

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2024 at URC Church Hall

Present: Cllrs Donna Bridges (Chairman), Terry Easter, Laura Johnson, Debra Melhuish, Paula Murton, Ray Studd and Jerry Voden

In attendance: Claire Pizzey (Clerk), District Councillor Rachel Eburne, District Councillor Janet Pearson, County Councillor Keith Welham and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Laura Beeson.
2. Councillors voted to accept the apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. Dispensation

A dispensation had been received from Cllr Studd for Planning Application DC/23/05858 as his wife holds a licence to occupy land at Stowupland Hall owned by the applicant Plain English. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish council would allow Cllr Studd to discuss, not vote but be able to stay in the meeting relating to this planning application. Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

4. Minutes

All Councillor's confirmed receipt of the minutes from the meetings of the 4th January 2024. Cllr Johnson proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 4th January 2024 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Murton seconded and all were in favour.

5. Matters of reports

MATTER OF REPORT	COMMENT
Bloor Homes: Purchase of Thradstone Meadow	On going
Retreat Pond Project	Awaiting start date
Bus Shelter - Thorney Green Road	on going

Enforcement Trinity Meadows EN/23/00526	Chased MSDC Enforcement who advised that the case is being actively investigated and an update will be provided as soon as possible by the case officer, we are experiencing particularly high caseloads in the team, but of course we aim to provide updates as soon as we are able to do so.
Applications to MSDC for free trees and Hedgerows	Applications made
Investigate the cemetery grass cutting	Meeting arranged for Jan 2024
Look at grant funding for play equipment - play equipment agreed	Investigating grants
Order and plant oak tree at cemetery	
Instruct Pest Control - rats at allotment	Agenda Item
Order Solar device	Device installed
Remove dog bag dispensers	
Repair post Thorney Green	Completed
Send photos of Devon Road verge to SCC for advise	Photos sent
SID Devices - data extraction	Data extracted - agenda item
Tree - Birch Close - removal of branched on resident property	Awaiting quote
Ditch - Linden Homes	

6. Public Forum

A resident thanked the Parish Council for their help with writing to Anglian Water in relation to the flooding on Saxham Street but felt that the response was poor. The Clerk asked if she could investigate the installation of a further defibrillator for the village. County Councillor Keith Welham agreed to fund this from his locality budget.

7. To receive report from the County Councillor Keith Welham

Members confirmed receipt of the County Council report. County Councillor Keith Welham highlighted:

- Ongoing flood issues need to be reported on the Suffolk County Council portal as the more reports made the quicker the issue is escalated.

8. To receive a report from & District Councillors Rachel Eburne and Janet Pearson

Members confirmed receipt of the District Council report. District Councillor Rachel Eburne highlighted:

- The footpath link between the Trinity Walk bus shelter (by Gipping Road) and Trinity Meadows has finally been completed.
- Flooding: The Council agreed a motion to support communities on flooding and to help with emergency plans. In Debenham a community meeting was held, organised by an MSDC Councillor, attended by the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council amongst others. From this, various initiatives are now underway.
- Locality Fund: A reminder that this year's locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact one of us for an application form.

9. Planning

1. Councillors to review and approve a response to the following planning applications:

DC/23/05858 - Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension to existing spray shops/workshops. Location: Stowupland Hall, Church Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4BE: Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council SUPPORTS the application. Cllr Voden seconded and all were in favour. Cllr Studd abstained from the vote.

DC/23/04644 - Proposal: Planning Application - Erection of a Solar Photovoltaic Farm with associated substations and other supporting infrastructure including inverters and transformers, fencing, CCTV and landscaping. Location: Land West Of Blacksmiths Lane, Earl Stonham. It was agreed that no comment is made.

2. Councillors noted the following decisions have been issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:

DC/23/05404 - Proposal & Location of Development: Installation of 3no free standing heat pumps and additional ground mounted 12no solar panels. Mill Green Farmhouse, Mill Street, Stowupland, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5BJ. Planning permission has been GRANTED.

10. Allotments

Councillor noted the report from the Allotment officer and no comments were made.

1. Cllr Murton proposed that the Parish Council agrees to go ahead with the pest control services at the allotments at a cost of £80.00 +VAT per month for one year and the money to be taken from the allotment reserves. Cllr Melhuish seconded with all in favour.

11. Biodiversity and Wildflower

Councillors noted the report from the meeting held on 8th January 2023 and no comments were made.

12. Cemetery and Churchyard

Councillors noted the report from the meeting held on 12th January 2024. Cllr Voden reported that a subsequent meeting had been held with residents at the cemetery and issues raised included the care taken by the contractor cutting the grass, reseeding and uneven surface of some of the graves. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the grass cutting contractor and grave digger to look at the issues raised.

13. Neighbourhood Plan Review

Councillors noted the report from the meeting held on 10th January 2024

1. It was agreed to defer the proposal to agree the purchase of an 8 panel event display board, with case until the March meeting. The original boards have been located and it was decided to check if these were adequate for the Parishes needs.

14. Community Litter Picks

Councillors agreed the following dates for the community litter picks for 2024

- 16 March
- 15 June
- 14 September
- 14 December

It was agreed to meet at the village hall to collect equipment. Cllr Voden to report this to the Village Hall and request permission to leave the rubbish in the car park until collected by MSDC and the Clerk to advise the Public Realm team of the dates.

15. Traffic Officer

Councillors noted the report from the Traffic Officer and no comments were made.

1. Cllr Murton proposed that the Parish Council collects the data once a quarter to be reported back to the Parish Council and Suffolk Police and added to the website. Cllr Johnson seconded and all were in favour.
2. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council work on a 12 week rota for each SID, 6 weeks on, turn off for 3 weeks, then turn back on for 3 weeks, then turn SID around to face other

direction, which will work consistently with reporting data. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.

16. D-day

Councillors noted the Anniversary guide for the D-day celebrations and it was agreed that the working group would meet to discuss an event for the village.

17. Policies and Procedure Review

Councillors received the policies and procedures review document and agreed members to review ready for the March meeting.

18. Internal Auditor

The Councillors reviewed the effectiveness of the Internal Auditor. The members were satisfied that Heelis and Lodge are suitably independent of Stowupland Parish Council. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council accepts the fees of £420.00 for the 2023-24 internal audit. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.

19. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since the last meeting

Receipts	Cheque / BACS /		Value
Allotment	BACS	VARIOUS	£ 6.77
Cemetery	BACS	Bingham	£ 300.00
Cemetery	BACS	Spencer Wix Stone	£ 25.00
			£ 331.77

2. Cllr Voden proposed to authorise the February payments. Cllr Johnson seconded with all in favour.

Expenditure	Cheque / BACS / SO		Net	VAT	Total
Wages	BACS	M Hawkins	£ 310.67		£ 310.67
Wages	BACS	D Long	£ 225.77		£ 225.77
Wages	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 1,114.50		£ 1,114.50
Expenses	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 32.99	£ 2.60	£ 35.59
Misc.	BACS	Parish On-Line	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£ 96.00
Email	BACS	MPM Computer Consultancy	£ 407.00		£ 407.00
General Expense	DD	Barclaycard	£ 20.82	£ 4.17	£ 24.99

Village Main.	BACS	A E White	£ 100.00	£ 20.00	£ 120.00
CIL	BACS	Stowupland VH	£1,200.00		£ 1,200.00
Bio-Diversity	BACS	Keith Welham	£ 124.98		£ 124.98
Cemetery	BACS	Social Gardener	£ 66.00		£ 66.00
Misc.	BAVS	Donna Bridges	£ 19.99		£ 19.99
			£ 3,702.72	£ 42.77	£ 3,745.49

20. Clerks Report

Councillors noted receipt of the Clerks. The members agreed to be included in a collective response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Call for Sites 2024 with the parishes of Old Newton with Dagworth & Gipping, Haughley, Bacton, Wetherden and Woolpit to state that the villages that lie along the A14 corridor from Junction 47 to Junction 51 have, over recent years, been subjected to substantial development to the point of almost obliterating the rural nature of our villages and reducing them to mere dormitories for a commuting population and feel, therefore, that it is appropriate or necessary to canvass to volunteer further sites within our parishes.

21. Councillors Reports

The Chairman reported that Aspen Grange have put a sign on the SID device post on the A1120. It was agreed to contact them and request that this is removed.

22. Correspondence

1. BMSDC - Babergh and Mid Suffolk Call for sites 2024: Information.
2. Resident - Help for residents in Church Road Stowupland: The Parish Council were copied into this request from the resident. The County Council are working with the resident on the issues of the flooding on Church Road.
3. Resident - Request for date of yard sale: It was agreed that the garage sale could be held on 9th June 2024 and the money to be donated to E.A.C.H..
4. Resident - Flooding Saxham Street: Information.
5. Resident - CPR training: The Clerk has agreed to liaise with the volunteer and arrange some training for the parish.
6. MSDC - Litter Picks: The Clerk to contact MSDC to advise of the dates for the Community Litter picks.
7. BMSDC - Joint Local Validation List Consultation: Information.
8. Stowupland Falcons - Permission to carry out drainage work on the football pitch on The Green: It was agreed to give permission for them to carry out the drainage work.

23. Dates of next meetings

1. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7th March 2024 7.30pm at URC Church Hall
2. Biodiversity and Wildflower Working Group Monday 11th March 2024 7.30pm at URC Church Hall

24. It was resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

1. Cllr Studd proposed that the Parish Council does not move forward with the Parish CIL expenditure . Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

Meeting closed