

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM
THE 'COMMON ROOM', ST GEORGE'S RD, STOWLANGTOFT**

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

70 **Apologies for absence.** None.

71 **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

72 **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022.** Cllr Cassidy proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November be approved. Cllr Cuff seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The December 2022 planning/urgent issues meeting was cancelled due to it not being quorate.

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

Minute 61: 21 November 2022: Tables. The Clerk confirmed tables for Parish Council meetings had been purchased and these were in use for the meeting.

Minute 63: 21 November 2022: Locality Funding. The Clerk reported that locality funding to support the relocation of the VAS post and purchase of 30mph bin stickers for speed management had been requested. District Cllrs Davies and Richardson had agreed to provide £630 in locality funding, and this has now been received into the Parish Council bank account.

Minute 63: 21 November 2022: Relocation of VAS Post. Cllr Cuff confirmed that he and Cllr Cassidy had identified a new location for the eastern VAS post to resolve shading issues with the current post and had completed the required Suffolk County Council checklist.

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

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

76 **Clerk's report:**

Elections. The Clerk reported that he will be attending a virtual elections briefing on 30 January held by Mid Suffolk District Council. It was agreed that following this, the Clerk would provide a brief to councillors confirming key dates and process for submitting nomination papers at the planned March 2023 meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023/24. The proposed meeting dates for 2023/24, pre-circulated, were agreed.

77 **St George's Church.** It was agreed that:

- The **Clerk would process payment for repairs to St George's Clock** on receipt of a final invoice.

- **Cllr Cuff would approach the Community Fund trustees to seek reimbursement of the costs for the clock repair** in line with the discussion at the March 2021 Parish Council meeting.

78 **Finance:**

Finance Report. Cllrs noted the financial report (current bank balance of £3265.24 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £2,370).

Precept FY23/24. Cllr Suggett proposed that the Parish Council precept for FY23/24 of £3300 be approved. This reflected a no change position. Cllr Catchpole seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

79 **Planning matters:** The meeting agreed the following:

- DC/22/05874 – Application for Outline Planning Permission Glebe Farm. No objection
- DC/22/06199 – Application to vary conditions Pine House Company. No objection.

The **Clerk was to pass these views to Mid Suffolk District Council.**

80 **Highways matters:**

Relocation of Eastern VAS. The meeting agreed that the **Clerk was to apply to Suffolk County Council have the post relocated** to the proposed new location (Minute 73 refers).

Highways Faults. The meeting reflected ongoing concerns over the poor response of Suffolk Highways to local faults reported via the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool.

Village Sign. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Highways had located a village sign to replace the degraded one at the western end of 'The Street' and this would be fitted soon.

SpeedWatch. Cllr Cuff informed the meeting that the paperwork for the village SpeedWatch group had been completed and volunteers identified. Suffolk Police had visited the village before Xmas to confirm locations that could be used and were now identifying equipment to allow the group to start operations.

81 **Correspondence.** The meeting agreed to support advertising for the vacant village recorder position; the **Clerk was to place the advert on the noticeboard** and **Cllr Cuff agreed to place this on the village website.**

82 **Councillors' Forum.** None

83 **Public Forum.** None

84 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 March 2023 at 7.30pm in 'The Common Room', St Georges Street, Stowlangtoft.

If any new planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the January meeting, a short meeting will be held on 20 February 2023.

The meeting concluded at 8.08pm.

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Chair

Parish Report – December 2022

Councillor: Andy Mellen

Divisions: Thedwastre North

Councillor contact details

Mobile: 07790 992619

Email: andy.mellen@suffolk.gov.uk

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

Suffolk County Council Budget for 2023/24

The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have been released. SCC plan an increase of 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept).

In a press release, the opposition group's leader, Cllr Andrew Stringer, highlighted that many of the current pressures come from the Conservatives failing to deliver the promised effects of Brexit. Currently, we have a shortage of staff, severe border delays, a less productive economy, and less funding compared to European monies. The Conservative administration had opportunities to prepare us for post-Brexit, post-pandemic. Instead, they rejected our proposals last year to increase funding for social care – which has resulted in a sharp increase in tax this year for residents.

County Deal Update

National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal. The Deal will devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education.

The Deal has been lauded as momentous, however I believe that the deal has been massively overstated. The headline '£480m' is in fact over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. Just under £6m has been agreed for new housing, this equates to only around 30 homes.

The Conservative Council Leader promised we wouldn't have a Mayor, however the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation. Politically, there is a real risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another.

As an opposition group we are strongly in favour of devolving national powers to local authorities. There was a real opportunity to make a difference here, but our Group sees the current deal as merely a token gesture.

