

STOWUPLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd April 2025 at the URC Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Donna Bridges (Chair), Laura Beeson, Debra Melliush, Hayden Power, Ray Studd, Jerry Voden, & Rachel Belcher-Nairn (Clerk)

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

The Chair started the meeting with the following tribute to District Councillor Rachel Eburne:

Good evening everyone

I would like to start the meeting this evening by speaking about the sad loss of our Mid Suffolk District Councillor Rachel Eburne. She was a very hard-working, caring councillor for the area in which she stood. Stowupland and the surrounding parishes were very lucky to have her on our side. She was very supportive and made sure that the Parish was kept up to date with everything that was going on.

On behalf of Stowupland Parish Council, I would like to send our condolences to her family for their loss and tell them how much we respected her and how much she will be missed.

1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Easter, Johnson and Murton.
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 March 2025. Cllr Studd proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 6th March 2025 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Cllr Beeson 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	Ongoing (paperwork with solicitors, update requested)
01-Dec-22	Retreat Pond Project	Ongoing
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	Gates removed for works 28th 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
05-Sep-24	Bollards at Trinity Walk	Ongoing, hedge trimmed & surface to be improved
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 spoke further to her correspondence regarding traffic concerns on Church Road. Outside of school times, traffic is often travelling in excess of the 30mph speed limit and there was a serious accident involving a motorbike and a car turning into its driveway. Cllr Voden said that data from SIDs can be sent to Suffolk Police for review. The resident will write to Suffolk County Council Highways, with Cllr Welham volunteering to get accident statistics for the road.

A resident requested that the Greens Committee look at the grass cutting on the green, outside the thatched cottages and near to Chapel Lane as the grass cutting is uneven. The Greens Committee will look at the areas.

Several residents reported not having received the Mid Suffolk Magazine that was due to be distributed to every Mid Suffolk resident. Cllr Pearson stated there have been problems with Royal Mail, which are being followed up by Mid Suffolk District Council. She will leave some copies in the butcher's for residents to pick up.

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

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

Cllr Welham updated the Parish Council on a change of Highways personnel, with the new engineer being invited to discuss the A1120 junction improvements.

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

Members confirmed receipt of the District Council report, which was summarised by Cllr Pearson:

- BMSDC's consultation on planning notice letters is now available for comment & Cllr Pearson encouraged comments.
- Following the Neighbourhood Plan meeting hosted by BMSDC, Cllr Bridges stated that a meeting is being arranged with Ian Poole (Neighbourhood Plan Consultant).
- The Enforcement team are working with Landex regarding the car park at the front of their development on Church Road.

Cllr Welham enquired about plans for a cycle path on the A1120, stating that the link between the high school and bus area/village hall was still waiting for completion. Cllr Pearson will investigate.

9. Planning

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

None received

2. Councillors noted the decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:

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.

Permission was GRANTED.

10. Finance

1. Councillors noted receipts received since last meeting

Stowupland Parish Council - Receipts March 2025				
Receipts		Cheque / BACS /	Value	Notes
Barclays		Interest	£ 1,634.26	Premium Account
Barclays		Interest	£ 37.54	Community events account
			£ 1,671.80	

2. Councillors approved the April payments (BACs, DD, and cheque payments).

Proposed by Cllr Beeson & seconded by Cllr Melliush.

Stowupland Parish Council - Payments April 2024						
Expenditure	Cheque / BACS / SO		Net	VAT	Total	Notes
Wages	BACS	M Hawkins	£ 291.21		£ 291.21	55.80 tax (to be confirmed)
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
Expenses	BACS	R Belcher-Nairn	£ 35.59		£ 35.59	Zoom & phone top ups
Scribe	DD	GOCARDLESS	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00	Starboard Systems
Solicitor fees	BACS	Birketts	£ 567.00	£ 113.40	£ 680.40	Fees for land transfer
Biodiversity	BACS	Telstar	£ 44.00		£ 44.00	Biodiversity questionnaire
Infrastructure	BACS	Suffolk County Council	£ 1,671.74	£ 334.35	£ 2,006.09	Street light maintenance
PAYE	BACS	HMRC	£ 168.24		£ 168.24	
			£ 4,116.25	£ 454.75	£ 4,571.00	

11. VAT Return

Councillors noted the VAT return submitted for the period 01.08.24-31.12.24 at £14200.13.

