

STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs P Morris (Chairman), G Leggett, R Kember, Mrs V Lane, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey and T Pulham. District Cllr D Burn. Four members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr G Tancred
2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** to receive the following reports:

Police – report available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised.

County Councillor – no report available.

District Councillor – a written report from District Cllr Burn had been circulated. Copy attached to the Minutes.

Parishioners and Public

Holiday Lets: Stoke Ash – two parishioners expressed their concerns on behalf of residents living near the air B&B holiday lets in The Street, Stoke Ash due to the noise and disturbance caused by the holidaymakers to residents, particularly at night using the outdoor hot tub at 11pm plus during the week and trespass by them into neighbouring gardens. The resulting noise from raised voices was seriously impacting on neighbouring residents quality of life. In addition residents had suffered abusive behaviour from certain of the holiday makers demanding car parking spaces near the holiday lets. The spokesmen stated the residents affected by the rowdy behaviour should be supported by the community and parish council. Damage was being caused to a resident's hedge due to unauthorized car parking. The owner of the properties did not live in the village and was therefore not affected.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for raising the concerns.

Meeting closed to the public and it was agreed item 18 on the Agenda was brought forward

18. **Holiday Lets, Stoke Ash** – to consider action following concerns raised by local residents
Members expressed their support for Stoke Ash residents affected by the above. The Chairman stated he had drafted a letter to the owner of the holiday lets as follows:

*Dear Sir - **Holiday Lets – Stoke Ash***

The Parish Council has received many complaints over the last few years from local residents regarding anti-social behaviour associated with your holiday properties, and involving your customers. These complaints are mostly regarding rowdy and noisy behaviour, particularly late at night by the holidaymakers enjoying themselves in the hot tubs which you have provided.

There is little regard for local residents. As you know, there are also problems with parking spaces with one incident recently of a (lady) resident being subjected to foul and abusive language by one of your customers, who thought that she should move her car in order that he could park his, as he thought that he was entitled to, having "paid a f---ing load of money" for his holiday.

It occurs to us that perhaps you should do more than at present in educating your customers as to the behaviour expected in a quiet residential neighbourhood, so that peaceful co-existence can be maintained and residents may enjoy their homes free of distress and disturbance, which is their absolute right.

We would remind you that it is your responsibility to provide suitable information to your hirers to ensure that they behave in an acceptable manner and not ours and we will continue to monitor the situation.

We hope that you are successful in this and that your customers can enjoy their holidays without compromising our residents' quality of life.

Yours sincerely

Cllr P Morris

Chairman

Cllr Pulham proposed the letter was sent to the owner of the properties, seconded Cllr R Maisey and unanimously agreed.

Cllrs Mrs Lane and Tancred would inform the residents of the action taken by the Parish Council and suggest they keep a record, date and time, of any future disturbances.

The question of whether Council Tax was paid on the properties was raised. Cllr Burn would look into the status of council tax on a holiday let.

Cllr Kember would contact Environmental Health at MSDC for guidance on such activity in a quiet village. Thanks were recorded to all those volunteering to help progress action.

3. To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 17 February 2022

Cllr Pulham proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane – unanimously agreed.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes for report only

1. 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 St George's Bring & Buy Sale St George's Hall woodwork and quinquennial inspection	Questionnaire on future of Hall - response by 31.3.22 requested – 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 without charge 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 Notice Board for information	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group Complete. TP
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	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 via newsletter
17.2.22	Annual Parish Meeting notice in Magazine	VL - complete
17.2.22	Multicultural & Inclusivity Policy in Magazine	LC- complete

6. To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC

- DC/22/00800: Land east of Ashlea, Brockford Street – application for Outline Planning Permission (access points to be considered, appearance, landscape, layout and scale to be reserved). Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings. Following discussion of the application a response of no comment was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

