers will need to transition to zero emission cars by 2030 without financial support from MSDC after the Licensing Committee voted to update its vehicle hire policy. Green and Lib Dem members argued for financial incentives and support to help taxi drivers make the transition
Housing 21	Housing 21 a non-for-profit provider of retirement housing have applied for planning permission to build a 54 bed extra care homes in Thurston, 40 of which will be apartments, 14 bungalows and communal areas. Thurston ward Councillor Wendy Turner has been working with the owners of the land, Housing 21 and local residents to push for higher passive building standards and greater environmental protection for the surrounding hedges and trees.
Afghan refugees	Mid Suffolk District council along with other district and Borough have stated they are committed to re homing Afghan people who have fled their homeland but as of yet details have not been confirmed as to how this will be implemented.
Biodiversity gain	Mid Suffolk District council have purchased almost 3 acres of land to provide a green space for flora and fauna in Wash Lane, Great Finborough as part of the Council's drive to increase biodiversity and improve the environment for local people.
Devolution	Suffolk Councils have written to the Secretary of State for local government about early devolution talks with the government, after setting out its ambition to make available to county areas, similar devolved decision-making powers and public funding enjoyed by cities and urban areas.
Norton pedestrian crossing	Suffolk County Councillor Andy Mellen and Cllr Turner met with a Highways representative and the Chair of Norton PC to discuss options of a pedestrian crossing for the village. Cllr Mellen is funding a highways report to see if there is a viable crossing place along the A1088.

Skate Park	Councillor Wendy Turner met with Roger Smith, trustee of the Ben Wragge Skate Park Group in Thurston to discuss how to move forward plans for a skate park that has been in the pipeline for 5 years. The sticking block is lack of parish land on which to site the skatepark. Cllr Turner suggested looking at 'skate spots' options, which might offer a compromise to youngsters whilst suitable land is found. Roger is currently looking into this.
Foot/Cycle path clearing	Councillor Wendy Turner has organised a working party of Councillors and volunteers to help clear the overgrown cycle and footpath from Thurston to Beyton on the 4 th of September between 2 and 4pm. Contact Wendy on 07548155748 for more details.

Cllr Wendy Turner

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

Ward of Thurston Email: Wendy.Turner@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07548155748

