



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair – Jim Thorndyke

Vice Chair – Charlie Harvey-Evers

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 8 February 2024 at Stanton Village Hall.

131. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown

Barry McDonald

Dee Burdett

Phil Smith

Vic Dorling

Jim Thorndyke (Chair)

John Frizzell

Martin Wright

Charlie Harvey-Evers (Vice Chair)

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

Lorraine Frost

Martin Scowcroft

132. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

133. Public Forum

A member of the public raised his concerns about road safety on the junction of Parkway with The Chase. He acknowledged that the Parish Council had recently conducted a survey of residents regarding double yellow lines in The Chase and that most residents were against this suggestion. The Parish Council had written a letter to both Stanton Surgery and the Health Centre regarding this issue. Stanton Surgery had forwarded this letter to their Estates department and were awaiting a response.

The Chairman for Stanton Football Club informed the Parish Council that the Junior Reds Football Club were about to undertake a year of fundraising and would like to use the Recreation Ground on the 1 June 2024 for an U14 5-a-side tournament.

The Chairman of West Suffolk Council arrived during the consideration of this item:

134. Address from Chairman of West Suffolk Council

DCllr Roger Dicker (Chairman of West Suffolk Council) was attending Parish Council meetings in order to strengthen relationships with Parish Councils within West Suffolk.

Cllr Smith raised his concern that rural areas did not get value for money as more appears to be spent in towns than in rural areas, for example for street cleaning and play areas. DCllrs Dicker and Thorndyke agreed that they would like to see more money going to rural areas.

DCllr Dicker stated that any parish councillor could attend any Full Council meetings at West Suffolk and would have the opportunity to speak during the Public Participation Speaking section provided they register in advance.

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

- The Doctor's Hall planning application had been approved at a recent Development Control Meeting as there were no material considerations for refusal.
- West Suffolk Council had proposed a 3% increase in their precept
- The consultation for the Local Plan was underway and would end on 12 March 24.
- Cllr Smith asked DCllr Thorndyke when the Rose & Crown sign would be replaced as this was part of the planning consent and new owners had moved in.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- CCllr Spicer had also received communication regarding parking at the primary school and would be arranging a meeting to discuss further (agenda item 11).
- The school crossing patrol sign should be replaced soon.
- The pavement on George Hill had been swept.
- Grant for £2k towards fencing for the Village Green was being processed.
- SCC Budget – there would be a 3% increase plus 2% levy (advised by government) for adult social care.
- Cllr Smith asked if CCllr Spicer could confirm the staff numbers working at the Health Centre.
- Cllr Smith asked if CCllr Spicer could confirm that central government money for potholes would be used entirely on potholes.

C Cllr Spicer left the meeting after this agenda item.

136. Clerk's Report

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

- The previous internal auditor had retired – the Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to confirm the appointment of Victoria Waples as internal auditor for 2023-24.
- SALC had confirmed that the proposed date for Play Area Inspection training was 4 July 24 – Cllr Wright was willing to attend this training.

Cllr Smith reminded the Clerk that any changes to Job Descriptions should be approved by the parish council.

137. Declarations of Interest - NONE

138. Statutory Business/Governance – Asset Register

Cllr Burdett presented an updated Asset Register to the parish council.

- It was agreed that any assets that had exceeded their 'life' but were still in working order, should be extended by their period of their original life. Assets that had life expired should be disposed of.
- The Play Area equipment should be broken down into individual elements to ensure that the appropriate life was allocated depending on type of equipment, age and any repairs undertaken.
- It was agreed that any assets that currently had no life recorded should be temporarily lifed at 2025 and would be reviewed fully during the next 12 months.
- No Jubilee mugs remained and these should be removed from the Asset Register.

The Clerk would confirm the cost of the Coronation mugs and the number of these mugs remaining.

139. Planning Applications

- a. New Applications – there were no new applications**
- b. Determined Applications that were rejected – no determined applications were rejected**

140. Matters for discussion

a. Allotments Update

Cllr Brown informed the council that he and the Clerk had met with Sir Kenneth Carlisle (landowner) regarding the recent vandalism at the allotments. Sir Kenneth has agreed to install a metal pole with posts with a combination lock in a bid to deter future vandals.

A meeting with allotment holders would take place on 22 February and Cllr Brown would seek to ensure that the security cameras purchased by the parish council were in place and working and identify who had access to them in case required in future.

b. EV Charging Points at Village Hall

West Suffolk Council were asking for 'expressions of interest' in having EV charging points and Cllr Harvey-Evers suggested the Recreation Ground car park could be used.

The Parish Council asked Cllr Harvey-Evers to express the parish council's interest.

c. Monthly Play Park Inspection Reports

The monthly inspection reports were received and noted. Cllr Smith recommended that some repairs should be carried out at regular intervals to prevent a large repair bill in the future. It was confirmed that reserves would be earmarked in future for replacement of play equipment.

d. Village Green Lease and Fencing

Cllr Harvey-Evers presented 4 quotes recently received for fencing the Village Green. However, he suggested that due to the ongoing building taking place on another part of the site, that only 70% of the fence should be installed immediately, with the rest being installed when the building work had been completed.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Frizzell to appoint BM Fencing as the contractor. Cllr Harvey-Evers would ask for an adjusted quote for 70% of the work and accept this when completed. All in favour.

e. Table Tennis Tables

Cllr Smith noted the request to purchase a table tennis table that had been removed from the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Smith was asked to contact the resident and suggest a price of £200.

f. Revised Grant Application

It was proposed by Cllr Thorndyke and seconded by Cllr Harvey-Evers that this application be deferred to a future meeting. All in favour..

g. Cemetery Rules and Charges

Cllr Brown informed the parish council that there were currently no fees for additional inscriptions being added to existing monuments or tablets. He suggested that a fee of £75 for a burial grave and £30 for an ashes grave be added.

It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell and seconded by Cllr Harvey-Evers that fees for additional inscriptions should be introduced at £75 for a burial grave and £30 for an ashes grave with effect from 1 March 24. All in favour.

The Cemetery Rules were not clear regarding who the grave digger should be and he proposed that this was clarified to show that the council's preferred grave digger should always be used by funeral directors. This would agree with the Notice of Interment.

The Clerk is to clarify the Rules to this effect.

h. Grass Cutting Contract

Areas 6, 8 and 10 on the current grass cutting contract were all verges along the A143 and therefore the responsibility of SCC Highways – these would be removed from the new contract. The Village Green had been added to the contract.

The Clerk was to send out the tender documents to contractors as per the agreed timetable. The contractor would be confirmed by the parish council at their next meeting on 14 March.

141. Accounts

a. Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£264.94
Cleared payments	£3,253.78

b. Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£82,644.41
Unpresented payments	£0
Unpresented receipts	£0
Adjusted Bank Balance	£82,644.41

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

Salaries (all)	£1,562.20
SALC Training	£30
ARCO protective clothing	£93.92
Defib Store – replacement pads	£80.40

d. Budget v Actual Spend

	Annual Budget	Spend (10/12 months)
Income	£71,010	£85,303
Expenditure	£79,010	£72,041

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

142. Correspondence received

- a. Invitation to Chairman of West Suffolk Council's Charity Concert – noted.
- b. Email from David Sutherland regarding Housing Needs Assessment – Cllr Thorndyke proposed inviting an officer from West Suffolk Council to attend a future meeting to discuss neighbourhood planning. Councillors agreed.
- c. Email from Scott Buck regarding parking at Stanton Community Primary School (see minute 135b).
- d. Email from Stanton Surgery for staff to temporarily use Recreation Ground Car Park whilst work undertaken at Surgery – noted.

143. Questions to the Chairman

None

144. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7pm

145. Meeting concluded at 9.13 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____