



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: - Mrs Joy Hart, Sucrerie, Old Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk IP31 2BX
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Chair – Francis Hart

Vice Chair – Barbara Smithson

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 9 July 2020 virtually by Zoom conference. Part of the meeting was recorded.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Apologies for absence:

Present – Cllr Hart (Chair), Cllr Smithson (Vice Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Cleland-Smith, Cllr Frizzell, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Scowcroft, Cllr Shelton, Cllr Smith.

Apologies for absence accepted - Cllr Miller

Also present – CCllr Spicer and DCllr Thorndyke

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 June 2020 were approved - proposed by Cllr Smithson and seconded by Cllr Brown

The Chair made the following statement – The Council are aware of comments made on Social Media. Enquiries are ongoing about these and no further comment will be made until enquiries are complete.

NB - Due to the content of the comments the following has been reported largely verbatim.

Cllr Gordon then asked to make a comment and said that he would answer any questions the public had to so with anything whatsoever. He would be happy to answer any questions and would do so exercising his right to freedom of expression

3. Public Forum: 13 members of the public had emailed the Clerk and had been sent details of the Zoom Meeting login. 8 of the 13 attended the meeting.

Residents AS and DS wanted to observe.

Resident CHE wanted to ask the County Councillor about problems with the Rose and Crown development (Covered in the report below)

Resident MJ wanted to observe. LF did not attend. KD did not attend. SS wanted to observe. HT wanted to observe. A did not attend.

Resident DJ wanted to report the footpath to Hillcrest Nursery at George Hill was badly overgrown and asked what the Council could do about that. The Clerk has already reported it to SCC and encouraged the resident to do likewise.

Resident DJ also wanted clarification in respect of the Stanton NHW scheme which did not appear to be on the official list of NHW schemes. He had raised a complaint about the content of the comments on the NHW Facebook page and the way it was being run.

Cllr Gordon responded by saying that the scheme was run by him and had been affiliated to the National NHW scheme since 2019 and that he was in regular contact with Tony Spall who was the Chairman of Suffolk NHW. He said that it is run separately from the Parish Council and 'In relation to posts on Social Media my family has been subject to detriment by the Harts and it is completely inexcusable what the email that was

sent across as well as the comments and my family will continue and will and are being bullied which was admitted to by Francis and I'm not going to stand for that'.

DJ interjected and said that the concerns he had would be taken up with separately with the other body as Cllr Gordon pointed out that the Council was not responsible for the NHW page.

The Chair responded by saying that originally the Council were in full support of a NHW scheme being set up which had been done by Cllr Gordon. Cllr Gordon interjected and said that it was not correct and that the Chair had told him that 'this is not going to work', 'I wouldn't bother, its been tried before' and he had a lot of backlash over the NHW scheme and when he said that he was going to be setting up the NHW scheme anyway and on line then there was an interest and 'can we be the administrators' from Joy Hart and as he felt that there was no interest so 'I am the NHW co-ordinator related to Suffolk and the National Branch'.

The Chair asked DJ if that answered his question, DJ said that he was satisfied with the answer. LM did not respond.

BJ had a couple of questions in respect of Social Media. That a letter sent by Joy Hart to the landlord of Cllr Gordon – were the Council, aware of this letter.

The Chair repeated his opening statement and asked BJ for his second question.

BJ said that he was not happy with the response and would like to know who authorised the sending of the letter. The Chair responded that the letter was sent with the knowledge of the other officers of the Council.

Cllr Gordon interjected – 'I would like to personally know – which Councillors colluded in stalking my home which are mentioned in a covering letter from Joy Hart that other Councillors are involved. No one rang my door bell, no one gave me a phone call. I've been to every Parish Council meeting this year. I've been to extra meetings and I've also been a regular email correspondent. I believe this is malicious. I've been racially profiled, my family's safety has been called into question, complete unfounded. I work as a full-time firefighter, I'm the Village NHW co-ordinator and on top of that I'm a Parish Councillor. This is absolutely inexcusable. Completely unacceptable and my stand from here is that Joy and Francis Hart need to step down, all the Parish Council needs to resign and at the earliest opportunity there needs to be another election for this to happen and so that faith can be restored in to the public that they have a Parish Council that represents them and are not abusing Public Office'.

The Chair acknowledged the comments of Cllr Gordon.

BJ said that he wanted to say that apart from small differences he wouldn't disagree with what Cllr Gordon had said and that as a resident he was very concerned the way that the Parish had dealt with it and asked why they hadn't contacted Cllr Gordon himself and asked the question as it seemed a bit heavy handed. He was concerned with the tone of the letter and if it was sent with the approval of the Parish Council, thought that the Parish Council ought to consider their position.

Cllr Gordon said he would like to add to that by saying that 'the Parish Council there is no committee at the moment that he is aware of, that the Parish Council set up their own meeting which they didn't tell me about. They called for Joy to apologise to me and for a verbal warning to Joy to be given out and the apology that I received that was asked for by the Parish Council didn't come naturally to Joy. It gave two excuses. Gave excuses whys to giving it. If you're going to give an apology, I believe it needs to be an apology where you own up for what you've done. You don't make excuses when you apologise. You don't say oh I did it because of this and that. Cos I didn't know you lived there, because I was concerned about your families safety which was completely unfounded. These excuses – if you're going to apologise you don't make excuses. You either say you are apologising or you don't.'

'The Harts need to step down and at the earliest opportunity the Parish Council needs to have another election to restore public faith'.

BJ asked that the result of the enquiry be made public and asked for the time frame.

The Chair advised that the Council has a Personnel Working Party and their findings will be considered by full Council in due course when a statement will be issued.

BJ asked what independent review of the Council could take place and what independent body could oversee what the Council were doing.

The Chair responded that the Clerk was responsible to the Council and the Council are responsible to the electorate and if any member of the electorate are unhappy with the Council or any member of the Council they can report it through the complaints procedure with the West Suffolk Council.

Cllr Gordon said that there is no governing body there is no monitoring officer above the Parish Council. 'I have spoken to Suffolk and West Suffolk Councillors and they have said they are unable to do anything and they are not there to discipline Parish Councillors so that's why it's up to the Public to make the decision'.

BJ wanted to ask about the hedgerow at Old Bury Road and whether the bank was going to be cut back as it was considered to be very dangerous as the road narrowed considerably. The Chair asked that he put the detail in an email for the Clerk to report to Suffolk CC.

The Chair advised that the Public Forum had completed and the public were free to leave the meeting or remain.

Cllr Gordon wished to add that 'I want to thank all the members of the public for their support on social media for my family and I really appreciate it – it means a lot'.

4. Report from:

- a. S C Cllr J Spicer reported a couple of things raised by the public – DJ reported a problem with the B1111 pavement. It's a very narrow one built many years ago and CC have had a lot of problems keeping it a decent width for push chairs and wheelchairs. Hedge is massive. It has been cut back but every year the leaves cause a muddy mess that narrows the pavement. DJ said that the branches are now coming to the edge of the kerb and need urgent attention.

In response to BJ and the hedge at Old Bury Road – I have looked at it with a CC officer. Restrictions on cutting March to September. Chair advised that the hedge has been cut this week.

Village walk recently – path running parallel to A143 towards Goldsmith Grove towards Hepworth Rd has been cut and will be funded from her locality budget.

Another footpath – Mr E reported Footpath 7 from Bardwell Rd to Lower Chare Farm was impassable, Been visited by her and ROW officer. Bridge has gone. Need to find someone who may know where the bridge was to assist.

Grundle bridge repairs are still in hand in respect of damage caused by flooding last year.

Pleased that planning consent for the Old School site has been granted.

Has had a meeting in respect of the Rose and Crown site. She will circulate a report about the progress of negotiations with the developer. It is still an ongoing situation. Resurfacing has been completed by the developer but the visibility splay at the entrance to the A143 has not, neither has the dropped kerb to the opposite pavement. There are still a number of issues to be resolved such as landscaping, the bin store and the entrance.

The developer is now responding and working with the planners so it is hoped that progress can be made.

Cllr Spicer then left the meeting.

- b. B Cllr J Thorndyke reported that the Civil Parking enforcement was underway in Bury St Edmunds with over 1700 tickets issued to date. Some reasonable excuses were being allowed.

Cllr Smith asked whether the Civil Enforcement officers would be seen in Stanton

DCllr Thorndyke reported that it was unlikely as they were only dealing with regulatory yellow lines and traffic orders of which Stanton didn't have any. It was still up to the Police to deal with obstructions if and where they occur.

The Planning application for the Old School building has been approved. The side window that was causing some concern will be obscure glazed.

An appeal has been received in respect of the refusal of planning permission for the property at Lakelin House off Barningham Road. The Parish Council were concerned about visibility issues.

The Tripp Batt site has resubmitted plans for the site which are not yet at the detailed stage.

In relation to the Doctors Surgery the application is going to the Panel on 14 July to be referred to committee which will probably be 5 August for comments. Will confirm once a date is set.

An appeal has been received in respect of the refusal of Planning permission for the bungalow in Bobbys Way. The Parish Council has already submitted an objection but any further comments can be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Brown asked whether there was any further progress on the Tripp Batt site – it was understood that the land was being sold separately to the main site allocated to the Co-op. DCllr Thorndyke said that there were still some issues to be resolved in respect of access to Foundry Cottage and Foundry House

5. **Clerk's Report:** There were no queries with 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** – None received
 - b. **Determined Applications**

Reference	Address	PC response	West Suffolk decision	Decision date
DC-20-0651-FUL	Floodlights - Recreation Ground Old Bury Road	No comment made	Approved	01/07/20

c. Other Planning matters –

Planning Appeal Notification -AP/20/0019/STAND

DC/19/1280/OUT Lakelin House – Barningham Road. Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved) - 2no. dwellings

RESPONSE – No further comments

8. Coronavirus Updates

- a. The Chair updated the Council with action taken to reopen the Play Area in accordance with Govt Guidelines. A Risk assessment had been completed and notices posted on the railings. This information has also been posted to the website and to Social Media. The Street Cleaner has been instructed to spray all touch holds on the play area and gym equipment on a daily basis. The Clerk would be doing it at the weekends
The latest guidance from Government, County and District Councils relating to Covid 19 has been circulated.

9. Matters for discussion:

- a. Special Motion (Standing Order 7a) – Proposed by Cllr Smith that in view of new information received from Philip Lown who was co-ordinating the project for Suffolk County Council it was recommended that the tables to be purchased are the outdoor semi-permanent tables at a cost of £685 per table. The motion was seconded by Cllr Shelton

RESOLVED – That the semi-permanent tables be purchased as above. Clerk to complete application form and send to Philip Lown.

- b. The Chair proposed that the new surface at the Multi Goal be enhanced with a Free Throw 'Key Hole' and a 3-point line as suggested by service users. The work to be carried out by Anglia Surface Care who are experienced in lining sports courts. The quotation was for a cost of £340 plus VAT

RESOLVED – That Anglia surface care be instructed to complete the works as quoted. Clerk to deal.

- c. Cllr Kemp proposed that a new litter bin be purchased for installation in Barningham Road as previously discussed as the one in storage at the Clock Tower was unsuitable and had parts

missing. The proposal was for a 'Fido 25' Waste bin at a cost of £90.85 with fixings of £107.00 and delivery charges.

RESOLVED – That the bin be purchased from Glasdon UK. Clerk to deal

- d. The Chair has received a complaint from another local trader of a Burger Van trading on a Friday night from the bus shelter area. This was considered to be an unfair advantage as there were no overhead costs and dangerous as it was close to the junction. The trader does not need a street permit to trade. The Chair had spoken to the Street trader who has agreed to move the van to the place occupied by the pizza van on a Tuesday evening. It was agreed that there should be a level playing field but there were currently no restrictions.

RESOLVED – That the situation be monitored for any further problems

10. Statutory Business/Governance (Clerk)

- a. Model Member Code of Conduct Consultation – Cllr to respond individually if they wish.

11. Accounts

- a. The accounts as below were authorised for payment. (General Power of Competence applies)
 b. Bank Account total as at 30/6/20 - £111,415,10. The Bank statement and Quarter 1 budget was circulated electronically.

Table 1 List of payments and receipts

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Monthly water charges - Pumping station
Hillcrest	481.01	80.17	400.84	Summer planting - Village Tubs
Playquip	3165.00	527.50	2637.50	Refurbish multi goal area
Ligna Consultancy	132.00	22.00	110.00	Annual Tree Survey
Mrs J Hart	18.99	3.16	15.83	Replacement gate padlock
Browns Tree Services	120.00	20.00	100.00	Tree Works overhanging footpath
M J Nunn	8884.20	1480.70	7403.50	Resurfacing works for Table Tennis
Fantastic Fireworks	2784.49	464.08	2320.41	Fireworks Order
Browns Tree Services	960.00	160.00	800.00	Tree Works - Hepworth Road for Suffolk CC
HMRC	420.60		420.60	PAYE Q1 - 20-21
Mrs J Hart	15.18	2.17	13.01	Admin and postage
Staff Salaries	1168.10		1168.10	Litter picker, street cleaner and Clerk Salary (July)
RECEIPTS				
Lloyds Bank Interest	4.55			Bank Interest Jun

12. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. Coronavirus Updates circulated as received
 b. Library Service reopening and Recovery plans noted

13. Correspondence

- a. SALC – Notice of AGM on 30 July 2020 has been circulated to all Councillors
 b. Mr E re Footpath Issues – Bardwell Road and Kings Lane. CCllr Spicer is liaising with Mr E re Bardwell Road footpath 7 as per her report above.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.10pm

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