12. Governance

Cllr Studd proposed, with Cllr Melliush seconding and all in favour:

1. Councillors approve and adopt the Standing Orders.
2. Councillors approve and re-adopt the Code of Conduct.
3. Councillors approve and adopt the Internal Control Statement.
4. Councillors confirm receipt of the 2024/25 GDPR Audit.
5. Councillors confirm receipt of the 2024/25 Policy Review schedule and their associated policies for review.

13. A1120 Junction Improvements

Cllr Welham explained the recently received costings in detail, confirming that the Parish Council's highest possible contribution would be £20,559.

Cllr Melliush proposed, with Cllr Voden seconding and all in favour, that the Parish Council's commitment to contribute up to £22,000 stands – with MSDC contribution of £9,999.

Cllr Welham will order the design works to commence, which will provide an accurate cost for the works to be completed.

14. Biodiversity Group

Councillors noted the receipt of the biodiversity report and recommendations.

Cllr Melluish proposed that, due to the low response rate, no recommendations be acted upon until the Parish Council has met with the Biodiversity group within the next 2 years of the current grass cutting schedule. Cllr Studd seconded with all in favour.

Cllr Bridges requested that the pond works be progressed.

15. Clerk's Report

Cllrs noted the report with the following actions:

- Request a quote from W Jarvis to empty the cemetery disposal container
- Enquire with MSDC as to the ownership of the ditch between Thorney Green Road and Columbine Close

16. Councillor's Reports

Cllr Voden received a request to provide advice to Speed Watch in Bury Street, Stowmarket, who would also like to borrow some equipment.

Cllr Melluish reported fly tipping into the Oak Meadows site ditch and raised the issue of there being no bins between Stowupland and Stowmarket. Investigations are to be made into installing a bin close to the A14 bridge.

Cllr Power asked for an update on the traffic issues on Oxlip Way. The Clerk confirmed there had been no response to the requests.

Cllr Bridges reported that Parish Council signs are being removed from Trinity Meadows & Village Hall noticeboards. The instructions were also removed from an item of trim trail equipment but the manufacturer has kindly replaced this for free.

17. Correspondence

1. Request for biodiversity work in Churchyard
Approved; respond with permission.
2. Gateway Stakeholder Meeting date
3. Correspondence with Address Management re. Hornbeam Road
Waiting for a response.
4. SALC Devolution Update
5. Invitation to Stowmarket Mayor's History Talk
Cllr Voden will inform Stowupland History Group.

6. Norwich to Tilbury Consultation

Councillors were encouraged to submit a response.

7. Consultation link for the proposal to stop sending planning letters (BMSDC)

Councillors were encouraged to submit responses.

8. Invitation to SALC AGM

9. Link from SALC with slides & recording of the Devolution drop in session with MHCLG

10. Resident concern over traffic & accident on Church Road

11. Mid Suffolk's Devolution Presentation (slides available upon request)

12. Mid Suffolk Neighbourhood Planning Meeting Summary (slides available upon request)

13. MSDC's Adoption of Biodiversity & Trees Local Plan

14. Loft insulation offer (sent to Telstar)

15. SALC Devolution Update

16. Mid Suffolk Area Forum Summary

17. Bin emptying price update from MSDC

18. 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.

19. Dates of next meetings

1. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 1st May 2025 7.30pm at the URC Church Hall
2. SOAP 9th April 2025
3. Lighting of the Stowupland beacon to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day 8th May

Meeting closed 20.47 hrs

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

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk