

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March 2025 at the URC Church Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Janet Pearson, County Councillor Keith Welham

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Power & Melliush 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 Councillors confirmed receipt of the minutes from the meetings of the 6th February 2025. Cllr Studd proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 6th February 2025 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Murton 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	On going (paperwork with solicitors)
01-Dec-22	Retreat Pond Project	On going
05-Jan-23	Bus Shelter - Thorney Green Road	Ongoing
02-Nov-23	Order and plant oak tree at cemetery	Spring
01-Feb-24	Arrange CPR training	Article to go into Telstar to gauge interest
07-Mar-24	Duck crossing Signs	PC to order and install
09-May-24	Play Park inspection quotes for work	Awaiting quotes
13-Jun-24	Churchyard Gates	Order placed - installation March
01-Aug-24	Quotes for Grass cutting	Contract in place, first cut due March
01-Aug-24	Quote no turning signs Thorney Green Road	Ongoing
01-Aug-24	Investigate permanent solar SID for Church Road	Post requested from SCC HW
01-Aug-24	Hornbeam Road Sign - reposition	Ongoing
01-Aug-24	Linden Homes - Ditch	Will be part of maintenance schedule
05-Sep-24	Bollards at Trinity Walk	Ongoing, hedge trimmed & bollards to be checked
03-Oct-24	Lending Library	Due to be fitted shortly
09-Jan-25	Anglian water to repair Green/bench	Ongoing
06-Feb-25	Improvements to FP32	Instigated

6. Public Forum

A resident asked for an update on Stowupland High school's 6th Form building, which was built using CIL funding for 6th Form facilities but doesn't seem to be used for that purpose. The Clerk will make enquiries with MSDC, which Cllr Welham offered to assist with.

A resident enquired about progress on plans for a car park to be built on Landex's Church Road development. This is a matter for Landex and Freeman Primary School/Holy Trinity Church as parking arrangements are for them.

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

Members confirmed receipt of the County Council report. There were no questions.

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

Members did not receive the District Council report, which was summarised by Cllr Pearson:

- Babergh & Mid Suffolk's Joint Local Plan will be published in April 2029
- The Government is running a consultation on Mayoral Authorities
- The annual budget was agreed
- Mid Suffolk Magazine was delivered to all residents of the region
- There were details for Community Funding & Locality Awards

There were no questions.

9. Planning

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

DC/25/00602&00603

Poplar Farm Saxham Street Stowupland Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5DF

Householder and Listed Buildings application -Erection of a two storey rear extension, including minor internal alterations. (following demolition of an existing single storey rear and side extension)

Cllr Studd proposed the Parish Council support this application, with Cllr Easter seconding and all in favour.

DC/25/00191

Grange Farm Cottage Saxham Street Stowupland Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5DA

Householder Application - Erection of an outbuilding/workshop.

Cllr Studd proposed the Parish Council support this application, with Cllr Beeson seconding and all in favour.

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

None decided

10. Finance

- Councillors noted receipts received since last meeting

Stowupland Parish Council - Receipts January 2025				
Receipts	Cheque / BACS /		Value	Notes
Mr		Cheque	£ 37.50	Allotment rent
Spencer Wix		BACs	£ 25.00	Memorial - Southgate
			£ 62.50	

- Councillors approved the March payments (BACs, DD, and cheque payments).

Proposed by Cllr Johnson & seconded by Cllr Beeson.

