

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

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

In attendance: Claire Pizzey (Clerk), District Councillor Rachel Eburne, County Councillor Keith Welham and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from District Councillor Janet Pearson.
2. Councillors voted to accept the apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Dispensation

There were no dispensations received.

4. Minutes

All Councillor’s confirmed receipt of the minutes from the meetings of the 11th July 2024. Cllr Johnson proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 11th July 2024 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Voden 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	On going
Bus Shelter - Thorney Green Road	Work has started on the bus shelter
Enforcement Trinity Meadows EN/23/00526	See Clerks report for update
Order and plant oak tree at cemetery	
Investigate Defibrillator	Locality grants applied and equipment to be ordered
Arrange CPR training	On going
Quote from grass contractor for removal of grass at cemetery	Awaiting quote
Quote from grass contractor for levelling graves	Awaiting quote
Duck crossing Signs	Email sent to the management Company at Bloor Homes

Obtain a conservation quote for the wildflower meadow	Awaiting response from MSDC
Contact Linden Homes regarding repair of Track at Thorney Green Road	On going
Joint response National Grid consultation	Agenda item
Bio-Diversity questionnaire	Meeting has been arranged
Play Park inspection quotes for work	Awaiting quotes
Solar Post and Device	Agenda item
Churchyard Gates	Awaiting quotes
Additional Housing and Bin Cemetery	Awaiting quotes
Write a letter to SCC Passenger Transport Team	Letter sent

6. Casual Vacancy: Cllr Johnson proposed that Hayden Power is elected onto the Parish Council. Cllr Murton seconded with all in favour. Hayden Power signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

7. Public Forum

A resident reported that the Gipping Road footpath to Walnut Tree Farm from the Trinity Meadows is still impassable. A resident asked if the Contractors advertising boards could be removed from The Green. A resident reported on the state of the grass cutting on the between the football pitch and the footpath.

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

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

- Extra Investment for Special Education Needs: At Cabinet on Tuesday 25 July, the proposal to invest a further £9.1 million in Suffolk’s SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) service was agreed. This is to fund extra staff and capacity to make sure the council can achieve its targets for assessing children and production of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The investment will be funded through the council’s reserves. It represents an increase of £2.6 million in 2024/25, £3 million in 2025/26, and £3.5 million in 2026/27; the extra money in the coming two years will be subject to ongoing review. This comes at a time when the outcome of the 2023-24 budget was also presented, showing a drop of nearly £15 million in the council’s useable reserves. My group also expressed concern that the council’s

target for EHCPs is to complete 50% within the legal 20-week timeframe, rather than the required 100%.

- Roundabout A1120/B1115: Requested a detailed design and timescale for the roundabout proposed on the junction of the A1120/B1115.
- S278 on Landex site at Church Road: There is confusion over the S278 works to be carried out on the A1120. There is to be no narrowing of the road but the top layer of the existing road is to be removed and a layer of new high PSV surfacing is to be laid. Also 'bobbly' paving slabs are to be provided at the crossing point.

9. To receive a report from & District Councillors Rachel Eburne

- Councils first in country to clear the way for listed building energy upgrades: Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will clear the way for thousands of listed building owners to make sensitive energy efficiency upgrades – in a new approach which is the first of its kind in the country.
- Call for land Summit: Last year MSDC launched their Call for Land initiative, bringing together various environmental organisations, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Suffolk Tree Warden Network, with landowners wanting to do something with their land to benefit biodiversity. MSDC are now running a free event to bring the partner organisations and landowners into the same place, so we can do more. At the Mix, on Thursday 5th September from 10.00am.
- Hundreds to get £50 off council tax bills as Mid Suffolk agrees new cost-of-living support: Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed new cost-of-living support for residents - including cuts to hundreds of council tax bills, and stepping in to replace a Government fund which ends in October.
- Stowmarket Town Centre: The council is set to create a £1.5million fund to enhance Stowmarket town centre. The first step would be working with landlords to bring under-utilised properties, including empty shops, back into use. This could involve the council buying buildings, renting them for a short term or helping to support refurbishment.
- Landex Site: Concerns have been received from resident about the work to the A1120 on Church Road. The condition on the Outline Planning permission was prior to commencement of the development. HIGHWAYS: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING. Before any dwelling is first occupied or the car park is first brought into use the pedestrian road crossing on Church Road is to be provided and completed in accordance with the layout as shown on Drawing Number 014/2016/01/P1 as submitted. Reason: To provide a suitable crossing point for pedestrians to

cross Church Road from the new development to access village facilities. The residents have been notified of this.

