



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman, 20 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth, Suffolk IP31 2UJ
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Chair – Jim Thorndyke

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 9 November 2023 at Stanton Village Hall.

81. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown	Phil Smith
Dee Burdett	Joanna Spicer (Suffolk County Cllr)
John Frizzell	Jim Thorndyke (Chair) also West Suffolk District Cllr
Barry McDonald	Martin Wright
Martin Scowcroft	

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

Vic Dorling	Lorraine Frost
Charlie Harvey-Evers	

82. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

83. Public Forum

One member of the public was present.

A resident raised concerns about the state of the War Memorial which was dirty and illegible in places. The Clerk confirmed that as the Memorial was Grade II Listed, photos had been sent to the War Memorials Trust to seek advice on the type of cleaning that could be undertaken. A response had recently been received and councillors had arranged to undertake a gentle clean with water and sponges before Remembrance Day.

84. a. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke:

- The planning application for signs at the Co-operative store had been considered by West Suffolk Council's Development Control Committee and a site visit had taken place. The non illuminating signs and the Co-op sign above the door had been approved but the totem pole and light had not been approved. It is not known whether the Co-operative will appeal this decision but if they do, no enforcement action can be taken until the appeal is concluded.
- The Development Control Committee had viewed Doctor's Hall regarding their planning application and this might be considered at the December meeting.
- Stone Curlews were causing concerns in the Brandon/Elveden area as no residential development would be permitted.
- The Local Plan would be considered by Cabinet in early December and Council in mid December. There would be a public consultation commencing on 23 January

2024 for six weeks.

- Although Copart had pulled out of the planning application for Shepherds Grove, Jaynic were still committed to the development and the application is scheduled to be considered at the February meeting.
- The Parish Council had received an email from Equation regarding the Parish Council's objection to their planning application. They suggested that Equation would be helping to fund the roundabout and relief road but this suggestion was denied by Jaynic.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- Cllr Spicer noted that a Police speed camera had been operating at the junction of George Hill and the A143 recently.
- The pavements on George Hill were heavy with fallen leaves and asked that West Suffolk Council be requested to sweep these as soon as possible. Cllr Thorndyke would arrange.
- The old Primary School site was now on the market with Bedfords for £500,000 with planning permission for 7 houses and conversion of the school into 3 dwellings. Cllr Thorndyke confirmed that the planning permission for the site expired in December 2023.
- The Belisha Beacon outside the Co-operative store had not yet been moved.
- The new Highways contract came into effect from 1 October 2023.
- Cllr Spicer had recently informed parish councils of funding for repairs to road signs. She requested that parish councils provide a list of any signs that are bent, badly overgrown or missing by the end of November so that these can be considered for repair. The parish may be asked to contribute to the cost.

85. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report had been circulated with the agenda and the Clerk highlighted the following items:

- Contact had been made with Berkeley Leisure regarding tree felling and replanting at Shepherds' Grove Park. It was confirmed that 8 trees were due to be planted during this autumn.
- Additional work (not on the report) planned for the next month:-
 - Seek expressions of interest from other local organisations in a Play Area Inspection course which could be hosted by Stanton Parish Council

86. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Scowcroft declared a pecuniary interest in the site of the old Primary School.

87. Statutory Business/Governance

The Parish Council noted that a meeting of the Parish Council to consider the Budget for 2024-25 had been arranged for Thursday 30 November 2023.

88. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

DC/23/1770/TCA 36 The Street	Trees in a conservation area notification - one Silver Birch (T2947 on plan) crown lift to 2.5 metres above ground level to clear streetlight by one metre	No objection
DC/23/1784/TCA Ivy Cottage, The Street	Trees in a conservation area notification - one Willow (T1 on plan) overall crown reduction by three metres	No objection

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| b. | Determined Applications that were rejected - NONE |
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89. Matters for discussion

a. NALC Pay Scales

The NALC Pay Scales for the previous financial year (22/23) had been sent to all councillors but since then, a final agreement had been reached on the pay award for the current financial year (23/24). Cllr Frizzell proposed that the pay award should be backdated to 1 April and paid immediately:

- Payments would be made to the current and previous parish clerks;
- The Street Cleaner was not paid according to the NALC Pay Scales and it was proposed that she should be put on Scale Point 6. It was noted that her Contract of Employment would be updated to reflect this.

It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell and seconded by Cllr Brown that the pay award should be made to parish council staff and backdated to 1 April 2023. All in favour.

b. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – purchase of batteries and charger

The Clerk reported that the purchase of 2 batteries and a charger for the SIDs was necessary to provide continuous service during the winter months with low sunlight.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Wright that the purchase be made. All in favour.

c. Winter tubs in The Street

Cllr Brown had received a quote from Hillcrest Nurseries to restock the tubs in The Street with winter bedding plants. The quotation included labour but Cllr Brown confirmed that labour cost would be waived as this was for the parish.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Frizzell that the quote be accepted. All in favour.

d. Christmas Tree Lighting Update

Cllr Brown confirmed that all arrangements were in place. Instead of a Brass Band, the Stanton Players would perform in the church. Cllr Brown suggested a donation of £50 to the Stanton Players.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr McDonald that a £50 donation be made to the Stanton Players. All in favour.

e. Defibrillator at Clock Tower

Cllr Smith suggested that the defibrillator positioned at the Clock Tower, be moved as the Co-operative Store had installed a defibrillator on the outside of their building. He suggested that Goldsmith Close would be a good location.

It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Burdett that the Council should investigate a suitable location to move the defibrillator to.

f. 5-a-side SUDS and tennis courts

Cllr Wright reported that the coaches, parents and players had completed a general clean up of the all-weather sports area and tennis courts. Work was still needed to remove the saplings that have grown along the fence line.

Councillors then discussed whether the parish council should look at replacing the all-weather sports area and tennis courts with a modern solution which would be safer and could be hired out to organisations.

The Recreation Ground Facilities Working Party would meet to discuss options for this potential project and bring a report back to the Parish Council in due course.

g. Play Area Reports

Cllr Smith confirmed that some minor repairs had been made to some of the play equipment. There were no urgent actions required but he had made a list of repairs that were needed and would confirm details so quotes for this work could be obtained.

h. Firework Display

It was noted that the fireworks needed to be returned to Fantastic Fireworks for storage as the council were not licensed to keep them for longer than 21 days.

The fireworks would be returned to Fantastic Fireworks who would store them until needed for next year.

90. Accounts

a. Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£101.55
Cleared payments	£20,594.45

b. Bank Reconciliation

This was received and signed by the Chair of Finance Committee.

Balance per Bank Statements	£92,048.38
Unpresented payments	NONE
Unpresented receipts	NONE
Adjusted Bank Balance	£92,048.38

c. Authorisation of Payments – The following payments were authorised:-

Salaries (all)	£1,472.95
Culford Waste (Skip Hire Wasted Journey)	£60.00
ICCM – Training (Parish Clerk)	£228.00
Viking Stationery	£53.86
Phone/Broadband contribution (Clerk)	£10.00

d. Budget v Actual Spend

	Annual Budget	Spend (7/12 months)
Income	£71,010	£78,626
Expenditure	£77,710	£62,235

The Finance Report was approved by the Parish Council and the Chairman signed the Schedule of Payments as listed in c. above.

91. Correspondence received

- a. Clarkes Christmas Event
- b. Bus Network Improvements
- c. Suffolk Constabulary County Policing Command – restructure
Councillors raised concerns that there was only 1 police officer responsible for all the rural parishes north of Bury St Edmunds. **The Clerk was asked to extend an invitation to the police officer to attend a parish council meeting in the new year.**
- d. SCC Highways – Footpath Sign at The Grundle – work ordered
- e. West Suffolk Civic Carol Service
- f. SCC Joanna Spicer – Road signs
- g. War Memorials Trust – advice on cleaning War Memorial
- h. Grass cutting review by West Suffolk Council
- i. Citizen Advice West Suffolk – raising awareness of Long Covid

92. Questions to the Chairman.

- Cllr Frizzell asked the Chairman if the council could find out who owned the land behind the Doctor's Surgery to ascertain if this could potentially be used for car parking.

93. The next meetings are as follows:

- Parish Council Budget meeting is on Thursday 30 November 2023 at 7pm.
- Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14 December 2023 at 7pm

94. Meeting concluded at 20.56 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____