2. DC/22/01138: Marsh Cottage, Ipswich Road, Stoke Ash – application for Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use, Operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town & Country Planning Act 1990: Section 191 as amended by Section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991: Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015 – The Annexe to Marsh Cottage is a freestanding barn-style dwelling, occupied by family members as an independent household. We wish to legally separate the two dwellings so that one can be inherited by its occupiers without disturbing the other. A recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and agreed with the comment it was believed the driveway was not in the ownership of property as appeared to be shown on the application drawing.
 3. AP/21/00103: Cousins Barn, Clay Lane – erection of one single storey two bed roomed dwelling following demolition of existing structure. Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of MSDC to refuse permission. A repeat of the Parish Council recommendation of refusal to the Planning Appeal Inspectorate was proposed, seconded and agreed.
7. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received
 8. **Planning correspondence**
Hill Farm, Stoke Ash - The Chairman reported on work being undertaken at Hill Farm, possibly in preparation for re-submission of an application for a wedding venue. The Chairman stated the only reason for the refusal had been that it included works outside the red line curtilage. As a parishioner and neighbour the Chairman had been in email contact with District Cllr Burn and MSDC Enforcement regarding the recent works. The emails would be forwarded to Councillors for their information.
Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan – circulated to members for information and comment.
Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan – circulated to councillors for information and comment.
 9. **Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme** – no further report.
 10. **Report on CPR training held 14 March 2022**
All Councillors had attended and commended the course and content. It was hoped a further course could be arranged for interested parishioners.
 11. **Neighbourhood Watch report** – the working group were pleased to report there had been no incidents over the last month.
 12. **MSDC Cil Award:**
 1. Play Equipment – To consider Parish Council contribution to Stoke Ash VH playing field equipment. The type of equipment required would need to be known before any contribution could be considered.
 2. Stoke Ash Village Sign – circular seat. Awaiting alternative suggestion from Cllrs Leggett and Pulham.
 13. **Thwaite Community Projects Group**
 1. Ditch Clearance – Church Lane, Thwaite – to consider further quotation/s. Cllr Kember would report on additional quotations when received.
 2. Hardstanding next Old School Room, Thwaite – Cllr Pulham stated the work should be complete by the end of June 2022. The French drain around the Old School room would be dealt with after the ditch clearance work was complete.
 3. St George’s Hall village questionnaire report – one response had been received to date.
 4. St George’s Hall inspection and woodwork report – deferred pending completion of the questionnaire process.
 5. Any further report/s - an enquiry had been received with regard to renting a Thwaite allotment. The Working Group stated lettings were on hold until October 2022.
 14. **Lunch Club report**
Cllr Leggett reported each lunch had covered its costs since re-commencing. The result of the funding application to District Cllr Burn was pending. It was hoped Cllr Burn would attend the next lunch.
 15. **Stoke Ash VH Play and Exercise equipment report**
 1. Notice Board – Cllr Pulham stated the Notice Board had been ordered.
 2. Tree pruning – complete.
 16. **Wash Lane report**
The Chairman reported the lane was now very attractive with spring flowers beginning to bloom.
 17. **Huggins Lane** – to consider registering under the Quiet Lanes Scheme
The scheme had previously been considered for Deadman’s Lane and Huggins Lane but had not progressed mainly due to cost of the signs. It was understood the scheme had no further funding at present but an

application could be made for future consideration. The scheme provided signposting indicating a road was included in the Quiet Lane scheme and some priority should be given to pedestrians and cyclists. Cllr Burn offered to investigate whether Quiet Lane status would have any impact on a planning application and the Chairman would look into whether the scheme was to be resurrected.

18. Holiday Lets – Stoke Ash – to consider action following concerns reported by local residents – see above.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.
2. SALC – notification of parish clerk revised hourly rates 2021/22. A 1.75% hourly rate increase had been agreed by the Government and NALC. Parish councils were encouraged to implement the increase to be backdated to 1 April 2021. Cllr Pulham stated this would be discussed at the next finance meeting.
3. Accounts for Payment

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
17/3/22	Stoke Ash VH	Hire of Hall Jan&Feb 2022	£26.00	-	£26.00	Agreed	100518
17/3/22	PC Clerk	Sal-expen Feb-Mar 2022	£265.24	-	£265.24	Agreed	100519
17/3/22	Suffolk Accident Rescue	Donation	£100.00	-	£100.00	Agreed	100520
17/3/22	E.on Next	Thwaite Projects – OSR electricity Feb-Mar 2022	£15.36	-	£15.36	Agreed	100285

Cllr Kember proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr R Maisey and unanimously agreed.

4. Finance Report - none

20. Platinum Celebrations 2022 – report from Working Group

Cllr Tancred reported full details of events and activities would be printed in the next Parish Magazine. Parishioners would be welcome to attend the White Horse, Stoke Ash to enjoy food and entertainment, without charge, on the 2 and 3 June. Non-residents could attend but would need to purchase a ticket. Tickets would be delivered to each household in both parishes before the events. Thanks were recorded to the Landlord and Landlady of the White Horse for their generosity and efforts.

On the afternoon of Saturday 4 June a fete would take place on the Village Hall Green. On Sunday 5 June there would be a childrens’ street party along the Village Hall street section with childrens’ entertainer. A street closure had been applied for and a marquee would be available on the Village Hall green.

Cllr Kember reported an order for 150 Platinum Jubilee China Mugs would be placed. This number would allow for breakages and a small number for purchase.

21. Clerk’s report/correspondence

Annual Parish Meetings – these would be held as agreed on Thursday 28 April 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall, followed by Cheese and Wine.

22. Chairman’s report – none.

23. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests – none.

24. Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 19 May 2022, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash

25. To consider the temporary exclusion of press and public: *That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission at Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed*

- (i) To consider a long service award and presentation

Meeting closed: 9.32pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Summary of action points:

2. 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 St George's Bring & Buy Sale St George's Hall woodwork and quinquennial inspection	Questionnaire on future of Hall - response by 31.3.22 requested – 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 without charge 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 Notice Board for information	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group TP
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	GL pursuing with District Councillor
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP & RK
17.2..22	Xmas Tree Festival Tags	GT to circulate Xmas Wish List via newsletter
17.3.22	Letter to holiday lets owner Inform neighbouring residents of action and suggest they keep record of nuisance behaviour Contact Environmental Health for noise and unsociable behaviour advice	PM VL/GT RK
17.3.22	Pursue Quiet Lane scheme re. Huggins Lane	PM
17.3.22	Obtain Long Service Award for presentation	VL/GT

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT for FEB/MAR 2022
to STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING
on 17 MARCH 2022

Mid Suffolk District Council freezes council tax but investment in recovery to continue

Mid Suffolk District Council has frozen 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. *[double-click the icon below to open the bulletin]*



G14_Quarterly
Update.pdf

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to new ‘County Deal’

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils welcomed news that Suffolk is one of nine counties invited to negotiate a ground-breaking devolution deal – bringing more control over areas such as transport, infrastructure and skills to the region. [Read the full story](#)

Thurston byelection was held on 17 February

Polling day for the byelection in Thurston Ward, brought about by the resignation of Green Party Councillor Wendy Turner, was last Thursday. Cllr Turner shared the two-member ward with Conservative Cllr Harry Richardson. The result was a resounding win for Austin Davies, the Green Party candidate, with 845 votes; the Conservative candidate polled 399 votes; and Lib Dems and Labour brought up the rear with 37 and 32 votes respectively. Turnout was 28%. The political balance of the council is therefore unchanged, with the administration and opposition still having 17 councillors each.

Switch onto a new Digital Skills Programme for businesses

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who want to learn new or improve their digital skills can now access free courses as part of a new business support programme. [Read the full story](#)

A new bigger, better library for Needham Market!

Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk District Council are excited to announce that the new Needham Market Library is now open. [Read the full story](#)

Nine new affordable homes in Botesdale for local residents

Nine affordable homes opened their doors to new households this month, following the completion of a new development in Botesdale. [Read the full story](#)

Bird Flu outbreak near Elmswell

The UK’s Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, commonly known as bird flu, at a small holding near Elmswell. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premise to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

All poultry keepers – whether commercial farmers or those with a small backyard flock – are required by law to house poultry, or otherwise, to keep them separate from wild birds. [Read the full story](#)

Since this story broke, we have been informed of further outbreaks more local to us, the largest being at the Gressingham duck operation near Redgrave; there is a smaller outbreak near Westhorpe.

[double-click the icon below to open the DEFRA ‘ of a Protection Zone and a Surveillance Zone’ – see map on p.15



pz-sz-declaration-AI
V2022-26-IP94-redgr

David Burn