- Devon Road footpath: If the Parish Council are willing to commit some CIL money MSDC will move this project to the top of the list.
- Factory Site Rendall Lane: Officers are still waiting for minor details before the application goes to committee.
- Trinity Walk Bollards: A cost had been received from MSDC for the work.

10. Planning

1. Councillors reviewed and agreed a response to the following planning applications:
DC/24/02733 - Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No dwelling and garage with access onto Thorney Green Road. Location: 38 Columbyne Close, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4AP. Cllr Studd proposed that the Parish Council SUPPORTS the application. Cllr Beeson seconded with all in favour.
2. Councillors noted the planning decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District:
DC/24/02122 - Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Erection of a single storey rear extension and detached garage including permeable surfacing of front garden; Insertion of rear velux rooflight and construction of solar panels (following removal of existing garage and chimney). 27 Sycamore Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4DR. Planning permission was GRANTED.

11. Cemetery Extension

Councillors noted the report on memorial gardens

1. Cllr Murton proposed that the Parish Council agrees that that cemetery extension becomes a memorial garden when ownership is transferred to the Parish Council. Cllr Johnson seconded with all in favour.

12. MSDC CIL Bid Consultation Letter Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bid Round 13

Cllr Studd proposed that the Parish Council supports the consultation from MSDC for the Compliant Bid Project Reference M24-08 - Stowupland Footpath 035 adjacent Church Road. Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

13. Pylon Consultation

Councillors noted the response on the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons /Trenching Statutory Consultation 2024. The Chairman wanted to minute thanks to Lynne Jardin for all her work in writing the joint response with Creting St Peter Parish Council.

14. Allotments

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

1. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council agrees the changes to the Tenancy agreement.
Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

15. Environment & The Green Sub-Committee

Councillors noted the minutes from the meeting of 25th July 2024 and no comments were made.

1. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council accepts the amended cutting schedule and tenders are sought from Excite Solutions, Mid Suffolk District Council and S P Landscape & Tree Contractors Ltd. Cllr Melhuish seconded with all in favour.
2. Cllr Johnson proposed that the Parish Council agrees that a quote is obtained from W J Jarvis for the tree work required at Birch Close. Cllr Beeson seconded with all in favour.
3. Cllr Voden proposed that the Parish Council agrees that no turning signs are installed at the track on Thorney Green Road opposite the Birch Close bus shelter. Cllr Easter seconded with all in favour.

16. Traffic Officer

Councillors noted the report from the Traffic Officers. It was agreed to investigate a permanent solar device that does not record data to be sited on the A1120 between Creeting Lane and Barn Cottages.

17. Trim Trail Working Group

Councillors noted the report from the meeting of 26th July 2024 and no comments were made.

1. Cllr Studd proposed that the Parish Council agrees the sites for the trim trail equipment at Maple Road Bridge and The Green opposite the butchers and the equipment is ordered. Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

18. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since the last meeting

Receipts	Cheque / BACS /		Value
Cemetery	BACS	East of England Co-op	£ 25.00
			£ 25.00

2. Cllr Easter proposed to authorise the July payments. Cllr Voden seconded with all in favour.

Expenditure	Cheque / BACS / SO		Net	VAT	Total
Wages	BACS	M Hawkins	£ 324.81		£ 324.81
Wages	BACS	D Long	£ 247.87		£ 247.87
Wages	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 1,116.40		£ 1,116.40
Expenses	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 26.00		£ 26.00
General Expense	DD	Barclaycard	£ 59.08		£ 59.08

Allotment	BACS	The Forge	£ 37.50		£ 37.50
Hall Hire	BACS	Stowupland PCC	£ 14.00		£ 14.00
Cemetery	BACS	Social Gardener	£ 181.50		£ 181.50
Trim Trail	BACS	Birketts	£ 223.60		£ 223.60
			£ 2,230.76	£ -	£ 2,230.76

19. Clerks Report

Councillors noted receipt of the Clerks report and no comments were received.

20. Councillors Reports

Cllr Melhuish reported on parked cars on the footpath on the Oak Meadow development and the condition of the ditch that borders Thorney Green Road. Cllr Johnson reported that a resident had contacted her regarding the positioning of the Hornbeam Road sign. Cllr Voden reported that no bus timetables are displayed in Stowmarket. Cllr Power reported that motor bikes had been using Thradstone Meadow. The Chairman reported that the Church had contacted the Parish Council to say how nice the churchyard grass was looking.

21. Dates of next meetings

1. Bio-Diversity and Wildlife Working Group Monday 5th August 2024 7.30pm at URC Church Hall
2. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 5th September 2024 7.30pm at URC Church Hall

Meeting closed 20.18

A copy of any reports or correspondence cited in the minutes can be made available from the clerk:

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk