

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 18 JULY 2022 AT 7.30 PM
St GEORGE'S CHURCH, THE STREET**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Cassidy (Vice Chair), Catchpole, Cuff, and Suggett. A Osman (clerk) was also in attendance along with County Cllr Mellen, District Councillor Richardson and 2 members of the public.

23 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Orlopp was absent. **The Chair agreed to contact Cllr Orlopp to clarify his intentions as a parish councillor.**

24 **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

25 **Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022.** Cllr Cuff proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May March be approved. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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

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

Minute 13: 16 May 2022: White Lines, The Street. County Cllr Mellen had confirmed by email the order for white edge markings and SLOW road markings had been placed in early June with Suffolk Highways and would be funded by his locality budget.

Minute 13: 16 May 2022: Church Newsletter Survey. Cllr Cuff provided an updated draft survey complementing that which he had previously circulated last month. The Parish Council supported the approach and content.

Minute 16: 16 May 2022: AGAR Exemption Certificate. The Clerk confirmed that a signed exemption certificate for the Parish Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 had been sent to the external auditors on 3 June 2022.

Minute 17: 16 May 2022: Planning Applications. The Clerk confirmed that he had provided the Parish Council's views on DC/22/01884 and DC/22/01865 to Mid Suffolk District Council on 17 May 2022.

Minute 19: 16 May 2022: Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay. The Clerk provided a nil response to the festival organisers on 17 May 2022.

27. **District Councillors Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the District Councillors reports that had been previously circulated and had no follow up questions for District Cllr Richardson.

(District Cllr Richardson left the meeting at 7.40pm)

28. **County Councillors Report.** The Parish Council noted the contents of the report, previously circulated, and reflected continued frustrations over the A1088 weight restriction issue plus the slow progress on a permanent resolution; collectively these were perceived to have increased traffic through the village.

29. **Police Report.** No Police report was received. Previous newsletters are available at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>.

30. **Clerk's report.** The Clerk reported that one of the legs on the Parish Noticeboard was damaged and the village cleansing operative had been asked to repair or indicate whether a more substantial replacement was needed. The Noticeboard was still supported and did not pose a risk of collapse.

31 **St George's Church.** The meeting **agreed for the Clerk to approach one of the Church Conservation trust identified clock repairers for a quote to repair the clock.**

32 **Finance.** Cllrs noted the financial report and **agreed for the Clerk to set up a savings account to hold the agreed budget reserve.**

33 **Planning matters:**

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. This application was pending a decision by Mid Suffolk District Council

DC/22/01865 Full Planning Application - Construction of new vehicular access at Glebe House, The Street, Stowlangtoft, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3JR. This application had been approved on 16 June 2022.

The Clerk clarified that 3 options were available to the Parish Council when commenting on planning applications: support, neutral and object.

34 **Highways matters:**

Signs. Further to item on white lines covered in Minute 26, it was **agreed that the Clerk would confirm with Suffolk Highways where any supporting signs for these markings might go and whether the posts could be adapted for future VAS or speed signs.**

(County Cllr Mellen arrived at 8.10pm)

A1088. In addition to report in Minute 26, County Cllr Mellen confirmed Suffolk Highway's intent to seek a permanent weight restriction on the A1088 by Bridge Farm from 2023 as the temporary restriction cannot be extended. Suffolk County Council's longer-term plan is still to provide a permanent replacement bridge. It was **agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to the County Council Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding to reflect the Parish Council's concerns over the current situation;** this letter would be considered at the next meeting.

(County Cllr Mellen left the meeting at 8.20pm)

35 **Correspondence:**

Code of Conduct. The meeting agreed to adopt the LGA Councillor Code of Conduct, previously circulated, and for the Clerk to confirm this to Mid Suffolk District Council. **Cllrs agreed to complete the Code Of Conduct - Other Registrable Interests form** as needed and return to the Clerk at the next meeting.

Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme 2022. The meeting agreed to participate in this scheme and **the Clerk was to complete the relevant application.**

36 **Councillors' Forum:**

Co-Option of New Councillor. After the resignation of Mrs Marion Sherwood, the Parish Councillor vacancy had been advertised on the village noticeboard in May 2022. At the conclusion of the specified period, no election had been called. Therefore, Cllr Cassidy proposed that Mr Stuart White be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr Cuff seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Cllr White signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office and completed a Register of Interest form after the meeting which the Clerk would forward to MSDC

Clay Pigeon Shooting. Cllr Cassidy reported on the position of Mid Suffolk District Council in relation to complaints over noise from the recent clay pigeon shoot. It was noted that the event is an international shoot which contributes to St George's Church.

Website. It was agreed to accept the offer of Cllr Cuff's wife, Clare, to assist with the updating of the non-Parish Council pages on the Stowlangtoft village website. The Clerk was to liaise direct to facilitate this.

Defibrillator. Noting that the village did not have a defibrillator, it was **agreed that Cllr Suggett would approach the Benendon Charitable Trust to explore such provision** further. **Cllr Cassidy agreed to contact BT to clarify longer term plans for the village telephone box** which was a potential location for any defibrillator.

37 **Public Forum.** Nothing reported.

38 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 26 September 2022 at 7.30pm in St George's Church, The Street.

If any planning applications are received after 18 July, these will be considered at a specific planning meeting on Monday 15 August 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.47pm.

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Chair

Parish Report – July 2022

Councillor: Andy Mellen

The Waste North Division

Councillor contact details:

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Green, LibDem and Independent Group

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

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

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

Suffolk GLI call for a Cost-of-Living Emergency to be declared

There is a Full Council meeting on the 7th July. The opposition group have submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable.

