



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 14 December 2023 at Stanton Village Hall.

101. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown

Dee Burdett

Vic Dorling

John Frizzell

Lorraine Frost

Charlie Harvey-Evers (**Vice Chair**)

Phil Smith

Joanna Spicer (Suffolk County Cllr)

Jim Thorndyke (**Chair**) also West Suffolk District Cllr

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

Barry McDonald

Martin Scowcroft

Martin Wright

102. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

103. Public Forum

Rev Cathy Bladen and Angie Burrows (Churchwarden) were present. Rev Bladen expressed her thanks to the parish council and in particular, Cllr Brown, for the recent successful Christmas Tree Lighting event which saw around 150-200 people attend.

Rev Bladen then informed councillors about the reordering project currently being undertaken in the church to create a more usable space for community use. The pews were currently being removed and sold and individual chairs would replace them. Better heating and a kitchenette would be installed along with a disabled toilet.

The parish council were fully supportive of the project but reiterated that they were prohibited from contributing towards the cost of maintenance or improvement of a church building (under the Local Government Act 1984). Councillors would be willing to support any future grant applications from non church-affiliated community groups that would be using the church building and in need of funding to cover set up costs.

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

- The next Town and Parish Forum would be held on Monday 18 March 2024 at Mildenhall Jubilee Centre from 7pm - 8.30pm.
- The Local Plan would be considered by Council next week. If this is approved, there would be a 6-week consultation period starting on 30 January.
- The planning application for Doctor's Hall had been considered at a recent

planning meeting. Officers were concerned that a refusal could be an 'unsafe' decision and it was therefore deferred to a future meeting to allow for guidance to be provided.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

Cllr Spicer had informed the parish council that she would be late to the meeting and this item was deferred until her arrival.

105. Clerk's Report

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

- Some progress had been made with items reported to Highways:
 - The white lines around the war memorial had been re-painted.
 - Overgrown paths in 2 areas had been cleared.

However, the directional sign on the A143 that had been knocked over was considered not a priority by Highways.

Cllr Smith reminded the Parish Council that the grass cutting contract with West Suffolk Council was due to expire in the new year. The Clerk would start the tendering process early in 2024. Cllr Smith had reported broken glass on the ground near the glass bottle banks which had now been cleared following a call to the recycling company.

County Cllr Spicer arrived during the consideration of this item.

106. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

County Cllr Spicer asked councillors for any concerns they would like to raise:

- Cllr Frizzell raised his ongoing concern with the pavement on George Hill being thick with rotting leaves. The Clerk would write to West Suffolk Council to ask if the pavement could be swept in the near future.
- Cllr Smith reported that neighbouring potholes were not being filled at the same time even though the new Highways contract had stipulated this wouldn't happen. He also raised the issue of the increase locally of on-street vendors.
- Cllr Brown reported that HGVs were still turning left at the junction of Upthorpe Road with Old Bury Road. Councillors and residents recalled an advisory sign warning 'not suitable for HGVs' but there is no evidence it existed.
- Cllr Harvey-Evers requested whether County Cllr Spicer could provide a grant towards the cost of fencing the new Village Green (to be considered later in the agenda). It was agreed that a £1,000 grant would be provided.

County Cllr Spicer expressed her gratitude to the Maddox family for their assistance in keeping the grills on The Grundle clear.

107. Declarations of Interest - NONE

108. Statutory Business/Governance - NONE

109. Planning Applications

a. New Applications - NONE

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

a. **Proposals to redevelop Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate**

An email had been received from Miles Willshire (Equation) requesting the opportunity to brief the parish council and answer any questions.

The Clerk is to respond that any briefing would have to take place after a decision had been made by West Suffolk Council on the Jaynic planning application.

b. **Meeting with PC Rachel Reeve**

Cllrs Brown and Thorndyke had met recently with PC Rachel Reeve to discuss the recent incidents of vandalism in the parish. They had requested that the police send a police car to patrol around the village and drive by the allotments whenever possible.

The Clerk has invited PC Rachel Reeve to attend a future Parish Council meeting.

c. **Allotments**

The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the Allotment Secretary, Cllr Brown and a representative from Wyken Farms to ask if it is possible to prevent cars accessing the field next to the allotments.

A future meeting with all allotment holders would then be arranged.

d. **Parking issues along The Chase**

Cllr Frizzell had observed 18 cars parked along The Chase recently and asked if the Parish Council could initiate a conversation with Stanton Surgery and the Health Centre.

The Clerk to write to Stanton Surgery and the Health Centre to express the council's concerns about parking and whether the land behind could be used for car parking.

e. **Monthly Play Park Inspection Reports**

Cllr Smith reported that the table tennis tables had become loosely attached to the ground.

It was agreed to remove the tables.

f. **Village Green quotes for fencing**

Cllr Harvey-Evers presented 2 quotations for fencing the new village green. As both quotations were now out of date, it was agreed that:

- **the Clerk would seek new quotations from both companies and ask for 3 references from each for consideration at a meeting early in 2024.**

111. Accounts

a. Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£1,478.61
Cleared payments	£3,513.37

b. Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£90,034.50
Unpresented payments	£20.88
Unpresented receipts	NONE
Adjusted Bank Balance	£90,013.62

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

Salaries (all)	£1,534.21
Festive Lights	£678.93
Suffolk County Council	£1,710.00
Phone & Broadband	£10.00

d. Budget v Actual Spend

	Annual Budget	Spend (8/12 months)
Income	£71,010	£80,057
Expenditure	£79,010	£63,807

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

112. Correspondence received

- a. Fit Villages Project
- b. Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- c. ANPR Rota – it was noted that the ANPR camera was due to be deployed in Stanton from 15-22 April 2024
- d. Request for dog park – this was noted by councillors and would be considered by the working party responsible for the Recreation Ground.

113. Questions to the Chairman – NONE

114. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7pm

115. Meeting concluded at 9.02 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____