



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman, 20 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth, Suffolk IP31 2UJ
Tel: - 07729 731128 Email stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chair – Charlie Harvey-Evers

Vice Chair – Dee Burdett

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 13 February 2025 at Stanton Village Hall.

128. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett (Vice Chair)

John Frizzell

Charlie Harvey-Evers (Chair)

Barry McDonald

Greg Meadwell (arrived late)

Martin Scowcroft

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/ not approved
Brian Brown	Ill health	Approved
Keith Marlow	Family reasons	Approved

The following councillor did not attend the meeting, and their absence was not approved:
Lorraine Frost

129. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

130. Public Forum: one member of the public attended:

Request for the Royal British Legion to use the Recreation Ground for a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 12 April 2025 from 8am to 12 noon. This was provisionally approved but they were asked to submit a formal request in writing to the Parish Clerk who would respond with details of paperwork required.

They left the meeting at this point.

131. Due to the notified late arrival of West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke, his agenda item was deferred until his arrival.

a. **Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:**

- The government had agreed to Suffolk being on the fast-track Devolution Priority Programme which would see the election of a mayor (covering Norfolk and Suffolk) in May 2026. The scheduled elections for Suffolk County Council in May 2025 had been postponed. A business case would be put forward for council reorganisation to replace the county and district councils with one or two unitary councils in Suffolk.

- Works on the bridge on the A1088 would be delayed by a further week due to UK Power Networks. There would be a programme of verge repairs following the work.
- The speed check had been completed in Grove Lane. It indicated that the average speed was 32 mph (in a 60 mph limit). The Parish Council could request that a report be written at a cost of £700 with no guarantee that the speed limit change would be approved. It was suggested that alternative measures could be looked at such as warning signs. County Cllr Spicer agreed to meet with Highways on site to discuss alternative solutions.
- Cllr Frizzell asked whether a traffic island on the A143 might be feasible between The Chase and Duke Street North to assist pedestrians crossing at this point. It was suggested that this could be added to the 'list of improvements' made with monies from Bloor Homes as part of their planning application.

District Cllr Jim Thorndyke arrived during the consideration of the above item.

b. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke:

- West Suffolk Council had recently had a budget meeting: the Band D rate would increase and the cost of car parking in Bury St Edmunds would also be increased.
- The Local Plan could be completed between April and July – currently one final consultation process. Work would then start on the new Local Plan.
- The planning application from Bloors had been submitted this week and was now on the Planning Portal. Cllr Harvey-Evers would contact Bloors to discuss what was on offer for the Parish Council. The Parish Council would consider the application at its meeting on 13 March and as part of its response could request that conditions be applied to the application should it be approved whether the council supported or objected to the application.
- District Cllr Thorndyke passed on his thanks to Cllrs Frost, Marlow and Meadwell who had delivered free 'Keep The Heat' surveys to residents in Stanton.
- A new bus timetable would commence on 24 February – slight amendment to the 73A bus route with Shepherds Grove Park now on the timetable with one stop in Grove Lane.
- Cllr Frizzell asked what would happen to the 'Rose and Crown' sign enforcement. District Cllr Thorndyke confirmed the deadline was 16 February and he would begin action once the deadline had passed.

132. Clerks Report – The Clerk's Report had been circulated with the agenda and the following was highlighted:

- The Brown Bins at St John's Churchyard had not been emptied for several months. The Clerk had contacted West Suffolk Council a week ago and, as no response had been received, had chased this.
- Two moles had been caught in the churchyard by a Pest Control company – they had now removed the traps but would monitor the situation.

133. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Meadwell declared a Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 7 d ii as the company he worked for had submitted a quotation for consideration by the Parish Council.

134. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

i. Finance Report – the report was received and accepted.

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£2,888.75
Cleared payments	£2,955.55

Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£93,679.22
Unpresented payments	£3152.04
Unpresented receipts	£0
Adjusted Bank Balance	£90,527.18

ii. Schedule of Payments – councillors approved the following payments, proposed by Cllr Meadwell, seconded by Cllr McDonald and all in favour:

Salaries (all) (estimated due to Pay Award)	£1,669.27
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet (BACs)	£10.00
Amazon – Bin Liners (Debit Card)	£19.94
Post Office – Stamps (Debit Card)	£20.40
Post Office – Stamps (Debit Card)	£13.60
Paul Sparkes – Grave Digger (BACs)	£100.00
Stanton Community Village Hall – Room Hire (BACs)	£208.00

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

b. Arrangements for Internal Audit – It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and all in favour to appoint Victoria Waples as the Internal Auditor at a cost of £270.00

c. Councillor Vacancy – It was noted that as there had been no requests to West Suffolk Council to fill the councillor vacancy by election, the parish council could co-opt to the vacant position. Councillors agreed to advertise the now 2 x vacant seats and request that applications be submitted to the Parish Clerk by 6 March for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman agreed to bring the following item forward on the agenda.

135. Matters for noting and resolution:

e. Village Green

i. The purchase of the site was still not completed but was in the final stages. The Parish Council had been asked for a minor amendment to the lease to allow room for the refuse lorry to turn around. This was agreed by all councillors.

ii. It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Meadwell and all in favour for a budget of up to £1,000 to pay for a litter bin, dog waste bin and a park sign to be installed.

136. Statutory Business / Governance

d. Building Valuation for Asset Register and Insurance

- i. Councillors noted the briefing paper provided by the Parish Clerk giving guidance on the valuation of assets for the purpose of the Asset Register and Insurance. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek 3 quotations from the current provider plus 2 others, would update the asset register with the same categories used on the insurance schedule and would ensure that the Bus Shelters were explicitly included in the Insurance quotations.
- ii. Councillors considered the quotation provided by Naismiths for the reinstatement cost assessment for the Community Building Assets. **It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Burdett and one abstention (Cllr Meadwell) and all in favour to appoint Naismiths to carry out the assessment at a cost of £875.**

137. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

i.	DC/24/1773/TPO Chestnut View, Old Bury Road	No objections.
ii.	DC/25/0083/HH 15 Dudding Walk, Stanton	No objections.
iii.	DC/24/0931/FUL Land at Chardale, Dale Road, Stanton	No objections.

138.

Matters for noting and resolution:

- a. **Play Area Inspection Reports for January 2025** – the reports were received and noted. There were no major areas of concern. The received replacement parts would be fitted as soon as the weather allowed this. The Clerk informed the Council that SALC were not currently planning to run another Play Area Inspection training course at this stage.
- b. **Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:
 - 1 – Highways**
 - 1.1 Signs for Duke Street North had been paid for and ordered.
 - 1.2 The Clerk had sent a letter to all businesses at Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate West asking them to request HGV drivers use the Hepworth Road route in and out of the village. Highways had confirmed that they would install a new post and sign on the verge near Chapel Walk (picture of lorry and All Routes with Right arrow) and an 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign on the post that previously had a school crossing sign which was now been removed..
 - 1.8 Village name sign for Hepworth Road - Highways have provided a blank template sign and the Clerk has arranged for wording to be added. Once complete, Highways to install the sign.
 - 1.9 The Street – Wyken Road – The light at The Grundle is still recorded as not working – reported initially in Jul 24. County Cllr Spicer would chase this.
 - 2 – Grounds** – The Clerk had sought quotations for various hedge and tree works to be considered at Agenda item.9f.
- c. **80th Anniversary of VE Day (8 May 25)** – Cllr McDonald proposed the following arrangements for Thursday 8 May 25:
 - 9am – Raising of VE Day 80 Flag (to be purchased by Parish Council)
 - 9.30pm – Lighting of Beacon (owned by Parish Council) on MUGA.

In addition, it was proposed to hold a 40s Tea Party in the Village Hall on Monday 5 May 25 (Bank Holiday) between 2 and 5pm which could include a sandwich buffet, cakes and refreshments, bouncy castle, children's entertainer and raffle.

It was proposed by Cllr Burdett, seconded by Cllr Meadwell and all in favour that a budget of £1,000 be granted for the event, and that the Clerk would order the flag.

Organisations involved are Royal British Legion, Women's Institute, Stanton Players, Football Club, Church, Stan Coco, Tea Dance Group, Stanton Steamer, Friendship Club.

The arrangements for VJ Day would be discussed at a later parish council meeting.

- d. **Keep The Heat** – Cllr Meadwell provided feedback on the recent 'Keep The Heat' surveys conducted by parish councillors during January 2025. 30 properties were surveyed and were all provided with brief reports and images together with a leaflet. Feedback was given to Green Suffolk that Stanton would be happy to do similar surveys next year.
- f. **Quotations for Hedge and Tree work** – The Clerk had sought quotations from 6 contractors to undertake hedge and tree work. Only 2 responded with quotations and these were considered. **It was proposed by Cllr Scowcroft, seconded by Cllr Frizzell and all in favour to appoint Countryside Conservation.**
- g. **Annual Litter Pick** – Cllr Burdett agreed to liaise with Angie Burrow to run the Annual Litter Pick on 29 March 25. The Clerk would arrange the loan of equipment from West Suffolk Council.

139. Matters for discussion

Cllr Frizzell raised the issue of parking along The Chase again. It had been witnessed that pedestrians with pushchairs had, on occasions, had to walk in the road as the pavements had been blocked.

Cllr Harvey-Evers would follow up with the Practice Manager and Cllr Frizzell to arrange a meeting to discuss the Parish Council's concerns.

Cllr Scowcroft left the meeting at this point.

140. Correspondence received

- a. Request to attend PC meeting from Jaynic (March meeting) – noted
- b. Email from resident about red markings on Bury Lane – noted
- c. West Suffolk Council – Building Resilience and Nutrition Fund - noted
- d. Email from WSC – Invitation to West Suffolk Civic Dinner on 7 March 25 – noted

141. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 13 March 2025 at 7pm

142. Meeting concluded at 9.06 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____