Prices for fuel, food and energy are increasing as the real value of wages are cut by the rise in inflation. Our motion calls on the government to provide further support to those falling below the poverty line.

In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so that households can save money on their bills during winter where energy prices are due to rise even further.

Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme

Cabinet met on 20th June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC's programme to build more capacity for SEND children in education. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme.

Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk.

Our Group supported such a project, but was mindful of the rising demand and what was needed for the future. The Cabinet agreed a third phase was required, which will be discussed later this year.

National Grid East Anglia GREEN consultation: SCC submit a rejecting response

The county council's response to this consultation was submitted and is very much aligned with others: MPs, the affected district councils and individual councillors have all expressed concern about the proposals and have called for an off-shore cable route, as part of a strategic power network linking North Sea windfarms into the grid. There will be a further debate on these issues at the full council meeting on 7th July.

Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract: Still need signatures!

Our Group's petition is still live, requesting that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year.

Since Kier's arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, and £10,000 to design (not build) four humps in a road.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. The bid would also provide a necessary benchmark for any competitive bid coming from external companies, making sure Suffolk taxpayers money is not exploited.

We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make you name public, or it won't count!):

https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance

Bridge on A1088 at Stowlangtoft

Detailed plans are now being drawn up for the reconstruction of this bridge, which is currently under a 7.5T temporary weight restriction due to faults discovered during a routine inspection. This temporary restriction expires in November 2023, but Highways are looking to extend this, which probably gives an indication of how long the works are likely to take (Nov. 2023 is two years since the restrictions first came in).

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July 2022

Praise for ‘ambitious’ councils from local government peers

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are looking to learn from other authorities to further improve their services to residents. [Find out more](#)

Shaping social housing for the future

Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will consider the future of social housing this month – with a blueprint for quality and sustainable homes in safe neighbourhoods for tenants. [Find out more](#)

Councils’ commercial property arm makes £6m profit in 2021/22

Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s commercial property company CIFCO made a £6m profit last year – generating £3.75m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, according to a report published this week. [Find out more](#)

First occupier confirmed at Gateway 14

Gateway 14 Ltd, wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council, has exchanged conditional contracts to develop a distribution unit with home, garden and leisure products retailer The Range. [Find out more](#)

Stowmarket wellbeing and leisure hub to be taken to the next stage

Plans to improve leisure and wellbeing facilities in Stowmarket are set to move forward following agreement from Mid Suffolk District Council to fund the next stage of development. [Find out more](#)

A rural fleet transformed: Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s HVO journey towards net zero carbon emissions

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, along with their waste collection provider Serco, are leading the way when it comes to transitioning from standard diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), after becoming the first rural councils in the UK to start the switch to the new fuel back in September 2021. [Find out more](#)

Helping local communities to tackle the climate emergency

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not-for-profit organisations looking to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk. [Find out more](#)

Chance to help shape councils’ final parking strategy

Residents, businesses, and visitors are being invited to have their say on Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s parking strategy for the next 20 years. [Find out more](#)

Councils urge ‘joined-up thinking’ over energy infrastructure in the east Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are calling for an urgent government review of the number and scale of ‘potentially devastating’ energy infrastructure projects for local communities. [Find out more](#)

Changes to Building Regulations

Building Regulations changed on June 15. These amendments have been billed as the biggest changes to building regulations for over 30 years and will have significant impact on those planning building works after this date. [Find out more](#)

New Deputy Leader for Mid Suffolk District Council announced

Cllr Harry Richardson (Con) has been appointed as the new Deputy Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, with immediate effect. He will also continue to serve as the cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing. [Find out more](#)

Mid Suffolk Chairman shows support for children and teenagers with ASD A local charity in Stowmarket is set to benefit from a fundraising boost having been selected as the chosen charity by new Mid Suffolk District Council chairman, Cllr James Caston. [Find out more](#)

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District Cllr Report Thurston Ward

Beyton, Norton, Thurston, Tostock, Stowlangtoft

June 2022

MSDC Meeting

The Mid Suffolk District Council AGM was held in June. Our Officers presented the proposed council housing strategy. Although it is planned to add 65 new affordable homes each year our number of social homes is currently predicted to decline. Our current waiting list is above 500 persons.

Plans to improve leisure and wellbeing facilities in Stowmarket are set to move forward following agreement from Mid Suffolk District Council to fund the next stage of development.

The draft masterplan outlines how new and improved facilities for a wide range of sports, leisure and health organisations can be brought together across a single site in Stowmarket. The proposals include a multi-agency wellbeing hub, a 4g football pitch and a multi-use 2g pitch, a mini athletics track, new multi-sports pavilion, a multi-use games area, four new indoor sports courts and new cricket square and nets. With the funding now agreed, Mid Suffolk District Council can develop detailed designs for the project.

Housing Revenue Account

Mid Suffolk District Council tenant satisfaction survey will now be conducted each year so that progress can be tracked.

MSDC District CIL funds

The use of CIL District funds for Feasibility studies was questioned particularly for network rail.

Parking Strategy

Online survey

To ensure our strategy is relevant, and meets both our current and future aims, there are a number of recommended actions for you to comment on. Parking affects **everybody** - so whether you drive a car or not - we'd really appreciate it if you could spare **just 15 minutes** to share your thoughts with us:

Complete our parking strategy online survey

Parking strategy roadshow drop-in events happened 22nd June at New Green, Thurston.

Planning

Raised a question about Ixworth Road Housing in Norton (answered) and Discharge conditions ref DC/22/01358. Development Beyton (still awaiting answer). Have asked for a call-in ref DC/22/00398 Thurston. Have lobbied for the inclusion of an objective facilitator in the Peer group review committee meetings.

Locality grants

Supported purchase of new tents by the Thurston Scout Group

Austin Davies

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