

**STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at URC Church Hall**

Present: Cllrs Donna Bridges (Chairman), Laura Johnson, Debra Melhuish, Paula Murton, Ray Stud, Jerry Voden and Gemma Whitehouse

In attendance: Claire Pizzey (Clerk), District Councillors Rachel Eburne and Janet Pearson, County Councillor Keith Welham and 1 members 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**

Cllr Studd declared an interest in item 10.1 as his wife holds a licence to occupy land at Stowupland Hall and Cllr Voden in item 12 & 18.5 as member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

**3. Dispensation**

No dispensations were received.

**4. Minutes**

All Councillor’s confirmed receipt of the minutes. Cllr Melhuish proposed to accept the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Johnson seconded and all were in favour.

**5. Matters of report**

MATTER OF REPORT	COMMENT
Bloor Homes: Purchase of Thradstone Meadow	On going
Permanent SID Devices -	Sites agreed and application sent to SCC
30mph Extension Gipping Road	Response to the Factual Report made
Tree Surgeon to look at trees in Play Park	Referred to the Village Hall Management Committee
Write a procedure for Solar SID Device	
Litter Bin Project - Barriers at Maple Road	Contractor advised not able to fulfil completion of job - need to go out to re-quote the work
Retreat Pond Project - obtain quotes	Agenda Item
Bus Shelter - Thorney Green Road	Meeting to be arranged
Trim Trail - Bloor Homes commuted sum gym equipment	Email sent to Bloor Homes

Litter Picks	
Linden Homes - contact regarding construction signs	Meeting to be arranged
Grass seed - cemetery	
Report cars using School car park	Email sent - no response
Report uncut footpath Bloor Homes - Gipping Road	Enforcement issued to MSDC. They advise this wasn't an enforcement issue. Email send to Bloor Homes who advised that they would get the footpath cut.
Quote for tree on FP34	Agenda item
Respond to residents regarding use of track from Columbyne Close to Gipping Road	Completed
Check grass area by Corner Farm	

## 6. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Gemma Whitehouse to join the Parish Council. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Gemma Whitehouse is co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Melhuish seconded with all in favour. The declaration form was signed and Gemma Whitehouse was invited to join the meeting.

## 7. Public Forum

A resident reported again problems with cars using the school car park outside of the allocated hours of use. A resident reported a broken finger post on FP54A at Gipping Road, dog bins on Bloor Homes and the butchers are getting fuller and footpath 54A is open again but is in a poor state after the type one that was put in place to get vehicles to the site car park. A resident reported that the grass cutting around the pond at the retreat still hasn't been cut following reporting at the July meeting.

## 8. To receive report from the County Councillor Keith Welham

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

- Briefing from the children and young people's director. The number of children in care is rapidly increasing and this is costing up to a £1m per person to care for them. The number of education, health and care (EHC) plans has gone through the £7k mark and is nearing £8k and communication with parents is poor due to the lack of Psychiatrist. This is not just a local problem but nationwide. An inspection is likely before the end of the year. There is also concern over the Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) home to school transport.

## 9. 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:

- Local Planning: Elements of application DC/22/03761 (18 dwellings – Landex) are still being considered since Planning Committee voted for approval on 21<sup>st</sup> June. This includes the Construction Management Plan. DC/22/06200 – application for a new factory in land off Rendall Lane. This was due to go to Committee in August but it is not clear when this will happen.
- Footpath link at Trinity Meadows: MSDC has gone out to tender on the work to complete the footpath link from the Bloor site to the bus-stop at Trinity Walk. Once the contractor has been agreed, MSDC will advise the Parish Council with a timeframe for the work to be done.
- Pride in your place Grant: The funding was announced this week for eligible projects include arranging community litter picks, sign or graffiti cleaning, or the maintenance of public open spaces. Up to £250 can be applied for per Mid Suffolk Parish with a population of under 1,500, up to £400 for those with a population of over 1,500.

## 10. Planning

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

Cllr Studd left the meeting.

**DC/22/06200** - Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of a Factory (B2 - General Industrial) with offices Location: Land South West Of, Rendall Lane, Stowupland, Suffolk. Cllr Murton proposed that the Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the application and submits the following comments:

- This is a new factory on a green field site in the countryside and there will be no control over what type of B2 General Industrial business goes in it. B2 use class is a specific business use for General Industrial and specifically for uses that do not fall within the B1 class i.e. for uses that would not generally be allowable within a residential area.
- Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan Policy SNP15 would only support small scale new employment buildings and this application is definitely not small scale as it covers a site of approximately 20 acres. So this development would be contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The site is currently in productive arable use and should stay so, there are more suitable sites for employment use and HGV access close by i.e. MSDC Premier Business Park Gateway 14. Where there is plenty of availability. The creation of a large area of Parkland would be of little value to the village and just removes valuable productive agricultural land from use. The Parish Council are still waiting for lots of answers to comments from the applicant mainly on Highways and transport statement.

- Of the 33 comments from members of the public on this application there is only one supporter and they live 4 miles from Stowupland.
- The impact of this large development on the plateau of Stowupland will massively effect the landscape. The Landscape Appraisal that was carried out for the Neighbourhood plan highlighted the need to retain open landscape views from the village this proposed site would greatly restrict this.
- The access to this site runs along a quiet single track country lane and cannot be shown to be safe. This is frequently used by walkers, runners, cyclists, dog walkers and horse riders. The proposed road widening scheme, Planning Statement and Landscape Appraisal does not mention the planning permission of 3 new properties that the applicant has on the site of the existing grain store where Rendall Lane joins the A1120. All the traffic to the proposed factory site will go past the front of these three properties. Also HGV's waiting to exit the junction will be exhausting diesel fumes at the front of these properties.
- The applicants Landscape Appraisal (September 22) has some discrepancies one being on page 18 which states that Walnut Tree Farm forms a community hub comprising of a farm shop, post office, café and carpark. In fact the Farm Shop and Post Office closed in August 2018 and the Café in January 22 when it was destroyed by fire. This site is now reverting back to agricultural use with new farm buildings being built. It is not clear how the highways improvements will be made within the existing verges, ditches and hedgerows. One of the questions the Parish Council are still waiting to hear back from is the extent of the removal of the hedgerows and trees.
- A Transport Statement (regarding vision splays and increase in vehicle trips along Rendall Lane) as requested by Suffolk Highways with a holding objection has so far not been seen, the Parish Council would like the opportunity to be consulted on this before a decision is made. There will be a massive increase in traffic and the Parish Council and residents are unable to make comment until they have seen sight of traffic movements and a clear plan is provided. The Parish would not want to see more vehicles using the A1120/Rendall Lane junction as this will increase the highway hazard of this junction which is very close to a blind right angle bend in the busy A1120.
- One of the most asked questions in the village is surely the best place for this is Gateway 14.
- There is no justification for this site to be in the village of Stowupland on a quiet country lane.

Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

Cllr Studd returned to the meeting.

**DC/23/03318** - Proposal: Application for Advertisement Consent - Construction of 4.No signs.

Location: Gateway 14, Land Between The A1120 And A14, Creeting St Peter, Stowmarket, Suffolk, Gateway Boulevard, Stowmarket. It was agreed that no comment is made.

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

**DC/23/02283** - Proposal & Location of Development: Full Planning Application - Erection of 3No dwellings and creation of a new highway access (amended scheme to that previously approved).

Land Adjacent To Rosemary, Church Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4BG. Planning permission has been GRANTED.

## 11. National Grid Consultation

Cllr Voden proposed that the following response is made to Councillors to make a response to the National Grid second non-statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN) Great Grid Upgrade:

Stowupland Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the proposed development and would like to make the following comments and representations in relation to this consultation.

The Council supports the production of green energy and in particular the North Sea Wind Farms which are able to generate clean energy and contribute to energy security for this Country and appreciates that this energy needs to be delivered into the National Grid. However, the Parish Council opposes the proposals set out in this consultation for new overland transmission lines for the majority of the route, and in particular through the Parish of Stowupland, carried by large, visually intrusive latticed metal pylons.

The Parish Council has particular concerns around the impact of these traditional pylons upon the environment to the village and feel that the pylons would have an adverse landscape and visual impact on the sensitive and rural landscape and biodiversity of Stowupland Parish as well as an adverse impact upon the wellbeing of residents.

Section 66 (1) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservations Areas) Act 1990 requires special regard to be had to the desirability of preserving a listed building or its setting or any feature of special architectural or historic interest which possesses when dealing with planning applications. The National Planning Policy Framework also states that then considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated asset, great weight should be given to the assets conservation.

Stowupland has 8 listed buildings that will be effected by the route. These include; Poplar Farm, Star Orchard, Firtree Farmhouse, Upland Cottages, Upland House, Grange Farmhouse, Grange Cottage and Owls Farm.

The Parish Council's preferred option would be offshore cabling. This would reduce environmental damage and disruption. Options for undergrounding the full length of the route should also be considered instead of overhead.

Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex County Council have also been consulted on the proposals and have said that National Grid must be looking to a coordinated offshore centred approach to energy transmission in the UK. Simply installing more pylons, and digging trenches cannot be the only viable solution and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are writing to the Government restating their objections to plans for more pylons in the Suffolk countryside.

