

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2024 at URC Church Hall

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

In attendance: District Councillor Janet Pearson, County Councillor Keith Welham and 4 members of
 the public

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Beeson and District Councillor Rachel Eburne
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 3rd October 2024. Cllr Power proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 3rd October 2024 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Melhuish seconded with all 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	On going
Order and plant oak tree at cemetery	
Investigate Defibrillator	Installed & Completed 22/10/24
Arrange CPR training	On going
Duck crossing Signs	PC to order and install
Contact Linden Homes regarding repair of Track at Thorney Green Road	On going
Bio-Diversity questionnaire	Agreed
Play Park inspection quotes for work	Awaiting quotes New equipment installed & open
Churchyard Gates	Order placed – to be installed Jan 25

Additional Housing and Bin Cemetery	Awaiting quotes
Quotes for Grass cutting -	Awaiting quotes
Quotes Tree work on The Green	Works starting in Dec
Quote no turning signs	?
Investigate permanent solar SID for Church Road	Agreed to purchase & Install
Hornbeam Road Sign - reposition	Contact made with Address Management to re-instate the sign
Linden Homes - Ditch	Reported to Linden Homes - No response
Bollards at Trinity Walk	Work being carried out agenda item Dec
Investigate Scribe - Accounts package	Purchase & using
Lending Library	On going

6. Public Forum

A resident reported that “Fly Posting” within the village and at the junction of A1120 & B1115 this is a danger to traffic. It is an offence and the posters need action.

Another resident had problems with traffic when Thorney Green Road/Columbyne Close was closed as people were using the track. Residents along the track are having new materials delivered within the next couple of weeks to resurface track.

Two residents came to talk about the starting a lending library (please see notes at Item 14)

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

Members confirmed receipt of the County Council report. County Councillor Keith Welham verbally updated the Parish Council SCC have launched Budget Review and the closing date to comment on this is the 16th December. There is also a review of over 16’s Bus funding which we received some Poster to put up around the village so people can make comments on proposals, people with children aged 15 should also look and comment as this will affect families. Storm Babet - SCC is investigating where there were over 5 properties effected, finding causes and damage to properties around the county. Stowupland is on the shortlist at 35 on the list the report is due to be finished at the end of 2026.

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

Members confirmed receipt of the District Council report. District Councillor Janet Pearson verbally added that the Taxi Bus service which has started around the district is going well and that Stowupland will be in the second phase.

9. Planning

Planning Officer Report for Nov 24 Parish Council Meeting

1. **DC/24/04324** | Householder Application - Erection of single storey wrap-around extension (following removal of conservatory, lean-to utility and garage). | 15 Highfield Road Stowupland Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4DA

I would propose that:

Stowupland Parish Council would SUPPORT this application if a condition was applied that at least one parking space was created within the curtilage of the property of a size that complies with Suffolk Guidance for Parking 2023. The current garage or drive parking are not considered large enough to qualify as a parking space by the guidance. The current and proposed drive parking of 4 metres actually causes the rear of a vehicle to overhang the footpath. We are surprised that Suffolk Highways have not commented on this as they have with other applications in Stowupland.

CLlr Easter seconded with all in favour

DC/24/04586 | Householder application - Change roof tiles on garage from slate to tiles | 4 Columbyne Close Stowupland Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4AW.

I would propose that:

Stowupland Parish Council OBJECTS to this change as the slate roof helps to break up the visual appearance of a lot of tiles on the development.

CLlr Easter seconded with all in favour

DC/24/04189 | Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No. Self/Custom build Chalet bungalow (following demolition of garage). Erection of 1 No. Shed and elevation changes to 1 Maple Road. | 1 Maple Road Stowupland Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4DF

I would propose that:

Stowupland Parish Council OBJECTS to this application as it is an overly large property for the size of the plot. There are also some major differences in what the Application form states and the plans submitted. (Application form states there will be no changes to the access and it will be 3 bedrooms where as plans show an increased access width and only 1 bedroom). The proposed access onto Maple Road is very close to the corner with the B1115 and would cause an additional traffic

hazard. There also does not appear to be sufficient turning on site to allow a vehicle to leave the site in a forward direction.

