

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 17 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM
St GEORGE'S CHURCH, THE STREET**

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

22 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Cuff sent apologies which were accepted.

23 **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

24 **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023.** Subject to a minor correction, Cllr Suggett proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May be approved. Cllr Catchpole seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The June meeting was cancelled due to no planning applications being received and no urgent actions.

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

Minute 13: 15 May 2023: VAS Post Move. The Clerk confirmed that the relocation of the eastern VAS post had been agreed with Highways who had ordered the works on 12 June with a 12-week completion period. Once relocated, the VAS equipment would be moved by local self-help.

Minute 13: 15 May 2023: Community Fund. Cllr Suggett indicated that initial discussions with the Community Fund to repay work completed on planters along The Street for the Coronation Event had not yet been productive. Further discussions would take place once Cllr Cuff returned.

Minute 15: 15 May 2023: Certificate of Exemption. The Clerk confirmed that the Certificate of Exemption had been returned and accepted by the external auditors.

Minute 15: 15 May 2023: Elections Reserve. The Clerk confirmed that £1500 had now been transferred to the savings account to act as an elections reserve.

Minute 17: 15 May 2023: 30mph/Dragons Teeth Markings. The Clerk reported that Highways had declined to repaint the 30mph/dragon's teeth markings on the approaches to the village along The Street. However, County Cllr Mellen had indicated separately that he would support funding of this activity through his Highways Locality budget. It was agreed that the **Clerk would follow this issue up with County Cllr Mellen.**

Minute 19: 15 May 2023: Diversion Routes. County Cllr Mellen was not in attendance to update on potential diversion routes during the planned rebuild of the bridge at Bridge Farm in 2024.

Minute 19: 15 May 2023: Kiln Lane Speeding. Covered later in Highways Matters agenda item.

Minute 19: 15 May 2023: Kiln Lane Flooding. A local meeting with Suffolk Highways and the Suffolk Floods Team took place on 11 July. At this meeting it was agreed that local landowners would clear ditches by the pond after which Suffolk Highways agreed to flush the pipes. It was noticed that a water leak from an Anglian Water pipe was currently

causing water to run down the road and this would need to be repaired before the road surface was resurfaced by Highways.

26 **County Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the County Councillor report that had been previously circulated.

27. **District Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the District Councillors combined report that had been previously circulated, in particular the availability of locality funding for local projects.

28 **Clerk's report.** None.

29 **St Georges Church.** Cllr White reported that a strategic plan is needed by the Diocese to identify future aspirations for the Church.

30 **Finance.** Cllrs noted the financial report (current bank balance of £1516.12 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £1,600 current account and £1,500 savings account).

31 **Planning matters.** None.

32 **Highways matters:**

Relocation of VAS. This issue was previously covered, see Minute 25.

Kiln Lane Flooding. This issue was previously covered, see Minute 25.

Kiln Lane Speeding. In the absence of County Cllr Mellen, the Chair reiterated the challenges to reviewing the speed limit along Kiln Lane. These were that the cost of any review (£8k to £10k) was not funded by the County Council and the criteria for review was unlikely to meet the policy requirement. Alternative options were discussed, and it was **agreed that the Clerk would investigate whether the road could be turned into a Quiet Lane.**

33 **Correspondence.** The meeting agreed that the Clerk would sign the agreement with Mid Suffolk District Council for the continued use of The Common Room as a meeting venue for the Parish Council.

34 **Councillors' Forum:**

Suspicious Activity. Cllr Cassidy reported that there had been a few recent incidents of suspicious activity in the village that suggested the need for increased vigilance. Cllr Suggett **agreed to discuss the Crime Prevention Meeting offer by Suffolk Police with Cllr Cuff** to take this proposal forward.

Wildflower Planting. Cllr Cassidy reported that the wildflowers had now been sown.

Telephone Box. Cllr Cassidy reported that BT were in the progress of refurbishing the payphone box.

35 **Public Forum.** Nothing reported.

36 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 September 2023 at 7.30pm in The Common Room, St George's Rd.

If any planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the July meeting, these will be considered at a short meeting on Monday 21 August 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.06pm.

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Chair

DRAFT

Parish Report – July 2023

Councillor

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Concern over SCC budget position

At Cabinet on 13 June, our group raised concerns about the significant extra expenditure announced by the Conservative administration since the 2023-24 budget was set in February.

Cabinet were reviewing the 2022-23 finances against the budget that was set, including an overspend of £27.7m and a significant £57.2m taken out of Council reserves – the council's 'safety net' funds to be used when needed.

On 16 May 2023 the Cabinet announced that an extra unbudgeted £720k would be found to cover the £60k monthly shortfall for Suffolk Libraries for a year, and at the council AGM on 25 May the Leader of the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks, announced a further unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months. Given that neither of these items were budgeted for only a few months ago when the current budget was set, my group raised concerns in the meeting whether the administration's budget setting procedures were sufficiently robust.

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

On 13 June, Cabinet reviewed the consultation response for the extension of the North Falls wind farm. The wind farm is situated just off the Essex coast so Suffolk County Council is a consultee rather than a decision maker.

A number of issues were discussed which will be included in the consultation response, for example the impact on A12 traffic, the views from Suffolk coastal Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the need to consult with communities on the Suffolk coast. The developers will also be asked to time construction so it does not clash with the tourism season.

National Grid Reinforcement Works between Bramford and Twinstead

The Cabinet also reviewed and approved a response to the Planning Inspectorate on upgrading the power lines between the villages of Twinstead in Essex and Bramford in Mid Suffolk.

There were concerns about the impact of the works to the local countryside, particularly the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the National Grid have agreed to lay cables underground.

The government's aspiration is for 50GW of offshore wind power by 2023, and in East Anglia this means that our throughput must increase from 4.1GW currently to 24.5GW. The existing power line between Bramford and Twinstead is at full capacity and it was acknowledged that the works were necessary to facilitate the increases to wind farm development.

Missing Child Reports in Suffolk

The recent reports in the press that nearly 3000 missing child reports were received by Suffolk Constabulary between April 2022 and March 2023 deeply shocked our group. The reports involved 719 children across the county with some going missing several times during the period. The

majority of the children reported missing are in care settings such as children's homes and foster care.

We asked the administration at Suffolk County Council to do more to support children in care, who are among the most vulnerable in Suffolk.

Locality awards

I have locality funding available for parish councils and other community groups who need some financial assistance with specific projects. If you are interested in applying please e-mail or call me to discuss your needs.

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

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

June 2023

MSDC Administration Appointments.

Mid Suffolk District Council web site has a full list of appointments including our Cabinet of six members. David Bradbury is a member of the Licencing Committee and is our Council representative of the Network Rail East West Rail Partnership. He is going to take a special interest in all matters relating to railways and integrated transport within our Ward. Austin Davies has accepted roles as Director of the MSDC holding company and CIFCO, a member of the planning committee and the joint Audit Committee.

Gateway 14 – The Range has confirmed the creation of over 1,600 new jobs by early 2024. As a major distribution hub they envisage 3 shifts running 24/7. Early discussions indicate that they would run electric buses between Stowmarket station and Gateway 14. We are exploring options for extending the route to the surrounding villages.

Planning application has been submitted for a second warehouse on this site.

Planning

MSDC lost the appeal (APP/W3520/W/23/3316136 - DC/22/0194) on 9 self builds off Ixworth Road, Norton, however, this developer will have to install a crossing point on Ixworth Road before first occupation.

DC/19/02090 Gladman have taken this case to a public appealed. The hearing is set for July 4 in Elmwell (no venue was available locally). Have called in applications DC/23/02430 Barrells Road and the related application off Norton Road DC/23/02429.

Network Rail

Update held on the work carried out. Investigation of the old tunnel to be carried out with the feasibility study to be completed by 31st October 2023. Focus is now need on building a funding case to the Department of Transport.

Thurston Library extension

Richard and Ellie shared the plans for the proposed extension with David and Austin. We fully support the CIL bid of £200k and are working with Suffolk Libraries to build a successful case.

Thurston Community College meeting

During a meeting with the College principle it was exciting to learn that Suffolk County Council have now acquired the additional land that is needs for both additional parking and new playing field area and the expansion/new school build.

Locality grants

David and Austin have received applications from community organisations in Norton and Thurston so far!.

David Bradbury & Austin Davies

Mid Suffolk District Councillors

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