



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman

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Chair – Charlie Harvey-Evers

Vice Chair – Dee Burdett

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

30. Roll Call & Apologies

The Parish Clerk announced that a resignation had been received from Cllr Smith with immediate effect.

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett (Vice Chair)

John Frizzell

Lorraine Frost

Barry McDonald

Martin Scowcroft

Martin Wright

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/ not approved
Charlie Harvey-Evers	Leave	Approved
Brian Brown	Illness	Approved

SC Cllr Spicer arrived at this point.

31. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

32. Public Forum

No members of the public wished to address the parish council.

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

- West Suffolk Local Plan – two inspectors have been appointed and have started to review the West Suffolk Local Plan
- Grass Cutting – there have been some complaints but this is getting better although not there yet
- Corporate Peer Challenge – West Suffolk Council are undergoing a Corporate Peer Challenge
- Co-op Store – West Suffolk Council have advised the Co-op store that the totem pole now needs to be removed and there is concern about the state of the gardens on site.
- George Hill Nurseries Planning Application – West Suffolk Council are likely to recommend the refusal of this application and wanted to understand whether the Parish Council's response of 'no objections' meant they were 'neutral' or 'in support'

of the application. This would determine whether the application would be considered by the Delegation Panel or by the Development Control Committee. The parish councillors confirmed that they were 'neutral' – they had previously objected to the original application.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- Old primary school site – has been sold but still unable to confirm purchaser
- Roads:
 - A1088 Closure Ixworth to Stowlangtoft due to bridge replacement at Stowlangtoft to commence 22 July
 - A1088 Ixworth to Ixworth Thorpe – temporary night time closure for road repairs due to end
 - Norfolk road closure with diversion through Stanton
 - A14 diversion has now finished and signs should have been removed.
- Footpaths:
 - Wash Lane bridleway is responsibility of Highways as a U Class road – some trimming has been carried out
 - Footpath near to Wash Lane – Rights of Way team have established that the sign is not in the correct location and are dealing with this issue
- Duke Street North – still ongoing concern about HGVs using this road as a short cut to the A143.

The Vice Chairman agreed to consider **Agenda Item 9f** at this point as it was relevant. The parish council were asked to agree to further investigation of installing 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs at either end of Duke Street North and to request a quotation from Suffolk County Council.

The Parish Clerk is to formally request through SC Cllr Spicer, that SCC provide a quotation for installing signs.

- A councillor raised the issue of HGVs turning left at the junction of Uphorpe Road with Old Bury Road and said that there used to be a sign indicating 'No left turn for HGVs'. SC Cllr Spicer agreed to confirm with SCC whether a sign existed previously. If not, this would be classed as a new sign. Once this was confirmed, the parish council would consider installing a suitable sign.
- SC Cllr Spicer had received complaints about the recent cancellation of the 338 bus route which was the only bus that stopped at Shepherds Grove Park. SC Cllr Spicer informed the parish council that the cancellation was temporary due to staff shortages.
- A councillor asked whether a path could be installed along the A143 from the junction with The Chase on the south side of the A143 to the 'crossing point' over to Duke Street North. The councillor agreed to send details to SC Cllr Spicer. The Parish Clerk reported that a complaint had been received that day from a resident about speeding cars coming into/out of the 30mph limit which made crossing the road very dangerous and the option of installing a 'crossing island' was discussed briefly.

SC Cllr Spicer left the meeting at this point.

34. Clerk's Report

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

- The Notice of Vacancy for the recent councillor resignation had been posted on Notice Boards and on the website. Ten electors could request that an election be held to fill the

vacancy by writing to the Returning Officer by 31 July 2024. If no request was received the parish council could fill the vacancy by co-option. The parish council decided to wait until the 31 July and advertise the 2 vacancies for co-option at this point.

- Barbed wire for repairing fences at the allotments had been ordered and would arrive in 2 weeks.

35. Declarations of Interest - NONE

36. Statutory Business/Governance:

a. Co-option to Vacant posts of Councillor

The Parish Council had received one application for the co-option to the office of councillor from Greg Meadwell. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, he was unable to attend the meeting, but the Parish Clerk read a statement he had prepared.

It was proposed by Cllr Frost, seconded by Cllr McDonald and all in favour to co-opt Greg Meadwell as a parish councillor.

b. Accounts:

i. Finance Report as at 30 June 2024

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£140.05
Cleared payments	£2,525.84

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per Bank Statements	£130,422.36
Unpresented payments	£10.00
Unpresented receipts	£0.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	£130,412.36

Cllr Scowcroft asked whether the parish council were receiving the best interest rates for their funds. Cllr Burdett explained the discussion at a previous meeting about High Interest accounts.

As only Cllr Harvey-Evers and the Parish Clerk had online access to the accounts, it was agreed that they would pursue this issue with Lloyds Bank.

ii. Schedule of Payments

The following payments were authorised: proposed by Cllr Frost, seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and all in favour.

