



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman, 20 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth, Suffolk IP31 2UJ
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Chair – Charlie Harvey-Evers

Vice Chair – Dee Burdett

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 12 December 2024 at Stanton Village Hall.

102. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown	Keith Marlow
Dee Burdett (Vice Chair)	Barry McDonald
John Frizzell	Greg Meadwell (arrived late)
Lorraine Frost	

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/ not approved
Charlie Harvey-Evers (Chair)	Illness	Approved
Martin Scowcroft	Illness	Approved
Martin Wright	Work	Approved

103. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 November and 21 November 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

104. Public Forum: There were 2 members of the public present. Neither wished to speak at this time. The Vice Chair agreed for Alex Clark to speak on the agenda item for Bloor Homes at the appropriate point.

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

- The Local Plan hearings were now complete with some amendments although the Inspector had removed the limit of 9,000m² on industrial sites.
- West Suffolk Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be holding their meeting on Monday 16 December at Stanton Village Hall at 5pm where local buses within West Suffolk would be discussed.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- The 'Save Our Buses' campaign had resulted in the bid for funding for the next 1-2 years being approved meaning that the 73 route would continue to run 3 buses per day to Shepherds Grove Park.
- The sale of the old Primary School site was still progressing – contracts were due to be exchanged before Christmas but wouldn't complete until March 2025. The Clerk would liaise with the Chairman and SC Cllr Spicer regarding a concern that the developer had put a fence in the wrong place.
- A costing of £2,972 had been received for putting 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs at either end of Duke Street North. SC Cllr Spicer asked if the parish council would be prepared to pay all of this cost so that she could use her locality

funding for other projects within Stanton. Cllrs agreed to this, in principle, but this need to be ratified at the next PC meeting in January.

- A traffic count had been arranged for Grove Lane as part of the case for extending the 30mph speed limit past the entrance to Shepherds Grove Park – this would be paid from SC Cllr Spicer’s Locality budget (£435).
- SC Cllr would arrange an onsite meeting with Highways, two parish councillors and the Clerk to discuss options for the following:
 - ‘No left turn for HGVs’ sign for Upthorpe Rd following Highways report that said there was no safe location for this sign.
 - Wyken Rd between the Grundle & Honeymeade Close where there is no pavement
 - War Memorial triangle to prevent vehicles going the wrong way in front of the shop and trying to turn right
 - Village sign on Hepworth Rd to include a ‘drive carefully’ message.
- The government had recently stated their intention to consider unitary authority for Suffolk with a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. This could mean the County Council elections currently scheduled for May 25 being postponed.

106. Clerks Report – The Clerk’s Report had been circulated with the agenda along with a new introductory leaflet for Stanton cemetery.

107. Declarations of Interest – NONE

108. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

- o **Finance Report – the report was received and accepted.**

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£7,903.84
Cleared payments	£21,786.12

Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£95,837.76
Unpresented payments	£0
Unpresented receipts	£0
Adjusted Bank Balance	£95,837.76

- o **Schedule of Payments** – councillors approved the following payments, proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Meadwell and all in favour:

Salaries (all) (estimated due to Pay Award)	£1,675.00
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet (BACs)	£10.00
Cllr Harvey-Evers reimbursement – firework gifts & sundries	£173.22
Paul Sparkes – Grave digger	£100.00
Ebay – Leaf blower	£69.99
Amazon – Stationery	£10.84
Amazon – PPE for Street Cleaner	£108.02
Amazon – Cleaning tool	£12.61
Octopus Energy – Clock Tower	£23.81
Octopus Energy – Floodlights	£39.77

The Chairman signed the Schedule of Payments as listed in **ii** above.

- b. Review of CCTV Policy** – Councillors reviewed the amendments made to the CCTV policy and confirmed their approval. **It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell and seconded by Cllr Meadwell and all in favour that the CCTV Policy should be adopted.**

109. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

i.	DC/24/1648/P3CMA The Cutting Room, The Street	Support
ii.	DC/24/1073/FUL Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, East Sumner Road	Object <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concerns raised regarding the height of buildings – councillors felt these should not exceed the height of the current buildings that are to be demolished - no details of what items are to be stored - hours of operation not clear
iii.	DC/24/1668/HH Southview, Duke Street	Support

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

110. Matters for discussion

- h. Bloor Homes** – With the agreement of the Vice Chair, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

Alex Clark, representing Bloor Homes, outlined the current position. An application would be re-submitted in the next few days to West Suffolk Council and they hoped this would be considered by the parish council at their meeting in January 25.

As part of the re-submission, there would be a revised contribution to the Parish totalling £286k plus either parking for 20 cars (with access to the Recreation Ground) or allotments. Full details would be in the submission. There would be no change to the number of properties in the application which remained at 220.

This was discussed at length with many concerns being raised by councillors. Councillors were keen to hold a public meeting and this would be arranged as soon as possible once the application had been submitted.

D Cllr Jim Thorndyke and SC Cllr Joanna Spicer left the meeting after the consideration of this item.

- a. Play Area Inspection Reports for November 2024** – the reports were received and noted. There were no major areas of concern. Cllr Wright had indicated that the replacement parts would be fitted as soon as the weather allowed this.

- b. Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:

1 – Highways

1.1 Cost confirmed as £2,972. SC Cllr Spicer asked the parish council if they would agree to pay the full cost so that her locality budget could finance other projects in Stanton. Councillors agreed, in principle, but this would need to be ratified at the next PC meeting.

1.2 On site meeting with Highways and representatives from the PC scheduled for 18 Dec to discuss options.

1.4 Noted by Highways but not a priority.

1.8 To be included in meeting on 18 Dec

1.9 To be included in meeting on 18 Dec

2 – Grounds – actions involving hedgerows, trees and clearing encroachment on paths to be completed in early Spring.

- c. **Allotments** – It was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Frizzell that the Allotment rent remain the same for 2025, but notice should be given to allotment holders that the rent would increase to £17 (increase of £2) with effect from 1 January 2026. All in favour.
- d. **80th Anniversary of VE Day (8 May 25) and VJ Day (15 Aug 25)** - as this item was not time critical, the Vice Chair agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
- e. **Action Plan** – it was noted that most actions were either complete or scheduled to commence in early Spring.

Councillors were keen to start the process for a Neighbourhood Plan, although it was noted that this would be separate to the Parish Council. Four councillors volunteered to be involved in this.

- f. **Keep The Heat** – Cllrs Frost, Marlow and Meadwell had volunteered to help residents identify where their home may be losing heat. They had undergone training on how to use cameras to scan homes from the roadside. This would take place between 15 and 28 January and residents could email Cllr Marlow to book this.
- g. **EV Chargers** – It was proposed by Cllr Burdett, seconded by Cllr Brown and all in favour for the Cluster Member Agreement to be signed by the Parish Council.

111. Correspondence received

- a. Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme in West Suffolk – noted
- b. Housing Update from Cllr Richard O’Driscoll – noted.

112. Questions to the Chairman - none

113. The next Parish Council meetings are on Thursday 9 January 2025 at 7pm.

114. Meeting concluded at 8.53 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____