

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2026 at the Church Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: County Councillor Andrew Stringer (until 19.56) and District Councillor District Councillor Agnes Watson

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Johnson & Scopes, as well as District Councillor Pearson.
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 4th June 2026. Cllr Murton proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 4th June 2026 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.

5. Matters of report

PC DATE	MATTER OF REPORT	COMMENT
14-Oct-21	Bloor Homes: Purchase of Thradstone Meadow	Update requested again (May '26)
01-Feb-24	Arrange CPR training	Waiting for contact to confirm (via CW)
05-Sep-24	Bollards at Trinity Walk	MSDC have proposed location change, to determine on site
01-May-25	Preventative measures around green	See agenda, one quote pending
03-Jul-25	Re-surfacing of churchyard	See agenda
01-Sep-25	Bin replacement/repair	Bins installed (one to be adjusted)
01-Nov-25	Tree works to green	Completion summer due to hedgerow restrictions
19-Nov-25	Cemetery & churchyard works inc grave levelling	Grave levelling quote requested
02-Apr-26	Play park repairs	Meeting held with Play Park Officers 17/6/26, quotes pending
01-Mar-26	A1120 junction improvements	Waiting for SCC to progress / VH & school to resolve hedge issue
14-May-26	Speed survey Saxham St	Awaiting update from SCC
04-Jun-26	Preventative measures - Birch Close	Awaiting one further quote (meeting 30/6)

6. Public Forum

Reverend Roberts made it known that she, and the wider Church, are available for any residents in need. Parishioners of any faith are encouraged to contact the Church in times of struggle, with contact numbers advertised in the Telstar.

The A1120 roadside footpath between Plain English and Barn Cottages is very overgrown. Clerk to report on SCC portal.

Councillor Stringer provided a Saxham St resident with an update on plans to improve road safety, which include a traffic survey. Cllr Stringer has been liaising with Suffolk County Council Highways to progress this matter.

A member of the public presented the following issues:

- The churchyard meeting (see Item 12)
- Grass cutting: there were concerns some areas had been missed
- A query about restrictions on football clubs using the green at specific times on Sunday

Another member of the public commented on the grass cutting, with concern about the differing levels of the cut.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor Andrew Stringer

Members confirmed receipt of the County Council report, with Cllr Voden expressing further concern about the ongoing legal challenge by SCC against the Government's unitary council decision. Councillor Stringer stated that details are still unknown at this stage as the challenge letter has not been published. Plans to upgrade the A140 have been approved by Council but may be affected by the re-prioritisation of funds for defence spending.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors Janet Pearson and Agnes Watson:

Members confirmed receipt of the District Council report with no questions. Cllr Watson highlighted the new Locality and Pride in Your Place funding available, as well as the progress made with recycling. There is a Councillor Surgery at Haughley on the 25th July, with both District Councillors and County Councillor Stringer.

9. Planning

1. Councillors to review and approve a response to the following planning applications:
None
2. Councillors to note the decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:
None

10. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since last meeting:

Stowupland Parish Council - Receipts June 2026				
Receipts	Cheque / BACS /		Value	Notes
Cemetery reserve	BACS	Andrew Bingham	£ 330.00	Inv 43 - interment of ashes
Cemetery reserve	BACS	CoOp	£ 920.00	Inv 37 - burial
			£ 1,250.00	

2. Councillors approved the July payments (BACs, DD, and cheque payments), proposed by Cllr Studd & seconded by Cllr Voden.

Stowupland Parish Council - July 2026						
Expenditure		Cheque / BACS / SO	Net	VAT	Total	Notes
Expenses	DD	Barclaycard	£ 245.00	£ 49.00	£ 294.00	Pro forma invoice for biodiversity sign
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	£ 528.72		£ 528.72	
Wages	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 1,042.57		£ 1,042.57	
Expenses	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 26.00		£ 26.00	Working from home allowance
Pension	DD	Nest	£ 77.12		£ 77.12	
PAYE	BACS	HMRC	£ 858.85		£ 858.85	PAYE Q1 2026-27
CIL	BACS	Birketts	£ 2,550.00		£ 2,550.00	Land transfer - cemetery
CIL	BACS	Keith Welham	£ 470.40		£ 470.40	Bulbs for mound planting
CIL	BACS	Keith Welham	£ 345.98		£ 345.98	Seeds for mound planting
Pest Control	BACS	RSA pest Control	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	£ 300.00	Inv X2588, mole control
Tree surgery	BACS	W Jarvis & Sons	£ 575.00	£ 115.00	£ 690.00	Inv 450, emergency tree works at cemetery (silver birch)
Tree surgery	BACS	W Jarvis & Sons	£ 575.00	£ 115.00	£ 690.00	Inv 451, emergency tree works at cemetery (prunus & other)
Village maintenance	BACS	W Jarvis & Sons	£ 125.00	£ 25.00	£ 150.00	Inv 461, replacement of post
Tree survey	BACS	W Jarvis & Sons	£ 800.00	£ 160.00	£ 960.00	Inv 465, tree survey
			£ 8,538.14	£ 525.60	£ 9,063.74	

11. CIL/PIIP

1. Councillors received the below, updated, CIL application and will consider it at August's meeting:
 - i. Stowupland Village Hall Bowls Club, for £35,822

12. Cemetery & Churchyard

1. Councillors received the minutes from the Cemetery & Churchyard meeting and decided the following actions:
 - a. Clerk to obtain quotes for tidying gravel area at rear of church
 - b. Clerk to contact PCC regarding remedial churchyard works to see if re-surfacing is still required
 - c. Clerk to forward results of latest topple test
 - d. Check tree survey results for churchyard trees
 - e. Make agreed donation for biodiversity board
2. Councillors noted the discontinuation of current gardening services and agreed to seek a replacement

13. Play Park

1. To receive quotes for repair/replacement of play park equipment
2. To decide actions for issues raised in Play Inspection Report

14. Village Green - Preventative Measures

One further quote was received for suggested preventative measures around Birch Close:

- Installation of wooden posts around Thorney Green Road: £16,108+VAT

15. Benches

It was noted that multiple benches around the village are in need of repair or replacement. Councillors to map out locations and Clerk to obtain quotes for repair/replacement.

A replacement plaque is to be sought for the bench near M&M butcher.

16. BMSDC Local Plan

1. It was noted a scoping consultation on Babergh & Mid Suffolk's Joint Local plan is open for response from the 5 June to the 31 July 2026.
2. Co9uncillor Studd will respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

17. Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the report from the Clerk with no questions.

18. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Easter requested updates on the village sign re-positioning and A1120 junction improvements, which are both ongoing with no further update.

Councillor Voden noted that there is a new Emergency Plan Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council and reported that the Village Hall AGM is on the 13th July.

Councillor Voden also reported a concern from a resident about the path onto the green near Columbyne Close, which has accumulated stones and is difficult to access with a wheelchair. Chair & Clerk to assess.

Councillor Bridged reported that some areas of the green would be cut near Green Farm and that the school's gas cupboard had been broken into and left ajar. This has been reported to the school.

19. Correspondence

Councillors noted correspondence circulated and agreed the following actions:

1. BMSDC Briefing
For Information Only
2. SALC & NSGRTS Unauthorised Encampment Training
FIO
3. SALC News Bulletin
FIO (note AGAR changes)
4. Notice of increase to play inspection cost
FIO
5. SALC HR Bulletin – Sexual Harassment
FIO (check policy is up-to-date)
6. NSIP Update
FIO (spreadsheet available on request)
7. Email chain re. football pitch
Club to be contacted for more details.
8. SALC News Bulletin
FIO (note Call for Sites)
9. SALC HR Bulletin – Health
FIO
10. SALC News Bulletin
FIO (note changes to Registers of Interest)

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

It was noted that a change of solicitor is required and an update was provided on land transfer.

21. Dates of next meetings

1. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6th August 2026 7.30pm at the URC Church Hall

Meeting closed 20.32 hrs

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

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk