

**STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Thursday 17 February 2022, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash.**

Present: Cllrs P Morris (Chairman), R Kember, Mrs V Lane, G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey, T Pulham and G Tancred. One member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from County Cllr Stringer and District Cllr Burn.
2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**  
Item 12 2.3 – Cllr T Pulham
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** to receive the following reports:  
Police – report available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk> No queries were raised.  
County Councillor – Cllr Stringer’s written report had been circulated – copy attached to the Minutes.  
District Councillor – Cllr Burn’s report had been circulated – copy attached to the Minutes.  
Parishioners and Public  
Parish Magazine – Mr Ken Smith attended the meeting to express some concerns over future management of the magazine as he understood the advertising editor and treasurer would be retiring from those roles in the near future and it was important volunteer replacements were recruited to ensure the magazine could continue. The roles could be combined or continue on a separate basis. The roles would be advertised in the next magazine. A query was raised as to whether the magazine was self-financing. Mr Smith stated it was at present but would only be so providing advertising continued as at present. The Chairman thanked Mr Smith for his attendance, his work on the magazine and report on the current position. It was hoped a volunteer to fill both or each of the roles would come forward.  
*Meeting closed to the public*
3. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 20 January 2022**  
Cllr Tancred proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Maisey and unanimously agreed.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report only**

5. May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	Vacancies continued to be reported in the parish magazine.
17.5.18	Damaged road signs A140	Reported via Suffolk CC Highways website reporting tool. No repairs as yet by Suffolk CC Highways.
17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	TP liaising with Record Office.
17.5.18	Thwaite Comm Projects St George’s Hall questionnaire St George’s Bring & Buy Sale St George’s Hall woodwork and quinquennial inspection	Item 13.1 below Deferred due to covid - RK Itemf 13.1 below
15/7/21	Grit Bins: Replace small bin at A140 junction opposite primary school with larger bin from PO. Small bin to be moved to PO.	TP/GL
15/11/18	PIIP’s – identify items of community expenditure from Cil award. Parishioners views on joint village hall or retain separate halls Ditch clearance quotation– Church Lane, Thwaite Hardstanding at OSR Stoke Ash Village Sign circular Seat	Pending outcome of St George’s Hall survey  TP obtaining quotations TP obtaining quotations GL/TP to report on alternative

30.5.19	Monitor road edge – The Street, SA	All councillors. Monitoring extended to both parishes.
18.7.19	Stoke Ash Play equipment/play surface grant funding Remove lower tree branches Action following Annual Inspection Notice Board for information	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group  PM GT carrying out weekly inspections and monitor TP
18.7.19	Suffolk CC Our Water Project	No response had been received from the Our Water team.
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	GL pursuing with District Councillor
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP & RK
19/8/21	CPR training	Agree date and numbers attending with trainer
20.1.22	Xmas Tree Festival Tags	Tags from the PC had been obtained. GT to prepare list and circulate.

6. **To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received

7. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/21/06798: Jem, Deadman’s Lane, Stoke Ash – insertion of roof lights and window to facilitate loft conversion – **Planning Permission Granted**
2. DC/21/06374: The Walnut Tree, Norwich Road, Thwaite – application for consent to display an advertisement – reposition of existing pub signage. **Advertisement Consent Granted**

8. **Planning correspondence** - none

9. **Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme** – The Chairman believed the item should remain on the agenda as a reminder of the need for affordable housing for local people in both parishes.

10. **To consider CPR community training**

A date of Monday 14 March 2022, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall had been agreed for eight councillors with CPR trainer Mr Mike Favager. A fee of £100 had been quoted for the training.

11. **Neighbourhood Watch report**

A written report had been circulated by Cllr Mrs Lane who was pleased to report another quiet month.

12. **MSDC Cil Award:**

1. Play Equipment – To consider contribution to Stoke Ash Village Hall playing field equipment.

It was reported the Village Hall Committee was looking at providing equipment for young children, no decision had been made and would be dependent upon funding. Cllr Tancred stated he had been in contact with Play Equipment companies and costs vary. The Chairman suggested the parish council considered in principle to contribute to the purchase of equipment from Cil monies available. Cllr Mrs Maisey proposed support of the Chairman’s in principle suggestion, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane and unanimously agreed. It was noted the Village Hall Committee would also look at trying to obtain sponsorship funding.

2. Ditch Clearance – Church Lane, Thwaite – to consider quotation/s

One quote had been obtained to date. Due to the extent of the work it would be necessary to try to obtain two further quotations. Cllr Kember offered to obtain these.

In preparation for the work it would be necessary for the roadside ditch along Wickham Road from the Old School Room towards the 140 to also be cleared to ensure the free flow of water. It was understood the adjoining landowner had agreed to clear the section of ditch that was his responsibility but the timescale for the work was unknown. Cllr Kember offered to draft a letter to the adjoining landowner enquiring as to when the work would be carried out.

3. To consider quotation to re-surface the hardstanding next the Old School Room – *Cllr Pulham had declared an interest.*

Members agreed there was a need to carry out this work and agreed acceptance of the quotation from Cllr Pulham totalling £750 plus vat. Cllr R Maisey stated the trees overhanging the Old School Room would also need to be dealt with.

Quotation specification: to scrape off the old tarmac chippings, make good the eastern area around the Old School Room (depending upon drainage work required), lay a weed proof matting, lay fresh tarmac chippings and roll.

Cllr Pulham stated he would carry out the work free of charge. Members recorded their thanks to Cllr Pulham for his generous offer.

As there would not currently be sufficient cil funding available to deal with items 12 .2 & 3 above it was agreed those items would need to be dealt with under the heading of the Thwaite Community Projects.

4. Stoke Ash Village Sign – to consider alternative to circular seat – item deferred to enable Cllrs Leggett and Pulham to give further thought to an alternative.

### **13. Thwaite Community Projects Group**

#### **1. St George’s Hall inspection and woodwork report**

Cllr Leggett reported on conflicting views between the Diocesan Architect who was of the view the viability of St George’s should be established before deciding on any course involving expenditure and that of MSDC Conservation and English Heritage which was very positive. Cllr Leggett suggested putting the proposed questionnaire to the village to obtain parishioners views before taking any further action with regard to the structure of the building. It was agreed Cllr Leggett progressed the questionnaire with a deadline for response from parishioners of 31 March 2022. In the meantime Cllr Pulham would speak to local agents with regard to the value should that course of action be a consensus from parishioners.

2. St George’s Hall village questionnaire – see above.

3. Any further report/s - none.

### **14. Lunch Club report**

Cllr Leggett reported the club was currently self-financing and he was still waiting to hear from District Cllr Burn with regard to grant funding.

### **15. Stoke Ash VH Play and Exercise equipment**

#### **1. To consider MSDC annual play inspection report**

It was noted all items raised in the report had been classed as low or very low risk. Cllr Tancred continued to carry out weekly inspections of the equipment and a record of any action required was noted and actioned where necessary. Cllr Pulham was in the process of obtaining a notice board for the play area – this would contain information about the equipment and contact details for queries or an emergency (as suggested in the report).

2. Remove lower tree branches – The Chairman was due to action the work.

### **16. Wash Lane report**

The Chairman reported the lane was looking very attractive and was now a very nice walk as the spring bulbs emerged. Cllr Pulham stated he would obtain bluebells for planting later in the spring.

### **17. To consider adoption of a Parish Council Multicultural and Inclusivity Policy**

Following the concern raised by a parishioner that singing Christmas Carols at the two Christmas events had excluded some parishioners from attending, Cllr Kember had suggested the Council adopt a Multicultural and Inclusivity Policy which the Council would follow for any future events. Cllr Kember had put forward a document for consideration by members as follows:

*Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council follows the national Government principles that we are a diverse and inclusive society. The Parish Council supports and encourages all forms of (mainstream) religious worship and festivals and respects those who have no religious belief or other value system. The Parish Council cannot support those who oppose such celebrations in our multicultural society but supports their right not to participate.*

Cllr Tancred proposed adoption of the above document, seconded Cllr Pulham and unanimously agreed. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Kember. It was agreed the Council’s decision to follow the above policy and the content of the policy be included in the Parish Magazine for the information of parishioners.

### **18. To consider holding bi-monthly Parish Council meetings**

Cllr Tancred had suggested reverting back to bi-monthly meetings be considered on the grounds that holding monthly meetings over the last 18 months had not had the desired effect of shortening the length nor content of meetings. As in the past, should an urgent item arise during bi-monthly meetings an extraordinary meeting could be called. It was suggested that allotted time slots of 5 minutes could be given for reports and that where possible written reports were circulated before meetings to reduce the time required for any one item. It was unanimously agreed that with effect from 1 April 2022 meetings would revert to bi-monthly – meetings dates for the remainder of 2022 being: 19 May (annual parish council meeting), 22 July, 15 September and 17 November.

### **19. Litter Pick – 26/27 February 2022 – report on arrangements**

The Litter Pick had been advertised and arrangements as agreed at the last meeting to go ahead. Meet at 10am on both mornings. Black bags had been delivered and they would be collected by MSDC Waste on

Monday 28 February from Stoke Ash Village Hall and the Old School Room, Thwaite. Refreshments would be served both days after the litter pick.

**20. Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

Suffolk Accident Rescue – annual request. Cllr R Maisey proposed a donation of £100.00, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane – unanimously agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment – (TCP: Thwaite Comm Projects – PC: Parish Council)

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
17/2/22	TCP – Anglian Water	OSR water charges 30/7/21 – 29/1/22	£23.94	-	£23.94	Agreed	100283
17/2/22	TCP Projects - E.on Next	OSR charges 13/10/21 – 3/2/22	£27.72	-	£27.72	Agreed	100284
17/2/22	PC - Clerk	Sal-expen Jan-Feb 22	£263.52	-	£263.52	Agreed	100516
17/2/2220 /1/22	PC - Headway	Donation	£30.00	-	£30.00	Agreed	100517

Cllr Mrs Maisey proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance Report

1. Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC Bank reconciliation as at 31.1.22 had been circulated. This showed a joint Community and Business Premium balance of £15,046.38 as at that date. The above reconciled figure was approved by the Council.

Thwaite Community Projects balance as at 30.12.21 stood at £5938.44.

2. Receipts – second half financial year to date:

Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC

6.9.21 Bank interest - .36p

13.9.21 MSDC 2<sup>nd</sup> half precept - £3556.99

Thwaite Projects Group

26.10.21 – Lottery income £806.40

**21. Platinum Celebrations 2 – 5 June 2022** – report from Working Group

Notes from the Working Group meeting held 10 February 2022 had been circulated for information. The Group was thanked for their work so far. It was queried whether there were too many activities planned.

Cllr Pulham clarified events on the Thursday and Friday of the Bank Holiday would be taking place at the White Horse, Stoke Ash. The Street Party planned for Sunday 5 June was for children and parents. Commemoration mugs were planned for each household in both parishes. There would be a bric-a-brac stall at the Saturday event run by Cllr Kember selling items currently stored at St George’s Hall. There was a query as to the proposed fly-past by the Modellers Club – if not possible there would be a photographic display. Cllr Pulham stated the estimated cost for events over the Bank Holiday totalled £1600. It was hoped the majority of the cost would be sponsored. Cllr Leggett would prepare flyers for delivery in both parishes.

The Chairman congratulated the Working Group on the amount of thought that had gone into the preparations.

**22. Stoke Ash Parish and Thwaite Parish Annual Parish Meetings** – to confirm arrangements

Confirmation had been received from SALC that the Thwaite Annual Parish meeting could be held in Stoke Ash. It was therefore agreed that the meetings would be held consecutively on Thursday 28 April 2022,

Stoke Ash at 7pm, Thwaite at 7.30pm followed by Cheese & Wine for those attending.

Cllr Pulham offered to obtain the cheese and wine. Cllr Mrs Lane would publicise the meetings in the Parish Magazine.

**23. Clerk’s report/correspondence** – nothing further to report.

**24. Chairman’s report** – none.

**25. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests** - none

**26. Date of next meeting: Thursday 17 March 2022, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash**

Meeting closed 10.05pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

### Summary of action points

1. May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	Vacancies continued to be reported in the parish magazine.
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17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	TP liaising with Record Office.
17.5.18	Thwaite Comm Projects St George's Hall  St George's Bring & Buy Sale St George's Hall woodwork and quinquennial inspection	Questionnaire on future of Hall to be delivered to parishioners by early March with response by 31.3.22 – Projects Group Would be held over Platinum Jubilee - RK Deferred pending outcome of parishioner questionnaire
15/7/21	Grit Bins: Replace small bin at A140 junction opposite primary school with larger bin from PO. Small bin to be moved to PO.	TP/GL
15/11/18	PIIP's – identify items of community expenditure from Cil award. Parishioners views on joint village hall or retain separate halls Ditch clearance quotation – Church Lane, Thwaite Hardstanding at OSR Stoke Ash Village Sign circular Seat	Pending St George's survey  RK obtaining additional quotations Quotation for £750 plus vat. TP to complete GL/TP to report on alternative
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18.7.19	Stoke Ash Play equipment/play surface grant funding Remove lower tree branches Action following Annual Inspection Notice Board for information	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group  PM Complete – GT carrying out weekly inspections TP
18.7.19	Suffolk CC Our Water Project	No response from the Our Water team. Item removed pending further contact.
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	GL pursuing with District Councillor
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP & RK
19/8/21	CPR training	To be held 14 March 2022, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash VH – all councillors
17.2..22	Xmas Tree Festival Tags	GT to circulate Xmas Wish List
17.2.22	Annual Parish Meeting notice in Magazine	VL
17.2.22	Multicultural & Inclusivity Policy in Magazine	LC

### COVID-19

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: [www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk)

### **Levelling up!**

At midnight on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the government announced that Suffolk had been given the go ahead to negotiate a “county deal” although no agreement has been reached regarding if this deal will include a mayor, or the needing to have unitary government etc. The leaders of Suffolk County Council are at pains to declare that no decisions have been made etc, but governments rarely relinquish power and funding to the regions without strings attached.

### **Budget Scrutiny Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> January**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Conservative’s budget proposals for this year. Our Group believes the budget did not raise the Social Care Precept tax to the necessary amount. Suffolk GLI believes this needs to be raised to a 3% increase instead of the proposed 2%, to aid in Suffolk’s social care crisis. This recommendation was rejected by the Conservatives.

Furthermore, the administration did not provide the Carbon Budget to work alongside the core budget. The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council’s ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030. It is important the Carbon Budget is scrutinised, as there are many issues with data collection and performance measures that are yet to be addressed.

### **Cabinet Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The Cabinet has met to discuss the core budget, and vote on whether to pass the budget through to Full Council to be finalised on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The Cabinet are also voted to approve adoption of the Carbon Budget, as well as the recommendations to enhance Suffolk Biodiversity – making this a key priority moving forward.

Agreed Cabinet documents can be found here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(01-02-2022\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-02-2022),%20The%20Cabinet)

### **Transport East**

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT for JANUARY 2022 to Stoke Ash & Thwaite PARISH COUNCIL’S MEETING on 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Council tax freeze proposed but investment in recovery to continue**

Mid Suffolk District Council is considering freezing its element of council tax this year – helping residents through post-pandemic recovery, while still investing in priority areas to improve quality of life. [Read the full story](#)

### **Update on Gateway 14**

Gateway 14 is set to have a significant impact on the wider Mid Suffolk district as well as Stowmarket and surrounding villages - bringing in £75-250m per year and creating between 1,800 and 6,200 direct and indirect jobs.

In order to keep everyone updated on progress, a new quarterly bulletin has been launched to keep local residents, businesses and stakeholders fully informed. [Download the first Gateway 14 quarterly bulletin](#)

### **Omicron business grants available to hospitality and leisure businesses**

Businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk that have been severely impacted by Omicron can now apply for a one-off grant payment through one of two Covid-19 support grants. **NOTE Application deadline is 18 February** [Read the full story](#).

### **Thurston byelection will be on 17 February**

Polling day for the byelection in Thurston Ward, brought about by the resignation of Councillor Wendy Turner, will be on Thursday, 17 February. Cllr Turner shared the two-member ward with Conservative Cllr Harry Richardson. The seat is hotly contested, with Labour, Lib Dem, Green and Conservative candidates standing.

[Read the election page](#)

*David Burn*