Salaries (all)	£1,603.58
Direct Debits	£0.00
Debit Card payments	
Amazon (Key Fobs)	£6.69
Amazon (HDD for CCTV)	£99.31
BACS payments	
EDF Energy – Clock Tower – Refund	-£39.99
Clerk – Phone & Broadband – Jun 24	£10.00

iii. Quarter 1 - Flexed Budget Comparison and Reserves Balance Reports

Cost Centre	Budget	Actual	Variance
01 Receipts	£71,219	£71,404	£185
02 Administration	£17,917	£17,357	£581
03 Village Maintenance	£6,645	£3,538	£3,107
04 Cemetery – Income	£0	£580	£580
04 Cemetery Expenditure	£187	£294	-£107
05 Allotment Income	£0	£0	£0
05 Allotment Expenditure	£63	£0	£63
06 Fireworks Event Income	£0	£0	£0
06 Fireworks Event Expend	£0	£0	£0
07 Projects			
29 General	£400	£24	£376
56 Youth Facility	£3,000	£0	£3,000
57 Xmas Tree Lighting	£500	£0	£500
58 Village Green	£3,000	£0	£3,000
59 CCTV Renewal	£5,000	£0	£5,000
60 Refurb Public Toilets	£3,000	£0	£3,000
08 Grants/Donations	£3,500	£1,000	£2,500
NET VARIANCE QUARTER 1			£21,682

The Net Variance includes £15k budgets for Projects and £3.5k budget for Grants/Donations which have been included in full at the beginning of the year.

The Reserves Balances report showed Earmarked Reserves totalling £46,000 and General Fund Reserves of £84,412.

37. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

DC/24/0754/HH
White Bungalow, Duke
Street, Stanton, IP31 2AB

Householder planning application –
a. single storey rear extension b.
detached garage (following
demolition of existing extension and
garage)

No objections
Proposed Cllr
Frizzell, seconded
Cllr Wright and all in
favour.

DC/24/0834/HH
Vineyard Cottage, Wyken
Road, Stanton, IP31 2EG

Householder planning application -
a. two porches b. part two-storey /
part single storey rear extension c.
hipped roof over existing bay
window d. replacement and
insertion of additional windows

No objections
Proposed Cllr
Frizzell, seconded
Cllr Wright and all in
favour.

b. Determined Applications that were rejected – no determined applications were rejected

38. Matters for discussion

a. Approval of Applications for Cemetery Memorials

- i. Howard Michael Linge – Ashes Grave – **Proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Frost and all in favour.**
- ii. Lynda Joanne Clarke – Coffin Grave – **Proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and all in favour.**

iii. Walter George and Ruth Adams – Coffin Grave – **Proposed by Cllr Frost, seconded by Cllr Frizzell and all in favour.**

b. Memorial Tower – service agreement

A three-year service agreement with Smith of Derby for the Millennium Clock for the sum of £674.00 plus VAT was **proposed by Cllr Scowcroft, seconded by Cllr Frost and all in favour.**

c. Monthly Play Park Inspections

The monthly reports were noted.

Cllr Wright informed the council that there are no medium or high-risk concerns with the Play Areas. But there was damage to the surface in one area and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would seek quotations for both patching the damage and for resurfacing the whole area for consideration at a future meeting.

Councillors would review individual pieces of equipment and look to replace items one at a time as needed.

d. Firework Display

- i. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach the Primary School PTA to see if they would like a stall at the display and promote volunteers to help support the display.
- ii. The artwork and wording for the Steamer advert was considered. However, The Steamer would not be able to print the advert with the amount of black ink and therefore the design needed to be amended. There were no concerns with the wording.

e. EV Chargers

Cllr Burdett explained that the council needed confirm whether it would be interested in 2 or 4 chargers by a deadline of 31 July. This was not a commitment, but required to move to the next stage. Concerns were raised about the amount of power available from the Village Hall and whether the car park could be closed overnight but it was felt these could be discussed at a later stage. It was therefore proposed by Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and all in favour to continue with the EV Charger project for the Recreation Ground car park.

f. Duke Street North

The Vice Chairman had agreed to discuss this under Agenda item 4b, SC Cllr Spicer report.

g. Toilet Refurbishment

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should request quotations for the following works for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting on 8 August 2024.

- Initial clean of premises in preparation for work
- Investigate and resolve issues with toilets blocking and foul water drainage from site.
- Reinstate water to toilet and sink in female toilet (this was cut and capped to provide water for the water fountain)
- Box in the 2 x sinks with plywood (or similar) using existing frame and including an access panel
- Replace missing door in female toilet
- Replace window grills with reinforced glass windows
- Install gutter at rear of building under roof line
- Paint interior walls in white using anti-fungal paint

- Paint floor in both toilets in grey using solvent paint
- Paint exterior walls in white masonry paint
- Replace toilet seats (PC to purchase)
- Install toilet paper dispensers (PC to purchase)
- Install soap dispensers (PC to purchase)
- Replace signage (PC to purchase)

The issue of having a disabled toilet was discussed at length but it was considered there was not sufficient room to install disabled access in both toilets. It was concluded that the refurbishment of both toilets should be completed, and then the Parish Council would then consider whether a separate disabled toilet could be built alongside.

h. Garden Competition

Cllr Frost confirmed that a group of councillors had toured the village and agreed on winners for the Garden Competition. An additional category of ‘Eco Garden’ had been created. Details of the winners would be given to the Parish Clerk and certificates would be presented to the winners at the Stanton Show on 20 July.

39. Correspondence received:

- a. Mobile Library Service – Cllr Thorndyke informed the Clerk that the information they provided was incorrect. The Clerk would remove this information from the website.
- b. Request to park mobile coffee bar at Village Green on ad hoc basis – this was not considered appropriate as no parking is available.
- c. Suffolk Wildlife Trust – for owners of County Wildlife sites – noted.
- d. Ongoing reports of smell – and response from EH with form for residents to record their complaints.

Cllr Frizzell felt that Environmental Health had ignored his correspondence with them over the past few years where he had provided a list of complaints that had been received from residents. **It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to Mr Speakman and include the data previously provided for his comments.**

40. Questions to the Chairman

None

41. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 8 August 2024 at 7pm

42. Meeting concluded at 9.01 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____