

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th March 2026 at the URC Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Donna Bridges (Chair), Terry Easter, Laura Johnson, Paula Murton and Jerry Voden & Rachel Belcher-Nairn (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Keith Welham & District Councillor Agnes Watson

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Studd & Melhuish.
2. Councillors voted to accept the apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Dispensation

None.

4. Minutes

All Councillors confirmed receipt of the minutes from the meetings of the 5th February 2026. Cllr Johnson proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 5th February 2026 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Easter seconded with all in favour.

5. Matters of report

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL - Matters of Report arising from Parish Council Meetings		
PC DATE	MATTER OF REPORT	COMMENT
14-Oct-21	Bloor Homes: Purchase of Thradstone Meadow	Update requested
05-Jan-23	Bus Shelter - Thorney Green Road	See agenda
02-Nov-23	Order and plant oak tree at cemetery	Purchase enquiry sent, awaiting response
01-Feb-24	Arrange CPR training	Email sent for third party to arrange
01-Aug-24	SID for Church Road	SID awaiting installation (waiting for weather to improve)
05-Sep-24	Bollards at Trinity Walk	MSDC carrying out works, awaiting update/date
06-Feb-25	Improvements to FP32	Works completed
01-May-25	Preventative measures around green	Ongoing
03-Jul-25	Re-surfacing of churchyard	Awaiting outcome of churchyard works - to review in spring
01-Sep-25	Bin replacement/repair	Bins installed (one to be adjusted)
01-Nov-25	Tree works to green	Waiting for green to dry before completion
06-Nov-25	Biodiversity works to green	See Clerk's report
19-Nov-25	Cemetery & churchyard works inc grave levelling	Works ongoing (did not include quote for grave levelling, quote requested)

6. Co-Option of Casual Vacancy

Cllr Voden proposed that Peter Scopes is elected onto the Parish Council. Cllr Easter seconded with all in favour. Peter Scopes signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

7. Public Forum

A resident provided an update on the Saxham St speed petition, which had 125 signatures. The resident is to contact Suffolk Highways for a site meeting with Councillor Welham and a representative from the Parish Council. This issue is covered further under Item 14.

A resident requested to attend the Greens meeting being arranged. The same resident also provided an update on the delivery of wildflower seed for the earthwork planting project and suggested an area for meadow management under Correspondence Item 14.

A resident complained that the cemetery still contained debris from tree cutting and was generally untidy. Clerk to review. The same resident also complained about delivery vehicles damaging areas of the green near Chapel Lane. Preventative measures to be investigated.

A resident reported that High School contractors had mistakenly cut trees belonging to the village hall. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the high school but is a matter for the high school and village hall to resolve.

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

Members confirmed receipt of the County Council report with no questions. Councillor Welham advised that he would no longer be County Councillor after May as a result of boundary re-organisation.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillor Janet Pearson:

Members confirmed receipt of the District Council report with no questions. Councillor Watson advised that Mid Suffolk magazines are being delivered to all households in the area. Please contact Councillor Watson if you do not receive one.

10. Planning

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

DC/26/00309

Plot 1, Land Adjacent To, 20 Saxham Street, Stowupland Suffolk

Application under S73A for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Outline Planning Permission: DC/21/04608 dated 15/10/2021 and subsequent Reserved Matters

Application DC/22/01872 dated 09/06/22 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - 2no. dwellings. - for variation of reserved matters Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) in relation to Plot 1 only as per submitted plans and documents.

Councillors resolved to SUPPORT the application.

- Councillors to note the decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:

None

- Councillors noted receipt of the Planning Factsheet from SALC.

11. Finance

- Councillors noted receipts received since last meeting:

Stowupland Parish Council - Receipts February 2025			
Receipts	Cheque / BACS /	Value	Notes
Spencer Wix	BACS	£ 25.00	Memorial - Paddy
Andrew Bingham	BACS	£ 450.00	Burial - Cooper
		£ 475.00	

- Councillors approved the March payments (BACs, DD, and cheque payments), proposed by Cllr Easter & seconded by Cllr Johnson.

Stowupland Parish Council - March 2026						
Expenditure		Cheque / BACS / SO	Net	VAT	Total	Notes
Cemetery reserve	DD	Anglia Water	£ 21.01		£ 21.01	Water rate
Expenses	BACS	Suffolk Police	£ 151.08		£ 151.08	Cost of police report for accident on green
Expenses	DD	Braclaycard	£ 2.77		£ 2.77	Posting bank forms for new account
Phone contract	DD	Tesco Mobile	£ 10.50		£ 10.50	
Scribe	DD	GOCARDLESS	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00	Starboard Systems
Cemetery Reserve	DD	GOCARDLESS	£ 23.00	£ 4.60	£ 27.60	Starboard Systems
Wages	BACS	D Long	£ 508.12		£ 508.12	
Wages	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 1,011.77		£ 1,011.77	
Expenses	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 26.00		£ 26.00	Working from home allowance
Pension	DD	Nest	£ 77.12		£ 77.12	
CIL	BACS	T L Banks	£ 680.00	£ 136.00	£ 816.00	Completion of FP32
Cemetery reserve	BACS	Social Gardener	£ 111.00		£ 111.00	Inv 81, 6 hrs cemetery gardening
Biodiversity	BACS	Keith Welham	£ 30.28	£ 6.06	£ 36.34	Sunflower seeds
Biodiversity	BACS	Keith Welham	£ 18.45		£ 18.45	Barley Close planting (SENSE)
Hall hire	BACS	URC	£ 192.50		£ 192.50	
			£ 2,898.60	£ 153.66	£ 3,052.26	

12. Babergh & Mid Suffolk Sustainability Consultation

- Councillors noted receipt of the updated Local Plan information from Babergh & Mid Suffolk
- Cllrs Bridges & Studd will work on feedback with the Clerk.

13. A1120 Junction Improvements

- Councillors noted the plans received from Highways and resolved to approve them, with Councillor Voden proposing, Councillor Easter seconding and all in favour.
- The Construction Estimate was noted as £7,978.36 (subject to adjustment depending on circumstance).

14. Saxham Street Road Safety

1. Councillors noted the petition launched to improve road safety in Saxham St.
2. All correspondence related to the issue was received.
3. Councillors confirmed receipt of Suffolk County Council Highways guidance for speed control, noting that there is nowhere suitable to place a SID in Saxham St.
4. As in Item 7, it was agreed that the next step would be a meeting with Highways to discuss options and whether a traffic survey would be advisable. A member of the Parish Council will attend the meeting.

15. Thorney Green Road Bus Shelter

1. Councillors agreed a quote of £320 (two days' labour) with one day contingency (£160).
2. The Clerk will purchase black barn paint for the project.

16. Cemetery

1. Councillors resolved to adopt the updated Cemetery Terms and Conditions.
2. A summary of terms will be placed on the cemetery noticeboard.

17. Governance

1. Councillors confirmed review and re-adopted the Code of Conduct.
2. Councillors confirmed review of the Internal Control Statement.
3. Councillors confirmed receipt of the 2025/26 GDPR Audit.

18. Change of May Meeting Date

The May 2026 meeting date has been moved from the 7th May to the 14th May 2026 due to Suffolk County Council elections taking place on the 7th.

19. Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the report from the Clerk and agreed the following actions:

1. The Clerk will advertise for volunteers for the wildflower planting.
2. Clerk to attend NALC conference.

20. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Murton enquired about the 'No Cycling' sign that's been removed from FP32. This was likely removed by SCC Highways as these signs are no longer used on footpaths.

Councillor Bridges reported that a resident had complained about the tree works carried out by the high school's contractors, who had left all waste on site. Areas look untidy as a result.

21. Correspondence

1. BMSDC Update
For Information Only
2. NSIP Update
FIO (spreadsheet available upon request)
3. Trading Standards bird flu notice
FIO (posted on PC website)
4. Email correspondence with resident re. Columbyne Close
FIO (to be resolved by MSDC)
5. National Grid update
FIO
6. Request to use village green for football practice
FIO
7. Correspondence with resident regarding cemetery
FIO
8. Notification of elections taking place
FIO
9. Correspondence with resident regarding weed outside Crown PH
FIO (land owner responsibility)
10. SALC planning blog
FIO
11. SALC Highways Survey
Cllrs Bridges & Studd will decide responses with the Clerk
12. Suffolk Preservation Society event
Clerk to attend
13. PCC Update
FIO
14. BMSDC grass cutting
Areas at eth end of Trinity Walk were identified and will be communicated to BMSDC

22. Dates of next meetings

1. SOAP 18th March 2026, 10am-12pm at Stowupland Sports & Social Club
2. Biodiversity group meeting 30th March 2026 at the URC Church Hall
3. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 2nd April 2026 7.30pm at the URC Church Hall

Meeting closed 20.24 hrs

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

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk