

STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 17 June 2021, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash

Present: Cllrs P Morris, M Fleming, Mrs V Lane, R Kember, G Leggett, T Pulham and G Tancred.
District Cllr D Burn

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs C Maisey and R Maisey and County Cllr A Stringer.
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>

County Council – a written report from Cllr Stringer had been circulated to members prior to the meeting (copy attached to the Minutes).

District Council – Cllr Burn reported the Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for independent examination. The Examination would be held at the end of June/early July. It would be held in person, in two stages at a hotel in Copdock. It is hoped the document would be adopted by the end of the year.

Although not as yet at the planning application stage, Cllr Burn reported on the creation of a large solar farm in Palgrave. MSDC had been asked whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required. It would appear this would not be required. The 90 hectare site was currently agricultural land.

A query was raised with regard to the lack of response from MSDC offices to parish council enquiries. Despite telephone calls and emails it was very difficult to obtain a response across many district council departments, the latest being a query with regard to land ownership. Cllr Burn offered to follow this up with the District Council.

The Orchard planning appeal was raised regarding the process followed by the Appeal Inspector unable to attend the site visit. Cllr Burn would follow up his initial enquiries with Mid Suffolk Planning.

Parishioners and Public – none.

4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held 20 May 2021**
Cllr Leggett proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Fleming and agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes for report

May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancy	Vacancy reported in the parish magazine.
17.5.18	Damaged road signs A140	Reported via Suffolk CC Highways website reporting tool. Action pending.
23.11.17	Red telephone kiosk	Maintenance and repainting almost complete.
17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	Deferred pending record office move
17.5.18	Thwaite Comm Projects St George's Hall St George's Bring & Buy Sale Review allotment boundaries and mark pathways A future joint Community Hall	Parishioners' questionnaire on future of Hall – TP/GL deferred due to lockdown. Collection of items for a Bring & Buy sale after lockdown. RK Allotment plan with four additional plots pending Obtain Stoke Ash VH committee view. MF. Deferred due to lockdown restrictions.
18.3.21	Lawn mower service	TP
18.3.21	St George's Hall woodwork – obtain Heritage advice	TP & GL
23.4.21	Use of allotments – agreement not to cultivate. Sale of unused mower and purchase of strimmer	TP to check arrangement with previous Project chairman. complete
17.5.18	Speeding through both villages – Distribution of high viz vests to dog walkers/pedestrians and publicity Include availability of High Viz vests on village Facebook	TP/GL to continue to publicise availability of vests to parishioners
23.4.21		MF
20.9.18	Grit Bins: Replace small bin at A140 junction opposite primary school with	Deferred to 2021/22

	larger bin Replace grit in bins at : A140/Church Lane, opposite Stoke Hall and at Village Hall Suffolk CC had suggested moving the large grit bin in layby opposite the Post Office in SA to the other side of the road next the post box. In its current position it was at edge of the road next an adjacent ditch	LC Report to Suffolk CC Highways, the PC and a parishioner objected due to the narrow stretch of road, single track which would obstruct large vehicles and involve pedestrians having to walk in the road. Awaiting Suffolk CC response.
15/11/18	PIIP's – identify items of community expenditure from Cil award. Stock fencing at rear boundary of SA Playing Field. Parishioners views on joint village hall or retain separate halls Three new waste bins for village hall	To be installed during June 2021 - GL Deferred pending survey MF/TP
30.5.19	Monitor road edge – The Street, SA	All councillors. Monitoring extended to whole of both parishes.
18.7.19	Play equipment/play surface grant funding Tyre maintenance/cleaning Bark chippings – replace/clean Remove molehills	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group PM MF PM
18.7.19	Suffolk CC Our Water Project	Working Group to meet Mr Locksmith, Suffolk CC to progress– TP, GT, PM, DM, CM GL. Deferred due to lockdown.
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	Possible funding from MSDC – District Cllr Burn/GL
18.6.20	Local Government Transparency Code – ensure PC compliant	Current year documents 2021/21 to be added.
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	MF, GL, TP & RK – deferred due to covid
17.12.20	Roman Way – parking on public grassed areas. Obtain MSDC map showing ownership of verges	MSDC looking at developing a policy and enforcement of legal powers. Awaiting response from MSDC. The map obtained from MSDC showed the grassed areas were owned by Mid Suffolk and not Suffolk CC
21.1.21	Damaged highway verges	AS looking into Weight Restriction/Unsuitable for HGV signs and protocol for diversions from A140. Under review with County Highways - AS
20.5.21	Parking in layby opposite tel kiosk, SA	GL to speak to landowner re. possibility of piping and infilling ditch to extend layby for parking. Provide white dotted line to delineate layby - Suffolk Highways
20.5.21	Neighbourhood Watch – alert list of residents	Complete.
20.5.21	Dog Waste Bin – to agree site	Purchase of a bin left in abeyance.

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

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/21/02227: 158 The Street, Stoke Ash – repair works to roof (following fire damage).

Planning Permission Granted.

2. DC/21/02002: 158 The Street, Stoke Ash – repair works to roof and interior (following fire damage). **Listed Building Consent Granted.**
3. DC/21/02588: Thwaite Hall Barn, Wickham Road – replace roof and garage doors. **Planning Permission Granted**
8. **Planning correspondence** – none.
9. **Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme** – no report.
10. **Neighbourhood Watch report**
 Cllr Mrs Lane reported the scheme was going well, reports of suspicious behaviour in either village would be appreciated so that this information could be sent out to parishioners on the alert list. The two alert lists would be amalgamated to form one list for both villages. Two ladies from Guiding had joined the list.
 Cllr Leggett reported on a recent incident in the village relating to drugs. The police had attended. Cllr Mrs Lane stated the local Chairman of the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association had left the group resulting in reduced contact. Any alert or relevant emails were however still being received but there was very little communication via the local police contact concerning police activity in local villages. There was a suggestion this was taken up with PCC T Passmore.
11. **MSDC Cil Award:**
 1. Stoke Ash Village Hall playing field: east boundary fencing. Cllr Leggett reported the fence would be erected shortly pending availability of the contractor.
 2. Additional Play Equipment – the Village Hall Committee would meet after restrictions were lifted to discuss suitable additional equipment
 3. To consider cost and design for three new waste bins at Stoke Ash VH Green.
 To keep cost to a minimum it was suggested the plastic barrels could be use enclosed in a wooden stake frame. Cllr Pulham stated he would be able to supply the barrels. Cllr Fleming would make the frames. The stakes for the frame would not exceed £100. Cllr Tancred proposed the above, cost not to exceed £100, seconded Cllr Leggett and unanimously agreed.
 4. To consider additional items of expenditure from Cil funding including:
 Ditch clearance – Church Lane, Thwaite
 Hardstanding next Old School Room, Thwaite
 Cllrs Kember and Pulham would meet to discuss and put forward a recommendation for the above two schemes.
12. **Thwaite Community Projects Group**
 1. Report on allotment review and mapping. The group were in the process of preparing a plan showing the four additional allotment plots.
 2. Report on St George’s Hall woodwork. The woodwork report had been sent to English Heritage. The group were waiting for Heritage advice as to how work should proceed.
 3. Cllr Leggett reported the bus timetable had been replaced showing updates effective from May 2021.
 Cllr Mrs Maise reported the meeting with E.on to inspect the Smart meter had been re-scheduled for early July.
13. **Lunch Club** – awaiting Government guidance.
14. **Stoke Ash Play and Exercise Area report**
 The Chairman reported removal of the molehills was progressing. The tyre and its surrounding bark were raised. It was suggested these were unhygienic due to dogs and cats using the area as a litterbox. Both would need to be cleaned on a more regular basis if the tyre was to remain. The Chairman would deal with the tyre and Cllr Fleming would refresh and clean the bark.
15. **Wash Lane report**
 The Chairman reported he was strimming the lane regularly. All agreed the lane was looking in good condition. Thanks were recorded to the Chairman for his work on the lane.
16. **Dog Fouling** – to consider and agree siting for additional dog waste bin, Stoke Ash
 Cllr Fleming reported the landowner would have no objection to siting the bin in the Church Lane area, possibly near the fire hydrant. It was stated however that the dog fouling situation in that area had improved. As a result of that information Members agreed to leave provision of a dog bin in abeyance pending any further complaints. Cllr Tancred would inform the parishioner.
17. **Stoke Ash** – highway parking and grass verges
Roman Way - County Highways had claimed that Suffolk CC owned the Roman Way grass verges and therefore they could be used for parking vehicles. Following receipt of the MSDC plan it was clear the grassed areas were owned by MSDC and would be subject to their current review of parking on green areas, review of enforcement procedures and preventative measures.

The Street – provision of white line to mark edge of road. County Cllr Stringer had previously informed members a solid white line would not be permissible but a dotted white line would possibly be allowed. Advice from County Highways to be obtained.

Cllr Tancred would speak to the owner of the ditch adjoining the layby to enquire whether they would be agreeable to piping and infilling the ditch to provide extended parking space.

Additional highways issues were raised:

The Street layby – a white van parked in the layby was obstructing traffic flow. Cllr Fleming would inform the vehicle owner.

White lines at Huggins Lane/Church Lane – these had been incorrectly painted after re-surfacing the junction. The Chairman had reported this via the Suffolk CC Highways reporting tool.

18. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.

2. Accounts for Payment

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
17/6/21	Cllr G Leggett	Clarkes of Walsham – fencing materials for rear boundary VH field	£217.53	£43.51	£261.04	Agreed	100494
17/6/21	Clerk	Sal-expen May-June 2021	£278.10	-	£278.10	Agreed	100495

Cllr Pulham proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Kember and agreed.

Receipts: April – June 2021

12. 4.21 - MSDC – first half precept payment 2021-22 : £3557.01

12.4.21 - MSDC – one-off grant payment : £111.00

3. To consider for approval Asset Register at June 2021

The Thwaite Projects Group Strimmer/Brushcutter value £249.00 had been added to the register, purchased 1 June 2021.

The two village signs in Thwaite also to be added. Include on next agenda.

4. Finance report

Following Government legislation that parish councils should return to face-to-face meetings, it was agreed the Zoom subscription was cancelled.

19. Clerk's report/correspondence

Suffolk CC Footpaths – Discovering Suffolk: a 2 year project to raise awareness of Suffolk's countryside and to build upon the covid 19 pandemic behavioural changes by promoting local outdoor activities.

The project was looking to install new plaques onto roadside fingerposts providing links to the Discovering Suffolk website. Having considered the project members agreed not to take part.

20. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on a query he had received from a parishioner regarding overgrown public rights of way 14, 16 and 17. The parishioner had reported the footpaths to Suffolk CC PROW to be informed they did not form part of the CC cutting schedule. Inclusion of these footpaths would need to be at the request of the Parish Council, possibly exchanging them for other footpaths currently cut. These footpaths were currently the responsibility of the landowner, the Parish Council did not have authority to cut them back. Cllr Pulham stated he would contact the landowners to ask them to clear the overgrowth. The Chairman would inform the parishioner.

21. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Cllr Leggett raised a concern over a parishioner having difficulty coping with his garden. Cllr Fleming offered to visit the parishioner to offer help. The Chairman offered to carry out strimming if required.

22. Date of next meeting: Thursday 15 July 2021, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Summary of Action Points

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18.6.20	Local Government Transparency Code – ensure PC compliant	2 further documents to be added to complete current year 2021/21.
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	MF, GL, TP & RK – deferred due to covid
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20.5.21	Dog Waste Bin – to agree site	Purchase of a bin left in abeyance. GT to inform parishioner.
17.6.21	Overgrown footpaths 14, 16 & 17	TP to speak to landowner
17.6.21	Van obstructing passing traffic - parked in layby, The Street SA	MF to speak to vehicle owner

County Councillor report – June 2021

Local elections took place on Friday May 6th for SCC's 75 county councillor seats, as well as several district councillor seats and the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Conservatives gained five seats and retain overall control of the Council, with a strong majority of 55 seats.

The Greens tripled their numbers to 9 seats. The Liberal Democrats have 4 seats down from 6, Labour have 5, down from 12 alongside 1 Independent and 1 West Suffolk Independent.

Suffolk County Council's annual general meeting took place on May 27th.

GLI Group becomes official opposition

Following the recent election, the Greens, Liberal Democrats, West Suffolk Independents and Independents have formed a political Group. The Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent (GLI) Group has 15 councillors overall and will take on the role of official opposition at Suffolk County Council.

For the year 2021/2022 I will be the Leader of the Group.

Diverse views are so important in politics, and having different people working together will only make us more effective in a progressive way. The Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group is ready to hold the Conservative administration to account and challenge them on doing the very best they can for the people of Suffolk.

Boundary Commission Review: consultation reopens

An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation focuses on new proposals for

council division boundaries. This includes removing Wetheringsett from Upper Gipping and adding Stowupland and Rishangles.

The consultation closes on June 21st and can be completed at the link below:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

Launch of The Queen's Green Canopy In Suffolk

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space.

Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways.

Different organisations are invited to get involved. Find out more at www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy

Developers' Guide consultation open

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county.

To make sure that new developments result in improvements to local communities, developers must make financial contributions to local authorities, known as Section 106 agreements, or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The updated guide aims to support developers and make them aware of what they should consider with their plans. The consultation runs from 17 May to 28 June and can be filled out at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk/>

New electric taxi-bus service launches in East Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has launched a 12-month trial of Katch – a new sustainable electric taxi-bus service running in East Suffolk. Katch provides a travel solution for local residents and visitors in Wickham Market and Framlingham, as well as for those who need to meet their rail connections at Wickham Market train station in Campsea Ashe. The service will be available seven days a week from 6.30am to 10.30pm on Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sunday. All journeys must be booked in advance via the Katch App or telephone by calling 01728 55 44 55. The cost of a return journey is £7 and a single journey is £4. If successful and is regularly used by commuters and rail passengers, Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county.