



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: - Mrs Joy Hart, Sucrierie, Old Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk IP31 2BX

Tel: - 01359 408759

Email stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chair – Francis Hart

Vice Chair – Barbara Smithson

NOTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 9 April 2020 virtually by Zoom.

Present: F J Hart (Chair), B Smithson (Vice-chair), M Scowcroft, B Gordon, B Brown, A Shelton, D Cleland-Smith

- 1. Apologies for absence accepted:** Cllr J Frizzell, J Miller, P Smith, A Kemp, DCllr Thorndyke and CCllr Spicer
- 2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 12 March** were approved.
- 3. Public Forum:** No members of the public had access to the meeting – awaiting further guidance from Coronavirus Bill and National Association of Local Councils. No email requests received by the Clerk.
- 4. Report from:**
D Cllr J Thorndyke – via email as unable to access the meeting remotely

Query from last month regarding extension in Sturgeons Way, apparently this was logged as started by Building Regs in 2011 and therefore so long as it complies with plans approved in 2010 can be completed 'at leisure'.

Lots of work in West Suffolk Council (WSC) at the moment in administering government assistance to many businesses including quite a few in Stanton, many staff redeployed on this with literally several thousand phone calls and working through business rate register so all should have received phone call and very simple forms to complete by email.

Many meetings will switch to on line but not using 'zoom' WSC still have concerns, smaller 'meetings' being done on 'team'. Annual Council meeting in May has been cancelled and existing chair and vice chair of council will remain in place probably for next year. April planning committee meeting has been delayed/cancelled, and next one at end of April is in doubt as they have to follow certain legal bits with public speaking and ability to 'attend', any procedure will need to be cleared with 'government'.

Have been involved with changes needed to constitution to allow revised procedures to how council will operate – nothing dramatic but needs to satisfy legal requirements and comply with new regulations which came into force on 4th April and apply to all 'local authorities'.

Work on new local plan for WSC has been slowed down and will probably kick off again in October.

Well done to Joy on the organisation with the Parish Council on the local volunteer scheme, seems to be working as planned.

S C Cllr J Spicer – via email

The last 3 weeks have been fraught and worrying for everybody. In different ways I seem to have been in touch with all the villages in the Blackbourn Division but I am sorry not to have written more

formally to you all sooner - but every day the situation seemed to change.

I am very proud of what I hear about how villages have put together different ways to keep in touch with their communities and to identify and support those vulnerable people and families that need extra support at this awful time. I have also been impressed with how the county council has responded to the crisis and I will try in this message to summarise briefly how our SCC services are helping.

We are also linked in with our partners in the Suffolk Resilience Forum (Districts, NHS, Police and voluntary sector).

Public Health is part of Suffolk County Council and is of course in touch several times a day with Public Health England. It was terribly sad that the first death in Suffolk from this terrible disease was Jane Jay from Ixworth and I know all of us will send our sympathy to her family whilst realising how close to us all the danger now seems

As you would expect, caring and supporting the most vulnerable people - mostly very elderly - but also those with long term mental and physical health problems, is our vital leadership role. We are also leading the liaison with the care sector and residential and nursing homes as well as our own care provision. I was assured this morning that we are fully involved in pressing to speed up delivery of PPE to Suffolk.

As you will all be aware the response to the call for volunteers to help with shopping, prescription collection and telephone calls has been amazing. What is needed now is to spread the word. This phone line (0800 876 696) can be used by residents, family and friends in Suffolk. I am assured it is very quick and efficient. "Home but not alone" is a great Suffolk message. Download the App to volunteer.

We have allocated £60k to food banks in Suffolk which is being distributed around the county

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are doing an amazing job delivering food parcels to the identified frail elderly with highlighted health needs. Sadly, one of the first deaths in Suffolk was a recently retired firefighter.

Suffolk Trading Standards have been extra busy as they now have the key role following the legislation passed last week in ensuring compliance with the COVID 19 rules for businesses, shops, pubs etc. They have agreed protocols and procedures with Police and environmental health to ensure all is fair and understood that it is to protect the NHS and the wider population

Schools have been fantastic and teachers and leaders have worked hard to continue to be open for children with special needs and the children of key workers. Bardwell School is now closed and I believe Hopton will soon close. The others will also be staying open over Easter to help (they all deserve a clap too!). We are also working with schools to support arrangements or free school meals and vouchers

Sadly, but I know you will understand, we have now closed our recycling centres

I do have concerns about a seeming increase in domestic abuse with the challenges and difficulties relationships and families may be undergoing. Anything serious should ideally be reported to the police but also please keep handy the domestic abuse helpline 0808 2000 247

Hope you are all keeping well and safe (let me know if not) and thank you again for all you are doing in your village in these difficult times.

5. **Clerk's Report:** - there were no queries with the report enclosed with agenda.
6. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest in items on the Agenda
7. **Planning Applications:**
 - a. **New Applications received**

RESPONSE – There are no objections to this application

b. Previous applications decided –

Table 1 Planning Applications determined

Reference	Address	Stanton PC response	West Suffolk DC decision	Decision date
DC-19-1918-FUL	Chardale, Dale Road	Support	Approved	10/03/20
DC-20-0139-TCA	Oak House, The Street	Insufficient information	No objections	13/03/20
DC-20-0180-HH	1 Church Close	Support	Approved	24/03/20
DC-20-0181-HH	41 Honeymeade Close	Support	Approved	24/03/20
DC-19-1918-FUL	Resubmission - Chardale	Support	Approved	10/03/20
DC-19-0241-TPO	Shepherds Grove Park	Support	Granted	16/03/20
DC-20-0205-HH	Dewdrop Bury Road	Support	Approved	27/03/20

- c. Other Planning issues –** Clerk is experiencing some difficulty with on line portal as submitted comments are not being received. This problem has been reported to them already and comments are being sent to individual planning officers separately by email to ensure comments are considered.

8. Statutory Business/Governance/Contracts

- a.** The Chair proposed that delegated powers be granted to the Chair, Vice Chair and one other Cllr in respect of urgent matters only whilst the Coronavirus restrictions are in force. After discussion this was approved. Any decisions to be reported to all Councillors as soon as possible.
- b.** The Chair proposed that the signing of the accounts be delegated to the Clerk having first received approval from at least two of the signatories by email confirmation. The Clerk to circulate the invoices to all so Councillors could raise any issues before payment. This to be done on a monthly basis unless of an urgent nature when the Clerk can authorise spending of up to £300 as per Financial Regulations.

9. Accounts

- c.** The accounts as below were authorised for payment. (General Power of Competence applies)
Bank account total as at 31/03/20 – 59366.75

Table 2 List of payments and receipts

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Monthly water charges - Pumping Station (Apr)
Now TV	25.99		25.99	Phone and Broadband (Mar)
Stanton CVH	42.00		42.00	Room Hire – Q4
Suffolk Cloud	110.00		110.00	Website hosting 2020-21
SALC	877.09		877.09	Annual Membership 2020-21
PWLB	10064.91		10064.91	Loan Payment – First half year 2020-21
HMRC	420.60		420.60	PAYE Q4
Staff salaries	1168.10		1168.10	Litter Picker, street cleaner and Clerk Salary (Apr)
RECEIPTS				
Lloyds Interest	2.32			
Recycling Credit	1249.50			
Allotments	77.50			

10. Matters for discussion:

- a. Parish Council response to Coronavirus and Business Continuity.**

The Clerk reported that the Volunteer scheme currently held a list of 24 people willing to offer support to the vulnerable. 11 of those have been 'buddied up' with a resident seeking support. There has been a lot of requests for collection of medication and the Clerk has been liaising with the Doctors surgeries at Botesdale, Ixworth and Stanton to offer support.

Shepherds Grove Park is being looked after by the Park Manager Sharon Whelan who is doing a fantastic job up there with all residents being given a 'red card' to display if they are in trouble and she is patrolling the park daily as well as collecting all prescriptions from Stanton.

The Clerk has widely advertised the help available from local businesses who are delivering food and provisions

One volunteer has started a food bank with the help of All Saints Church and support of Reverend Cathy Blayden and this is running well with donations being taken to Bury to be co-ordinated and distributed to families in urgent need.

The Clerk is receiving requests for help from the 'Home but not alone' scheme launched by Suffolk County Council and this is also working well.

It would appear that many of our elderly and vulnerable residents are being identified by neighbours without any intervention being needed by the Council.

Cllr Shelton raised the issue of groups gathering and whether the Council could take any further action to disperse them. After discussion it was agreed that any such groups should be reported to the Police and Councillors should not get involved in challenging this type of behaviour.

Annual Parish Meeting – due on 21 May 2020. This to be cancelled in line with Government advice. There will be no Community Recognition Awards this year.

The Clerk to contact all Village Organisations who normally contribute to the Annual meeting and seek a report which can be published in the Steamer.

Cllr Gordon previously circulated details of how Zoom conferencing could be used to provide a live feed of the May meeting via Facebook. The Clerk will seek to undertake some training to allow the public to join the May meeting – however SALC has advised that this should be by invitation (i.e the public are invited to email the Clerk in advance who will then send the link to the meeting) and not an 'open house' to avoid the meeting being 'highjacked' by persons with no connection to the meeting or village.

The Clerk reported having attended some instructional conferences in relation to Zoom conferencing. A resume of that conference will be forwarded to Councillors for information and to inform decision making.

After discussion it was agreed that the May meeting will be held by Zoom conference. Should the Chair and Vice Chair be unavailable by way of sickness then the Councillors at the meeting will appoint a Chair.

The Agenda will be circulated via the website and Social Media and the public invited to email the Clerk if they wish to take part.

Cllr Gordon said that he felt really proud of the volunteer work that was being carried out and it was great that this had been set up in the Community. It was important to keep an eye on how it unfolds.

11. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. No urgent matters – all Coronavirus guidance circulated to all Councillors from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council and County and District Councillors

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.55pm

Minutes signed as correct..... F J Hart