Cllr Melhuish seconded with all in favour.

## 12. Village Hall Redevelopment

Councillors confirmed receipt of the report. The Chairman raised the following comments:

- Concerns over the Safer Route to School footpath route planned to go through the car park.
- The plan for the car park and the blind bend which could be potentially dangerous.
- Consideration to be given to the erection of the feather boarded fence in replace of the hedge. This could be a potential target for graffiti and vandalism and suggested a wire fence and reinstate a hedge to grow beside the fence.

## 13. Pond Project

Cllr Studd proposed that the Parish Council accepts the quote from SDW Services (Suffolk) Ltd of £6,680.00 +VAT for the work to the Retreat Pond Project. The Chairman seconded with all in favour.

## 14. Statutory Business

1. Cllr Voden proposed that the Parish Council adopts the Reserves Policy. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.
2. Cllr Melhuish proposed that the Parish Council agrees the Terms of Reference for the D-Day Working Group. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.
3. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council agrees the Rotovator Disclaimer. Cllr Melhuish seconded with all in favour.

## 15. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since the last meeting

Receipts	Cheque / BACS /		Value
Cemetery	BACS	E of E Co-op	£ 75.00
Cemetery	BACS	Spencer Wix	£ 125.00
Cemetery	BACS	Bingham	£ 995.00
Cemetery	BACS	E of E Co-op	£ 25.00
Cemetery	BACS	Bingham	£ 300.00
			£ 1,520.00

2. Cllr Johnson proposed to authorise the August payments. Cllr Murton 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	£ 1,071.80		£ 1,071.80
Expenses	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 32.99	£ 2.60	£ 35.59
Expenses	DD	Barclaycard	£ 25.46	£ 5.09	£ 30.55
Cemetery	BACS	The Social Gardener	£ 99.00		£ 99.00
Cemetery	BACS	MSDC	£ 118.00		£ 118.00
Grass Cutting	BACS	Top Garden	£ 810.00	£ 162.00	£ 972.00
Grass Cutting	BACS	Top Garden	£ 870.00	£ 174.00	£ 1,044.00
Grass Cutting	BACS	Top Garden	£ 870.00	£ 174.00	£ 1,044.00
Pest Control	BACS	RSA Pest Management Services	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	£ 300.00
CIL	BACS	A E White	£ 635.00	£ 127.00	£ 762.00
Hall Hire	BACS	Stowupland PCC	£ 10.50		£ 10.50
CIL/Cemetery	BACS	W Jarvis & Son	£ 5,300.00	£1,060.00	£ 6,360.00
			£10,629.19	£1,754.69	£12,383.88

3. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council agrees the quote of £100.00 +vat from W J Jarvis & Sons to cut back the tree on FP34. Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

## 16. Clerks Report

Councillors noted the clerks report and no comments were made.

## 17. Councillors Reports

Cllr Studd had reported an overhanging hedge on the corner of Gipping Road and Rendalls Lane on the SCC portal and they had advised that no remedial work is needed at this time and informed the Council that the emergency exit on the new phase at Bloor Homes has opened with no barrier to stop cars driving through. Cllr Murton reported on the state of the footpath along Gipping Road. Cllr Voden

reported that a resident had contacted him over the condition of the footpath along Oak Road and the Chairman reported on a scam email that she had received.

## **18. Correspondence**

Councillors to note correspondence already circulated and consider any action.

1. Ladybirds – Donation. It was agreed to respond to advise that they apply to the County and District Councils for a locality budget.
2. Small Business – Mobile Coffee and cake van. The members discussed a potential spot in the village for a mobile coffee and cake van. It was agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee should be approached.
3. Resident – Plant tree on corner of Hornbeam Road and Chestnut Close. It was agreed that the resident needs to get permission from Suffolk County Council and they need to contact County Councillor Keith Welham.
4. Resident – Request for additional Dog Bin Trinity Meadows. It was agreed to respond to the resident to advise that additional dog bins are being installed on Thradstone Meadow once ownership is transferred to the Parish Council and a additional dog bin has been approved at Oxlip Way.
5. Residents – Stowupland Village Hall Redevelopment/Safer Route to School. It was agreed to respond to the resident to advise that the Parish Council have raised these concerns to the Village Hall.

## **19. Dates of next meetings**

1. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7.30pm at URC Church Hall
2. Bio-Diversity and Wildlife Working Group Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 7.30pm at URC Church Hall

## **20. 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. Future Parish CIL expenditure

Meeting closed 20.45