Stowupland Parish Council - Payments march 2024						
Expenditure	Cheque / BACS / SO		Net	VAT	Total	Notes
Wages	BACS	M Hawkins	£ 347.01		£ 347.01	
Wages	BACS	D Long	£ 247.87		£ 247.87	
Wages	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 1,029.60		£ 1,029.60	
Expenses	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 26.00		£ 26.00	Working from home allowance
Scribe	DD	GOCARDLESS	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00	Starboard Systems
Subscription	BACS	SLCC	£ 112.80		£ 112.80	Clerk membership (shared with other councils)
Training	BACS	SLCC	£ 205.00	£ 41.00	£ 246.00	Cemetery training x 3
Tree pruning	BACs	W Jarvis & Son	£ 350.00	£ 70.00	£ 420.00	Cutting back Chapel lane footpath
Cemetery maintenance	BACs	The Social Gardener	£ 148.00		£ 148.00	Inv 77, 8 hours cemetery
Pest control	BACs	RSA Pest Management	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00	Allotments
Pest control	BACs	RSA Pest Management	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	£ 300.00	Village green
Hall hire	BACs	URC	£ 190.00		£ 190.00	Invs 73 & 74, Oct 24 - Mar 25
Expenses	BACs	Laura Johnson	£ 18.48		£ 18.48	Topple test items
			£ 3,199.76	£ 216.00	£ 3,415.76	

11. MS365 Subscription

- Councillors approved setting up MS365 Business Standard, with Cllr Beeson proposing, Cllr Studd seconding and all in favour.
- Councillors voted to end the Zoom subscription with immediate effect, with Cllr Studd proposing, Cllr Johnson seconding & all in favour.

12. A1120 Junction Improvements

Councillors re-considered the scheme and its associated financial contribution, with Cllr Welham stating that this originated as a Parish Council project.

Cllr Beeson proposed arranging a meeting with Highways & Cllr Welham to discuss the scheme, with Cllr Easter seconding and all in favour. Surrounding properties and businesses would need to be notified of any works.

13. Ditch Maintenance

Cllr Easter proposed, with Cllr Beeson seconding & all in favour, to go ahead with the ditch maintenance of Birch Close but to request a quote for the disposal of material from the cemetery ditch before any dredging.

14. Cemetery & Churchyard

Councillors noted the receipt of the cemetery & churchyard group minutes, with no questions. Cllr Johnson provided an update on the topple test.

15. Clerk's Report

Cllrs noted the report with no questions.

16. Internal Audit

Councillor Voden proposed to appoint Heelis & Lodge as Internal Auditors for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, with Cllr Beeson seconding and all in favour.

17. Councillor's Reports

Cllr Voden reported a fire in the play area behind the Village Hall, which was reported to Suffolk Police. The mat is damaged but the play equipment is still functional.

Cllr Voden also extended his thanks to the Parish Council for their grant to the Telstar.

Cllr Murton reported that the bus shelter on Maple Road is in poor condition and panels possibly need replacing. Cllr Murton also confirmed the 2025 SOAP dates for the Telstar.

Cllr Studd requested that the bus stop on Thorney Green Road be added to the agenda for discussion in April as a result of its consistently poor appearance.

18. Correspondence

1. BMSDC Litter Picking Email
2. Keep Britain Tidy Email
3. SALC devolution update
4. Email from Jerry Voden re. VE day

A Committee is to be formed to plan events celebrating VE Day.

5. SALC Devolution webpage (all devolution updates will be posted there)
6. Devolution update from Janet Pearson, MSDC
7. Devolution Briefing Note from SCC
8. Email from Suffolk Cloud with .gov.uk offer

Councillors would like to conduct more research before moving to a .Gov.UK domain.

9. Response from SCC Highways re. overgrown hedge reported on B1115

The resident is to be contacted to cut back the hedge.

10. Response from SCC Highways re. faded road markings on Hornbeam/Maple Road
11. SALC email, NALC award winners

19. Dates of May meeting & Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Bridges proposed changing the date of the May meeting to the 1st of May and the Annual Parish Meeting to the 21st of May, with Cllr Easter seconding & all in favour.

20. Dates of next meetings

1. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3rd April 2025 7.30pm at the URC Church Hall
2. SOAP dates for 2025: 9 April, 2 July, 24 September, 3 December

21. Confidential Item

1. Councillors voted to agree solicitor works.

Meeting closed 20.23 hrs

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

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk