



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 9 January 2025 at Stanton Village Hall.

115. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Brian Brown	Barry McDonald
Dee Burdett (Vice Chair)	Greg Meadwell (arrived late)
John Frizzell	Martin Scowcroft
Charlie Harvey-Evers (Chair)	

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/ not approved
Lorraine Frost	Not given	Not approved
Keith Marlow	Illness	Approved

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the resignation of Cllr Martin Wright. The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Wright for all that he has achieved since being a councillor and that he will be greatly missed.

116. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

117. Public Forum: there was one member of the public who observed the meeting.

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

- Local Plan – currently waiting from the Inspector’s deliberations.
- The planning application for Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate from Equation was approved at Development Control Committee on 8 January after a lengthy discussion. It was proposed that a liaison group be set up for communications.
- Discussions taking place on the government proposal to remove two-tier authorities and replace with unitary authority.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer – this item was deferred until later on the agenda when Cllr Spicer had arrived as she was attending another parish council meeting.

119. Clerks Report – The Clerk’s Report had been circulated with the agenda.

120. Declarations of Interest – NONE

121. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

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

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£72.68
Cleared payments	£2,180.65

Bank Reconciliation

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

Balance per Bank Statements	£93,779.56
Unpresented payments	£49.77
Unpresented receipts	£0
Adjusted Bank Balance	£93,729.79

ii. 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)	£1,669.27
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet (BACs)	£10.00
Amazon – CCTV Warning Signs (Debit Card)	£360.43
Anglian Water – Recreation Ground (DD)	£360.43
Anglian Water (Cemetery)	£17.37
Anglian Water (Clock Tower)	£5.00
Paul Williamson (Christmas Tree) (BACs)	£216.00

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

iii. Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report and Reserves Balances – the Clerk reported that 3 budget codes were over budget but overall the finances were under budget. The Reserves balances now included £1,000 earmarked reserve for Upthorpe Management Ltd.

b. Budget 2025-2026 – the proposed budget was as agreed at the budget meeting in November, but the forecast expenditure for the current year had been updated to reflect actual expenditure to 31 Dec 24. It was proposed, seconded and all in favour to keep the Precept Application at the same level as the past 2 years at £71,010

122. Planning Applications – there were no new planning applications nor determined applications that were rejected.

123. Matters for discussion

a. Play Area Inspection Reports for November 2024 – 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 would make enquiries with SALC about future Play Area Inspection training and offer this to all councillors.

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

1 – Highways

1.1 The cost of £2,972 for the signs are to be approved at agenda item 9f.

1.2 Following an on-site meeting with Highways and representatives from the PC it was proposed that 2 signs be installed, one on the verge near Chapel Walk (new post and sign), and the other at the junction following the removal of a school crossing sign which was now obsolete: the post could be re-used. Highways would confirm if this was possible.

1.8 Highways to provide a blank template sign and the Parish Council would arrange for the wording to be added.

1.9 Following the on-site meeting, the lighting was discussed. The Clerk determined that the light at The Grundle had been reported in Jul 24 as not working but was still not fixed – this would be chased.

2 – Grounds – The Clerk would be producing a list of hedgerows, trees and encroachment on paths and would seek quotations for work to be carried out before beginning of March.

c. 80th Anniversary of VE Day (8 May 25) and VJ Day (15 Aug 25) – The Parish Council proposed the following events could be organised to commemorate VE Day:

- Mon 5 May (Bank Holiday) – hold a 40s Tea Party in the Village Hall – to involve: Royal British Legion, Women’s Institute and Stanton Players
- Thu 8 May (VE Day)
 - 9 am – raise a flag at the Clock Tower
 - 9.30 pm – Light Beacon at Recreation Ground

Cllrs Burdett, Brown and McDonald would make enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

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

Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer arrived at the end of the consideration of this agenda item.

118 b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer

- Highways Issues – the Clerk confirmed that these had already been dealt with as part of the Village Issues List.
- A1088 – Bridge Replacement – anticipated to complete by end of February.
- Sale of old Primary School – still unable to confirm who buyer is but completion expected by end of March.
- Devolution – the County Council agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government’s Devolution Priority Programme (DPP), which would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor (likely covering Suffolk and Norfolk) and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up. This could mean more responsibilities for parish councils. The County Council had also requested that scheduled elections to the County Council be postponed in May – a decision would need to be reached by 23 February.
- A traffic survey would be conducted in Grove Lane next week as part of the proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit from the junction with Upthorpe Road until past the entrance to Shepherds Grove Park.

Cllr Brown raised his concerns with the Highways Comments on the application, which stated “The proposal for the temporary use of the site is welcomed.” He felt it was inappropriate for Highways to express a view. Suffolk County Cllr Spicer was aware of this and confirmed that it was being looked into.

c. Parish Council Meeting Dates - The proposed meeting dates were approved, noting the change of date in September from 11th to 4th.

- d. **Community Recognition Awards 2024-25** – The arrangements for the Community Recognition Awards to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 24 April 2025 were approved.
- e. **Road Signs for Duke Street North** – It was proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Brown and with one objection, the expenditure of £2,972.53 (incl VAT) to be spent on new road signs for Duke Street North indicating the road was not suitable for HGVs, was approved.
- f. **Internal Auditor** – It was agreed that the preferred Internal Auditor was Victoria Waples and the Clerk would make arrangements for her appointment for 2024-25.
- g. **Annual Allotment Holders Meeting** – this would be held on Thursday 27 February at 7pm at the Village Hall. Allotment holders would be notified of an increase in rent of £2 per year, with effect from January 2026. It was also agreed that a skip would be provided and paid for by the Parish Council as a “one-off” if allotment holders agreed to work together to place all rubbish, including glass, into the skip. In future any rubbish **must** be disposed of by the individual allotment holders.
- h. **Village Green Naming** – It was agreed that an official opening ceremony would take place on Saturday 22 March. The following actions were agreed:
 - Clerk to seek quotations for an appropriate sign for the Park
 - Clerk to produce a framed certificate and purchase a bouquet of flowers for the resident who suggested the winning name
 - Clerk to contact local Press and The Stanton Steamer

124. Correspondence received

- a. Have your say on the direction of policing in Suffolk – Suffolk PCC – noted
- b. Email from Pre-School re cancelled ‘fairy’ event - noted
- c. Email from WSC – Update on Street Trading Policy Implementation - noted

125. Questions to the Chairman – Cllr Meadwell wished to discuss the possibility of having a Youth Shadow Parish Council – this would be added to the next agenda for consideration.

126. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 7pm

127. Meeting concluded at 8.22 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____