If this application was to be approved we would ask for the following condition to be applied to the development as it is stated that this property would be used for assisted living accommodation for the main residence's parents. (Granny annex)

SPECIFIC RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT: OCCUPATION RESTRICTION

This permission shall only authorise the use and occupation of the accommodation for purposes incidental and ancillary to the principal dwelling known as 1 Maple Road and does not permit the use of the accommodation for a separate household.
Cllr Easter seconded with all in favour

2. Councillors to note the Decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:
DC/24/02733 Proposal & Location of Development: Full Planning Application
Erection of 1No dwelling & garage with access onto Thorney Green Road, 38 Columbyne Close, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4AP. Planning permission was GRANTED.
DC/24/03849 Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application –
Erection of a single storey front, side & rear extension. 2 Thorney Green Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4BY. Planning permission was REFUSED.
DC/24/03873 Proposal & Location of Development: Application under Section 19 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1960 for Listed Building Consent DC/20/04202, air source heat pump, for the variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans and documents) for installation of 1no additional air source heat pump. Firtree Farm, Saxham Street, Stowupland, IP14 5DD. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT (SECTION 19) HAS BEEN GRANTED.
3. **EN0110003** – White Elm Solar Farm – EIA Scoping & Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification. Councillors to consider a response to the document before adopting its Scoping Opinion. The Parish Council has to either inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information they consider should be provided in the ES; or confirm that they do not have any comments. The Parish Council decided that no comment to be made as it is outside of the Parish.

10. Bio-Diversity & Wildlife Conservation Working Group

Councillors noted the report from the Working Group from their meeting on 14th October and no comments were made.

1. Councillors agreed the questionnaire with a couple of minor changes and look to distribute with the Telstar Cllr Bridges & Keith Welham to meet and agree. Proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Melhuish
2. Councillors agreed a budget of £1,050.00 for the group for 2025/26 proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Melhuish

3. Councillors agreed the removal of the branch covering to Owl Box on The Green so the owls have a clear flight path. Proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Melhuish

11. Trim Trail Project on the Green

Councillors noted the report from the Trim Trail Working Group and agreed that the working group reviews the project following the correspondence received. Cllr Easter is to join the working group as Claire Pizzey is no longer a member. Once details have been agreed and checked by the working group this project will come back to Parish Council.

12. Occupational Licences Village Hall

1. Councillors agreed the £20 fee for the Occupational Licence for the play park for 2025. Proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Studd
2. Councillors agreed the £20 fee for the Occupational Licence for the Community Events Cupboard. Proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Studd

13. Grass Cutting Tender

Councillors noted that one quote had been received Cllr Bridges & Cllr Stud believe that this is because the Cutting Schedule is too complicated it was proposed that we remove the ditches & odd pieces from the schedule of the Greens and just have all the Greens cut every other week as before with the strimming around the bollards (April to October), then resend the revised schedule out to tender again. We agreed to then have the ditches cut as and when needed by a different contractor. It was also agreed that Cemetery & Churchyard are a separate contract and if we don't find somebody to tender for this we find a caretaker for the areas. Proposed by Cllr Murton, seconded by Cllr Power and All in favour.

14. Lending Library

Two residents had requested to start a book lending service within the village which the Parish Council think it is an excellent idea, just need agree a location needs to be decided. A suggestion of Bus Shelter at the end of Trinity Walk and Bus Shelter on Thorney Green Road would be suitable locations. It was suggested that to start with that plastic boxes were placed in these location to see how it works. Parish Council will get quotes for works to bus shelters to partition of an area so that the bus shelters can still be used. Proposed by Cllr Studd & seconded by Cllr Johnson.

15. A1120 Scheme in front of The Crown

Councillors considered financially supporting the project with a cost of £13,000 from the Parish CIL this was rejected by the Parish Council without any Plan to see what works are to be completed. Proposed to Reject by Cllr Studd and seconded by Cllr Johnson with ALL agreeing.

16. Tree Planting at Chestnut Close

A resident had previously requested to plant a Chestnut Tree and the junction of Chestnut Close and Hornbeam Road. The Parish Council agreed to apply to SCC the landowner to plant the Tree. We have had an offer from a Resident to nurture the tree once planted. Proposed Cllr Melhuish & seconded by Cllr Easter, ALL agreed.

17. Speed Indicator Device

Councillors noted report from SCC Keith Welham regarding a new speed device.

1. Councillors agreed that a new solar device to be purchased by CIL and installed on A1120 opposite Barn Cottages, Church Road. Proposed by Cllr Studd & seconded by Cllr Johnson, ALL agreed.

18. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since last meeting

Receipts	Value		Notes	
Allotments	BACS	Various		1,690.37£
Cemetery	BACS	Bingham		1,120.00£
Cemetery	BACS	Co-op		450.00£
CIL	BACS	MSDC		27,245.40£
				30,505.77

2. Councillors approved the November payments (BACs, DD, and cheque payments).
Proposed by Cllr Murton & seconded by Cllr Melhuish

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	£ 666.90		£ 666.90
Expenses	BACS	C PIZZEY	£ 26.00		£ 26.00
Various	DD	Barclaycard	£ 55.59		£ 55.59
Bio-diversity	BACS	Roger Carter	£ 300.00	£ 60.00	£ 360.00
Cemetery	BACS	Social Gardener	£ 132.00		£ 132.00
Email Hosting	BACS	Suffolk.cloud	£ 120.00		£ 120.00
Pest Control	BACS	RSA Pest Management	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	£ 300.00
Pest Control	BACS	RSA Pest Management	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00

CIL (Cemetery Extension)	BACS	Birketts	£ 1,743.00	£ 348.60	£ 2,091.60
CIL (Trim Trail)	BACS	Proludic	£ 6,528.01	£ 1,305.60	£ 7,833.61
CIL (Play Park)	BACS	Proludic	£ 5,120.01	£ 1,024.00	£ 6,144.01
CIL (Play Park)	BACS	Proludic	£ 23,482.70	£ 4,696.55	£ 28,179.25
CIL (defib Project)	BACS	NTE Electrical	£ 958.42		£ 958.42
Scribe	BACS	Scribe	£ 299.00	£ 59.80	£ 358.80
			£ 40,494.31	£ 7,592.55	£ 48,086.86

- Councillors agreed to join the SALC payroll services at a cost of £20.00 per month.

Proposed Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Murton

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Easter reported that there had been a break in at the Bowls Club and lost all their equipment.

Cllr Johnson reported the she had received a complaint regarding the ditches at Linden Homes. Parish Clerk to send a letter to report state of the ditches and Cllr Voden suggested we remind them about the cover for the large drain where children had been playing in during the summer which was reported before.

Cllr Power reported that speeding on the Bloor Estate on Oxlip Way and asked about installing speed bumps at areas around the estate to stop accidents. Cllr Bridges suggested that when we write to Bloor Homes that we also ask why the broken fence by the balancing pond has not been repaired.

Cllr Murton reported that the sign for the Fish & Chip shop used to be removed when the shop was closed now it is left out all the time. It was suggested that we write to the owner and ask for it to be taken away when shop closed.

Cllr Voden reported that he went to the Stowmarket Mayors Civic Ceremony & Reception on 20th October 2024

20. Correspondence

- Letter received regarding Chapel Lane hedge and plants overgrown over footpath. To bring this back as an agenda item.
- Letter regarding transparency of the Parish Councils website. The website is to be reviewed and audited and brought back to the Parish Council as an agenda item.
- Light Trespass from SID into property on Thorney Green Road/Columbyne Close. Parish to investigate further to make sure that the device is at the correct height and whether a shield could be fitted.

4. Trees planted on the Green by Columbyne Close the wrong size for the place. Trees to be moved.

21. Dates of next meetings

1. Parish Council Meeting 5th December 2024 at 7.30pm at URC Church Hall
2. Community Litter Pick 14th December 2024 at 10am Village Hall
3. Bio-Diversity & Wildlife Working Group Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm at URC Church Hall

22. To resolve 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. Agreed the Appointment of New Clerk and starting Payscale
2. Agreed National Salary Award

Meeting closed 21.03hrs

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

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk