



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Vice Chair – Charlie Harvey-Evers

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 11 January 2024 at Stanton Village Hall.

116. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown

Barry McDonald

Vic Dorling

Joanna Spicer (Suffolk County Cllr)

John Frizzell

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

Jim Thorndyke arrived late (also West Suffolk District Cllr)

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

Dee Burdett

Phil Smith

Lorraine Frost

Martin Wright

Reason for absence not given:

Martin Scowcroft

117. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Vice Chair.

118. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

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

Cllr Thorndyke had informed the parish council that he would be late to the meeting and it was agreed to defer this item until his arrival.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- CCllr Spicer reported that Suffolk County Council would be increasing their precept for the next financial year and their priorities would be Children and Vulnerable Adults. It was likely that locality budgets would also be reduced.
- CCllr Spicer agreed to grant the Parish Council £2,000 from her locality budget towards the cost of a fence for the new Village Green. The Clerk is to write and formally request this.
- Updated the Parish Council on the Jaynic application regarding current issues.
- Would be meeting with SCC regarding list of road signs that need to be replaced or mended.

CCllr Spicer left the meeting after this item.

120. Clerk's Report

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

- Letters had been sent to Stanton Health Centre and Stanton Surgery regarding the parking issues in The Chase.

121. Declarations of Interest - NONE

122. Statutory Business/Governance - Approval of Precept for 2024/25

It was proposed (Cllr Frizzell) and seconded (Cllr Brown) that the level of Precept for 2024/25 would remain the same as for the current financial year. All were in favour. The Application form was signed by the Vice Chairman and Clerk.

123. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

DC/23/2012/TPO Berkeley Leisure, Shepherds Grove Park	TPO 130 (1989) and TPO 248 (1997) tree preservation orders - two Ash (T03 and T04 on plan) crown lift to three metres above ground level; four Ash, one Oak, one Leylands Cypress (T903,T905,T906,T907,T909,T910 and T911 on plan) fell; one Ash (T908 on plan) remove first secondary branch north at 6 metres;one Oak (T01 on plan) overall crown reduction by two metres; one Oak (T902 on plan) remove tertiary branch south at 6 metres; one Oak (T901) remove broken/damaged branches	No objection
DC/23/2045/VAR George Hill Veterinary Centre, Chare Road	Planning application - variation of condition 2,3,4,6, and 8 to allow use of amended plans and removal of condition 5 of DC/23/0950/FUL	No objection
DC/23/2045/VAR George Hill Veterinary Centre, Chare Road	Planning application - variation of condition 2,3,4,6, and 8 to allow use of amended plans and removal of condition 5 of DC/23/0950/FUL	No objection
DC/23/2069/HH Wyken Cottage, Wyken Road	Householder planning application - Two storey rear extension	No objection

b. Determined Applications that were rejected - NONE

124. Matters for discussion

a. National Association of Local Councils – Legal Briefing

Councillors were informed of a revised legal briefing from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the power to fund works to property relating to affairs of the Church.

Councillors agreed that there would be no change to their decision in November and would be happy to consider requests for funding from organisations not directly

related to the church but using their facilities.

b. Removal of Hedge Cuttings at entrance to Village Hall Car Park

It was agreed that the hedge cuttings would be removed by the end of the weekend.

c. Monthly Play Park Inspection Reports

The monthly inspection reports were received and noted. Cllr McDonald requested that he be removed from the Recreation Ground Facilities Working Party.

d. Village Green Fencing

Revised quotes had been received from 2 suppliers with updated pricing along with references.

Cllr McDonald suggested that quotes should also be obtained from two other local suppliers. It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting so that further quotes could be obtained.

Clerk to obtain further quotes from 2 local suppliers and defer decision until next meeting.

125. Accounts

a. Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£866.01
Cleared payments	£5,246.41

b. Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£85,633.25
Unpresented payments	NONE
Unpresented receipts	NONE
Adjusted Bank Balance	£85,633.25

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

Salaries (all)	£1,656.32
Smith of Derby	£210.00

d. Budget v Actual Spend

	Annual Budget	Spend (9/12 months)
Income	£71,010	£80,929
Expenditure	£79,010	£76,416

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

Cllr Thorndyke arrived during the consideration of this item.

126. Report from:

- a. District Councillor Jim Thorndyke
 - Jaynic - SCC Highways are insistent that the application has to include a pavement which would not be cost effective for Jaynic.
 - The Grundle had survived the recent heavy rain thanks to volunteers who kept the grates cleared.
 - West Suffolk Council Budget
 - increase in precept likely
 - Brown Bin charges would increase by £3 per year to enable a further freighter to be purchased for the increased number of properties.
 - Some changes to car parking prices to include change to evening parking starting at 8pm rather than 6pm.
 - Bloor Homes – no update
 - Local Plan – consultation from 30 January to 12 March
 - Doctor's Hall – no update

127. Correspondence received

- a. Donation thank you from Headway Suffolk – noted.
- b. Email from Churches Conservation Trust regarding St John's The Baptist Church. The area of concern has been noted and would be inspected in due course - noted
- c. Chair of West Suffolk Council has requested opportunity to attend a Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk would provide meeting dates.
- d. Donation thank you from The Stanton Players – noted.
- e. West Suffolk Council update on grass cutting and grounds maintenance review – noted.
- f. Suffolk Greenest County Awards 2024 - noted
- g. Police & Crime Commissioner survey on proposed precept increase. Councillors expressed concerns that they were not receiving good value for money. There is one Police Constable covering all of the rural parishes north of Bury St Edmunds (some 35 parishes) and there was not the capacity to attend parish council meetings.

128. Questions to the Chairman

The Clerk had received an email asking for advice for a resident who was starting a mobile coffee bar business. The Clerk would refer the resident to West Suffolk Council's Street Trading & Vending Policy and emphasize that they must have necessary permission from the landowner or Highways. The Village Hall Car Park is owned by the Parish Council and permission would not be granted as this could take up valuable parking spaces.

129. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 8 February 2024 at 7pm

130. Meeting concluded at 8.24 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____