

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM
THE 'COMMON ROOM', ST GEORGE'S RD, STOWLANGTOFT**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Cassidy, Cuff, Suggett and White. A Osman (clerk) was also in attendance along with 3 members of the public.

55 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Catchpole sent his apologies which were accepted by the meeting.

56 **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

57 **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022.** Cllr Cuff proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, with agreed minor adjustments, be approved. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The October planning meeting was cancelled due to no planning applications being received.

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

Minute 42: 26 September 2022: Defibrillator. Cllr Suggett confirmed no further information had been received from the Benendon Charitable trust on the defibrillator and that any application to the Ridley Godfrey Foundation would require more detailed information than currently available. It was agreed to revisit this issue should an installation location be identified in the future.

Minute 47: 26 September 2022: Mobile Phone Mast. Cllr Cuff indicated that anecdotally potential income from mobile phone masts had significantly reduced over time. Agreed not to pursue this further.

Minute 52: 26 September 2022: Bin Stickers. The Clerk confirmed that quotes for A4 30mph bin stickers had been provided in his report.

Minute 52: 26 September 2022: 30mph repeater signs. The Clerk confirmed that the cost of a new 30mph repeater sign and post had been provided in his report.

Minute 52: 26 September 2022: Village White Gates. The Clerk reported that the village entrance white gates were painted in 2021 and that the village Cleansing Operative will monitor for future cleanliness.

Minute 52: 26 September 2022: Highways Defects. Cllr Cassidy confirmed that he had reported carriageway defects on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool and was challenging the negative response he had received back.

Minute 52: 26 September 2022: Village Name Sign. The Clerk confirmed the cost of a replacement village name sign in his report and indicated that the most economical way ahead was to replace individual letters that had become faded.

Minute 53: 26 September 2022: Dog Fouling. The Clerk indicated that dog fouling posters from Mid Suffolk District Council had been arranged to be delivered to Cllr Suggett for installation on the relevant public footpaths.

59. **County Councillors Report.** The Parish Council noted the contents of the report previously circulated.

60. **District Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the District Councillors reports that had been previously circulated.

61. **Clerk's report:**

Elections. A briefing on future Parish Council elections in May 2023 had been previously circulated in the clerk's report. It was agreed to add this issue to the January 2023 meeting agenda when further information was available for Mid Suffolk District Council.

Tables. It was agreed to purchase 2 foldable tables for use at Parish Council Meetings.
The Clerk was to purchase.

62. **St George's Church.** Mr Davies provided a resume of the significant work he had done to restart the clock and indicated that it was now running with the regulator disabled. This meant it would gradually lose time, but this could be monitored and adjusted pending the visit of Clockwise Restoration to provide a quote for permanent fix. The meeting also noted that the condition of the clock face was poor and required cleaning.

63. **Finance:**

Finance Report. Cllrs noted the financial report (current bank balance of £4926,67 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £2,350) and approved the requests for payment.
Cllr Suggett agreed to authorise the payments.

Budget FY23/24. Cllr Cuff proposed that the Parish Council budget for FY23/24, circulated prior to the meeting, be approved subject to the budget for village improvements increasing to £500. The budget assumed no change to the precept level. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Locality Fund Bids. The meeting agreed to seek county and district councillor locality funding for 30mph bin stickers (4 packs), to augment village speed management approach, and to relocate the VAS at the eastern end of The Street which suffered from tree screening. **The Clerk was to email county and district councillors to seek locality funding. Cllrs Cuff and Cassidy agreed to review the location for the new VAS post and to discuss with local landowner prior to the next meeting.**

64. **Planning matters.** No new planning applications. The meeting noted that DC/22/01884 Full Application - Change of Use to Vehicle Servicing, Maintenance and Repair Garage (Use Class B2) including external alterations at The Pine House Company, Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3JS, had been granted on 7 October.

65. **Highways matters.** The meeting noted an update on likely timelines for replacement of the A1088 Bridge (planned for spring 2024) and the response from Suffolk County Council to the Parish Councils note of concern over increased traffic through the village that had been previously circulated.

66. **Correspondence.** Cllr D'Lima reported he had completed mandatory reporting to the Pensions Regulator over the Parish Council's pension liabilities.

67. **Councillors' Forum:**

Frequency of Meetings. It was agreed to expand the remit of bi-monthly planning meetings to include consideration of urgent items. This approach would be kept under review.

Village Planters. It was agreed to review how village planters were maintained and to finalise arrangements at a future meeting. Cllr Cassidy reported that Mid Suffolk District Council had agreed to provide wildflower seeds for Kiln Lane by the bench and the 'orchard' by the recycling bin.

ANPR Camera Project. The meeting noted the Suffolk ANPR Camera Project.

68 **Public Forum.** A member of the public highlighted issues with visibility of the village planters at night. It was agreed to consider this as part of the review of how these were maintained covered in para 67.

69 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting to discuss the relocation of the eastern VAS will be held on Monday 19 December 2022 at 7.30pm in The Common Room, St Georges Street, Stowlangtoft.

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm.

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Chair

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Parish Report – November 2022

Councillor: Andy Mellen

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Cost of Living Budget Survey – SCC Open up for your thoughts

The County Council has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council reserves may have to be used.

Despite the difficult situation, can I recommend you complete the survey and share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support

Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. Our Group strongly suggest anyone vulnerable to take a look at how Suffolk can help.

For a link to the leaflet, click here: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

SCC's Launch of 'Winter Matters' Campaign

SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways.

For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters

Full Council – 20th October – GLI Motion

We submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an “Anti-Growth Coalition”. The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government's

economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy. Of course, since then things have quickly moved on and we now have a new Prime Minister with new priorities.

Our Group wanted to debate the issues – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits, something we believed this government was not adhering to. A useful debate was had.

SCC Cabinet Meeting – 11th October

The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. The opposition supported this spending, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county to access educational support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. We continue to voice concerns over the effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy. This includes local bus provision which is a really difficult issue for residents affected by recent timetable reductions.

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Facebook - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)



November 2022

Residents urged to have their say over whether council tax bills should be reduced by up to 100% for those on low incomes

A public consultation is underway over a plan to cut council tax for the poorest households in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The consultation, which runs to November 24, asks for views on how the councils should run their Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24, and whether bills should be reduced by up to 100% for working age adults with the lowest incomes. [More information](#)

Winter warmth funding for community causes

Thousands of pounds were made available to grassroots groups last month to keep the doors of their activities open for longer this winter. The [Winter Warmth Support Grant](#), offered groups and non-profit organisations between £250 to £5,000 to cover the rising costs of energy, rent and food, and to keep operating without passing on increased costs to residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. [More information](#)

Winners announced for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards 2022 The winners of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Innovations Awards have been revealed. [More information](#)

New Innovate to Elevate programme launches for businesses

Businesses in Babergh & Mid Suffolk are set to receive an innovation boost as a new 12-month partnership between the University of Essex and the District Councils launches in the region. [More information](#)

Councils' commercial property arm continues to generate income for districts Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, councillors heard during October. [More information](#)

Residents to help name Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new bin lorries

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched a competition to help them name their new environmentally-friendly bin lorries – in the biggest upgrade to their fleet in almost 10 years.

Residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being invited to submit names for 22 brand-new bin lorries at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition. The competition closes at midnight on Sunday 13 November, with winners contacted later in the year. [More information](#)

Bird flu outbreak

Information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk. [More information](#)

First stage of Women's Tour brings more than a million reasons to celebrate

The Women's Tour 2022 has revealed the fantastic impact of the first stage of the UK's biggest women's cycling event, with more than £1m of net economic benefit poured into the regional economy. [More information](#)

Anyone can become homeless

In recognition of World Homelessness Day, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils encouraged residents to challenge their view of what homelessness looks like. [More information](#)

Campaign launched to improve metal packaging recycling rates across Suffolk A new initiative encouraging households to recycle food and drink cans, aluminium foil and trays, empty aerosols and metal screw caps has been rolled out by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. [More information](#)

Three finalists for Babergh and Mid Suffolk at Building Excellence Awards The councils' Building Control Team has won three regional awards in the annual Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards for Angel Court, Hadleigh (Best Small Social Housing Development), The Regal, Stowmarket (Best Non-Residential Extension or Alteration) and Low Street, Glemsford (Best Small New Housing Development). They now move onto the national final in London in January 2023. [More information](#)

Global bank to give students unique careers advice in jobs clinic

Young people looking for help, advice or an insight into a new career were able to take part in a careers session last month, with advice from global employer and high street bank HSBC as part of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Careeriosity programme. [More information](#)

October half-term fun to keep the kids active

Dozens of council-funded activities took place across Babergh and Mid Suffolk during October half term, keeping children and families, happy, healthy and active. [More information](#)

New unit for retail giant The Range gets go-ahead at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, and will create 1,650 jobs

Detailed planning consent has been given for the first unit at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, to be occupied by home, garden and leisure products retailer The Range - creating an estimated 1,650 jobs. [More information](#)

Exemplar housing development for Elmswell to be considered

Council-owned land in Elmswell could be used for a development of 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes in a scheme going before Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet members this month. [More information](#)

Stage is set for expansion at the John Peel Centre

Iconic Stowmarket venue, the John Peel Centre for Creative Arts, is set to welcome more visitors, events, and experiences, as they expand into neighbouring 11 Market Place. [More information](#)

How council scheme helped Harleston's wildflower Jubilee Meadow bloom

Harleston's wildflower Jubilee meadow showcases a colourful example of how we are helping to tackle biodiversity and climate change. [More information](#)

Raising awareness of chosen charity

Mid Suffolk's Chairman, Cllr James Caston, hosted a fund-raising wine tour and tasting experience at Burnt House Vineyard in Little Finborough raising funds for the [Stowmarket ASD Saturday Clubs](#), which support families looking after children and young people with autism. [More information](#)

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District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

October 2022

MSDC Meeting (October).

The performance of the £49 Million retail property portfolio was reported. In 2021/22 a yield of 3.5% was made. Questions were raised as to the effect of the current economic conditions on its future performance.

Within the overview committee it was resolved that Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Mid Suffolk Cabinet that, as part of the development of the electric bus project, local consultations to elicit unmet transport needs should be carried out – one covering an urban area and one covering a rural area.

Joint Local Development scheme 2022-25 was discussed and adopted.

Questions were asked about what provisions were being made to continue the support to our Ukrainian guests.

Planning

Continuing to push implementation of the Heath Road development.

Supported the Thurston Parish Council position on the Linden Homes phase2 application with safeguards for the established woodland of Lady Green Plantation for our community.

DC/22/ 00398 Follow up meeting postponed so call in still has not happened.

EN/22/00335, EN/22/00492 Barrell's Road, our MSDC enforcement officer has confirmed that there have been breaches of the planning approval. The next steps are awaited. No word as yet on what changes are to be made following the planning peer review or our councils request for leave to appeal the outcome of the Judicial Review.

Ben Wragge 33 acres

Members of West Suffolk District Council strongly suggest that MSDC creates an out of area CIL project. Explore ways of progressing the funding of this project. Our electoral officer requires cabinet support before researching how to change our Parish/District boundary. Neighbouring residents feedback/meeting planned with their views to be given to the project team.

Gateway 14

Site creation is on track with 'The Range' distribution warehouse schedule to open before the end of 2023 which will provide many new career opportunities for our residents.

Environmental/biodiversity news

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) unanimously agreed funding today to create a new Fuel Poverty Retrofit Team, helping those most affected by the rising cost-of-living. It will be part of the Warm Homes Suffolk scheme, which was jointly established by Suffolk County Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough Council in 2021. The scheme is a source of expert advice on reducing energy bills and in identifying benefits that residents may be entitled to. This winter, Warm Homes Suffolk extends its support further with the creation of a Fuel Poverty Retrofit Team: supporting residents in energy-inefficient homes, struggling most to afford rising energy bills. More than 62,000 properties in the county are thought to have the worst Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) of E, F or G. And an estimated 28% of homes - 95,000 households – are in fuel poverty, almost double the number in 2019. SPSL today pledged £366,000 to create the new team to tackle the challenges, with a further £390,000 of funding underwritten. Measures could include the installation of insulation, fitting air source heat pumps and replacing single glazing.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Continued expansion of Thurston Community Collage is progressing.

Beyton Geese

Bird flu measures have once again been correctly implemented in Beyton which has resulted in their famous Geese being pended up again.

Austin Davies

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