For our full press release, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2022/12/12/suffolks-county-deal-big-deal/>

New SCC Website

Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. Our Group understands that this platform is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities.

To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Modern Slavery

As the Council's modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities.

General signs of modern slavery can include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse.

If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on **101**, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on **0800 121 700** – if there is immediate danger, phone **999**.

For further contact, email: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>

Suffolk looks for more hosts

Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.



January 2023

Council leaders welcome landmark devolution deal for Suffolk

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed an “ambitious and exciting” devolution deal for Suffolk. [More information.](#)

Councils strive to keep charges fair – and help those most in need

Council leaders at Babergh and Mid Suffolk are due to discuss future fees and charges for council services – pledging to keep increases fair and continue to support those in need. [More information.](#)

Revealed: winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s new environmentally friendly bin lorries

Ed Sheerbin, Gary Bineker and Stranger Bins are amongst the winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s new environmentally friendly bin lorries, revealed last month. [More information.](#)

Pioneering councils complete £2.8m carbon-cutting solar investment to slash leisure centres’ reliance on the grid by close to half

Over 100 council car parking spaces in Sudbury and Stowmarket have been covered with solar panels, to help power and reduce carbon emissions at two council-owned leisure centres. [More information.](#)

Councils’ new tenancy policy recognises ‘a home is not just a house’

Council tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can look forward to continuing certainty over their homes with the possible adoption of the councils’ new tenancy policy. [More information.](#)

Councils’ successful bid for housing fund pot

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are amongst local authorities to win funding from the Local Government Association to commission a vital, county-wide housing strategy review. [More information.](#)

Christmas holidays full of fun for families and children

Inflatable games, adventure days and cooking classes made up a week of fun for children and young people in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas. [More information.](#)

First tree planted at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket

6th December saw the first tree planted at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket, to mark the start of the landscaping regeneration at the site. [More information.](#)

Stowmarket residents help shape masterplan for new health, leisure, sport, education, and wellbeing hub

Plans for the development of new health, education and leisure facilities in Stowmarket are progressing following the feedback gathered from recent community and stakeholder engagement. [More information](#).

Town and Parish liaison meetings – a reminder

Mid Suffolk District Council are reinstating their regular meetings with town and parish councils, with invitations already issued via clerks.

The next session, in early February, will be an opportunity to share current thinking on Mid Suffolk's budget setting, update on progress with the Joint Local Plan and plans for the 2023 elections.

We would also like to hear about town and parish plans for local Coronation celebrations, and introduce our new locality officers and approach.

**The meeting for Mid Suffolk is on Tuesday 7 February, 1.30 to 3.30pm at The Mix,
127 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. IP14 1BB.**

If you are unable to attend the specific session for your district, you are welcome to attend the alternative date as joint information should still be of interest.

Should you have any queries, or if your clerk has not received an invitation, please contact [business support officer Sophie Cummins](#).

District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

December 2022

MSDC Meeting.

There was no council meeting this month.

Joint Scrutiny Committee

Deputed at this meeting during which Suffolk Association of Local Councils gave a presentation explaining the support they provide to Parish Council Chairs and Clerks. Started a campaign to establish formal links and support from MSDC to SALC.

Planning

Undertook the in-house planning training session. Continued to work with Thurston Parish Council on their case for the Bloor Homes Supreme court case. Still no progress on the Heath Road development.

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.

Briefing on Residents survey

MSDC officers briefed councillors on the results of the 2022 residents survey. There were high levels of trust in MSDC and the majority felt that a good job was being done. However, only 16% of residents thought that they could influence the council decisions

Thurston Primary School (Car Parking)

Met with Mr Bayes, head of Thurston Primary School to understand the parent car parking issue. Witness the smooth operation of the morning drop off. Clearly the evening pick up is causing great concern. In comparing the approved plans with the actual car park it is clear that at least 3 spaces have not been provided (not that this would solve the parent parking issue. However, it would help as the school expands. Will discuss options with our planning officers to see how the design of the next phase on the Linden Homes development might assist.

Community Action for Thurston Station (CATS)

Met with this campaign group who explained that it was proving difficult to find potential tenants for the station building because of the real short lease terms and the lack of vehicle access. Have written to Network Rail asking for clarifications.

Gateway 14

The 'Range' warehousing will have solar panels on its roof which will make a major contribution to its energy needs.

Community Infrastructure Levy MSDC Officers provided a forum for all Parish Councils to increase their understanding on CIL and the appropriate processes.

Locality Fund Working on the request to help Tostock village hall.

Application for support from all local organisations welcome before the end of January. WIGIG.

Austin Davies

Mid Suffolk District Councillor

Email: austin.davies@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Telephone: 07900 791668