



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Vice Chair – Phil Smith

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 10 June 2021 at 7pm at Stanton Village Hall.

AGENDA - the meeting was chaired by Cllr Smith in the absence of Cllr Hart.

1. Roll call and apologies for absence

Present – P Smith (Vice Chair), B Smithson, J Frizzell, B Brown, A Kemp, D Cleland Smith, K Davies.

Apologies for absence accepted – Cllr M Scowcroft, F J Hart (Chair), A Shelton.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 6 May 2021 were approved

3. Public Forum: One member of the public was present in relation to item 7a on the agenda.

4. Report from:

D Cllr J Thorndyke

- The Parish and Town Forum will be held on 14th July 2021 via Microsoft teams.
- Local Plan update – West Suffolk have commenced a review of the local plan which will set out the long-term planning and land use policies for the area. This is making progress.
- Has attended another session on the revised Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- Car Park Charges will increase for West Suffolk with effect from 5 July 2021.
- The Western Way development discussion of Council facilities is ongoing.
- Apologies for the poor quality of grass cutting in the Churchyards this month. A reserve crew carried out the work which was not up to the standards of the usual team

Cllr Thorndyke was asked about the old Rose and Crown public house now on the market but was still awaiting the replacement sign as part of the planning permission. Cllr Thorndyke acknowledged that the sign was still missing and the matter was with the planning enforcement team.

S CCllr J Spicer

- Old Primary School site – no progress to report on demolition plans
- Highways Officer - Francesca Clarke has been asked to deal with issues at Hepworth Road in relation to speeding
- The Primary school has written a letter to parents and businesses in Shepherds Grove in relation to speeding. It would be good to arrange a meeting with the school to discuss what can be done to make the area safer

5. Clerk's Report: There were no queries with the report of the previous months activities.

6. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

7. Statutory Business/Governance

- a. Councillors considered two applications for co-option to the vacancy of Councillor. In accordance with the Co-option policy the candidate in attendance was given the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council. They then left the meeting whilst the applications were deliberated. On return to the meeting, Cllrs voted by a show of hands and co-opted Lorraine Frost to the Council.

Resolved – the applicant meets the criteria and is therefore co-opted to the Council.

- b. The Risk Assessment 2021 was approved.

8. Planning Applications

a. New Applications -

DC/21/0951/HH | Householder planning application - single storey front extension | 46 Fordhams Close Stanton IP31 2EE

RESPONSE - Council are in support of improving the property but have some concerns that the front extension will affect the visual amenity of surrounding properties by its incursion into the front garden and a loss of potential parking space.

DC/21/1121/HH | Householder planning application - single storey rear and side wrap around extension with hipped roof | 17 The Chase Stanton IP31 2XA

RESPONSE - There are no objections to this application

b. Determined Applications –

Table 1 Determined applications

PCM date	Reference	Address	PC decision	West Suffolk decision	Decision date
08/04/21	DC-21-0573-TPO	Willow House Duke Street	Support	Granted	13/05/21
06/05/21	DC-21-0688-HH	Doctors Hall, Bury Lane	Support	Approved	20/05/21
06/05/21	DC-21-0704-HH	21 Hilltop Way	Support	Approved	24/05/21

9. Matters for discussion:

- a. **Public toilet on Recreation Ground** – Cllr Brown reported that he has recently been advised by a resident that the public toilet on the Recreation Ground was in a poor state. The flush was not working and there was no running water available.

The Clerk advised that misuse was a problem with a large amount of toilet roll being put down the toilet and soap being stolen on a regular basis. The Clerk and the street cleaner have been using buckets of water to clear the toilet on a regular basis. The flush has recently been repaired and there is water available in the sink which is a push tap.

Cllr Brown suggested that if people cannot treat them properly then the Council should give consideration to closing them down.

During discussion it was commented that the facility is well used by persons using the Recreation Ground and by local delivery drivers and it would be a shame to lose it.

It was agreed that the Clerk will prepare an article for the Steamer to advise the public that they will be closed if the situation does not improve. To be reviewed in the Autumn.

Action – Clerk to prepare an article for the Steamer

- b. **Adoption of Roads – Abbey Homes.** Cllr Brown had previously circulated an email sent to a resident by the MD of Abbey Homes in respect of the adoption of roads. The content was as follows -

With regard to your second email, headed 'Adoption of Roads – Mill Road, Stanton', I would advise you that I have taken yet further legal advice and have been again reassured that the provisions we've made in our individual Plot Transfers should be sufficient for Suffolk County Highways to gain periodic access for maintenance and inspection to the soakaways that serve the new highway. In addition, and independently, I am advised that the Highway Authority can rely on its statutory rights pursuant to, for example, Section 100 (5) of the Highways Act.

Suffolk County Highways have, in fact, recently adopted the junctions serving Hepworth Road and Upthorpe Road, pursuant to a Section 278 Agreement. Given that road gullies at the junction on Hepworth Road do connect into one of the new soakaways and they serve what is now adopted highway, then it rather implies that the County Council have already accepted the provisions that are in place.

My Solicitor has written again to bring these matters to the attention of one of the Officers in the Legal Department and asked that they reconsider their position and allow the adoption process to proceed without further delay. On reflection, and in the alternative, rather than burden a handful of residents with an unnecessary further administrative process, if County Highways do not accept our advice, then I shall serve a formal Notice on the Council to have our roads adopted pursuant to Section 37 of the Highways Act.

Cllr Brown asked County Cllr Spicer for a response. CCllr Spicer said that it was inexplicable what the hold up was and suggested that the Parish Council write to the County Solicitor for an explanation

Action – Clerk to compile letter to Jonathan Lockington – County solicitor

- c. Review of the Allotment Rules and Charges.** Cllr Brown advised Councillors that he was currently undertaking a review of the Allotment rules and charges and having researched charges in other areas he was proposing that the Annual rents be increased to £15 per annum with effect from January 2022.

All allotment holders would be sent a copy of the draft rules and a meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 6 July at the Village Hall at 7pm for the allotment holders to make a response to the proposals. After discussion it was proposed and seconded that the rents be increased to £15.

Resolved – Annual rent increase for the Allotments to rise to £15 per plot with effect from 1 January 2022.

- d. Designation applications for Quiet Lanes** in Glassfield Rd, Wyken Rd, Duke St North and Bury Lane and consideration of donation of £50 per lane (Total £200) Cllr Kemp asked Council to approve the application for designation.

A public meeting was held on 27 May. To date the Initial Public Consultation has been published (on 6 May 2021) to the Stanton Parish Council website, Stanton 'Next Door' – 839 members (46% of 1360 householders) and the Facebook Page (post has reached 326 people with 10 'likes, comments or shares')

Posters have been displayed on the three Village notice boards in The Street, Recreation Ground and George Hill. Residents living on the proposed routes have received a notice advising them individually of the project.

No comments have been posted on the Social Media sites. Bardwell Parish Council had received a number of very positive responses in favour of the project.

Stanton PC has received 3 responses by email –
DB – Would welcome the proposal.
LC – present at the meeting

BB – at a loss to understand why funds would be spent on a scheme with little or no demonstrable use. Belief that scheme would be detrimental to residents and do not support.

Public present at the meeting on 27 May 2021 – summary of comments -

MJ – Can't see any point in the project as signs not going to make a difference – object.

AJ – Use the roads frequently and never found anyone to be rude – against the idea.

LC – Signs are not enforced and do not impose traffic restrictions so little point. Project doesn't go far enough in tackling speeding issues – not in favour.)

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Kemp that the designation application be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Brown. Cllr voted by a show of hands with 4 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions

Resolved – Quiet Lanes designations to be forwarded to project as approved.

- e. Stanton Primary School Traffic calming – the school has submitted a letter drawn up by pupils to parents and businesses in the area asking traffic to slow down outside their school. The letter will also be published in the July Steamer.

Cllr Spicer would like to arrange a meeting at the school to discuss what the County and Parish Council can do to help.

Action – Clerk to contact school for availability.

- f. An application for a Memorial for Michael Kelly was approved.

Action – Clerk to inform stone mason.

10. Accounts

a. The accounts as below were approved for payment. (General Power of Competence applies)

b. The Bank reconciliation as at 31 May 2021 was noted. Clerk needs to contact Scribe accounting in respect of a discrepancy.

c. Direct Debits for regular payments as per list circulated were approved until May 2022.

Table 2 List of payments and receipts

PAYMENTS	Date	Minute	Description	Net	VAT	Total
Irwin Mitchell	11/06/21	10a 10/6/21	Legal fees	1,611.75	322.35	1,934.10
Hillcrest	11/06/21	9e 8/4/21	Tub planting	400.84	80.17	481.01
ICO	17/05/21	10a 10/6/21	Data Protection Fee	35.00		35.00
BHIB	24/05/21	13e 6/5/21	Annual Insurance	1,879.65		1,879.65
AW	11/06/21	10a 10/6/21	Toilet Cleaning	45.00		45.00
Sports Courts UK Ltd	11/06/21	9a 11/2/21	Pressure washing MUGA	475.00	95.00	570.00
Smith of Derby	11/06/21	10a 10/6/21	Clock Tower Service 3 yrs	539.00	107.80	646.80
GB Roadart Ltd	11/06/21	14g 9/1/21	Car Park white lining	750.00	150.00	900.00
Viking	11/06/21	10a 10/6/21	Stationery	68.37	13.67	82.04
Staff Salaries	30/06/21	10a 10/6/21	Clerk/Litter picker/street cleaner	1195.95		1195.95
RECEIPTS						
UK Power Networks	10/05/21	10a 10/6/21	Wayleave			83.92
A E Thurlow	27/05/21	10a 10/6/21	Burial Fees			145.00

11. Coronavirus Updates

- a. The latest guidance from Government, County and District Councils relating to Covid 19 has been circulated. No action is necessary.

12. Correspondence from SALC, NALC, Borough and County Councils and Police

- a. Play Area Reports – May 2021 – Noted. The Clerk has met with the play area inspector to discuss some anomalies on the report. Cllr Smith informed Council that he had removed the inclusivity swing as it has a crack in the plastic and needs to be replaced. After discussion Cllr Smithson proposed that a replacement be purchased at a cost of £544.90. This was seconded.

Resolved – Inclusivity swing to be purchased at a cost of £544.90

Action – Clerk to order swing along with some replacement covers needed for the bolt mechanisms

Cllr Smith also informed Council that the teen shelter and picnic table need to be repainted.

Action – Clerk instructed to get some quotes.

- b. Parish and Town Forum – 14 July 2021 – Noted. Cllrs to consider and advise the Clerk if they wish to attend

13. Correspondence

- a. FB – Cars parked on Gilbert Road. The correspondent reported that cars are parking on pavements causing issues and that her young son had fallen off his bicycle trying to negotiate round them. The Clerk has responded and asked FB to report any cars parked on the pavement to police as anti-social behaviour along with a photograph of the offending vehicle. The matter has already been posted to the Parish Council Facebook page asking residents to consider others.
- b. JM – The Street – Grass Verges. In accordance with previous correspondence the Council has already agreed to inspect the grass verges in this area which have been affected by the street cleaner trying to skirt the pavement earlier in the year. JM has been thanked for his efforts and the area will be inspected in September once the growing season has finished to see if any reseedling is required.
- c. AN – Overgrown footpath – Hepworth Road. The Clerk has written to a householder in Hepworth Road asking them to attend to a hedgerow which was significantly overgrowing the pavement.

The Part one meeting finished at 8.50pm