

**STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Thursday 18 July 2024, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash.**

Present: Cllrs G Leggett (Vice Chairman), R Kember, Mrs V Lane, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey and G Tancred.  
County Cllr A Stringer and one member of the public

1. **Apologies and Approval of Absence** were received from Cllr T Pulham and District Cllr T Weller.
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>. Report available online. No queries raised.
  - County Councillor – a written report had been received from County Cllr Stringer – copy attached to the Minutes.
  - District Councillor – a written report had been received from District Cllr Weller – copy attached to the Minutes.
  - Parishioners and Public (meeting open for 10 minutes)  
A member of the public stated she was in attendance in connection with planning application DC/24/01942 and 01651 and was happy to answer any questions if required.
4. **To consider Health and Safety items for report**
  - Parish Notice Board – Norwich Road, Thwaite - Cllr R Maisey reported the front brick boundary wall, including the freestanding parish notice board, at the old Post office, Thwaite had been demolished by a delivery vehicle. The cost of reinstatement would be covered by the insurers of the vehicle.
  - Trees in Church Lane, Thwaite - An email had been received from a Thwaite resident concerning the height and stability of trees growing in the ditch near his property – Church Cottage. Cllr Leggett offered to contact a recommended Tree Surgeon based in Rishangles to request an inspection and report on the condition of the trees.
  - Bus Stop A140 – Thwaite – the overgrown vegetation at the bus stop had been reported to Suffolk CC.  
*County Cllr Stringer arrived 7.50pm*  
Cllr Stringer went through his report. A query was raised as to whether Suffolk CC would push for solar panels on warehouses as well as solar farms.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 16 May 2024**  
Cllr Tancred proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Maisey – unanimously agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report only**

7. 7.5.19	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	Currently 3 vacancies – advertised in parish magazine. No progress to report.
17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	TP liaising with Record Office.
17.5.18 18.5.23 18.5.23 21.9.23 18.1.24 16/5/24	Thwaite Comm Projects Hardstanding at OSR Tree on Allotment land Prepare allotment land for letting Prune Fruit Tree on allotment land Request to donate Conifer tree to plant next OSR, Thwaite Four Willow Trees -Prune/remove OSR – improvement Project	<i>See Agenda item</i> Deferred pending work at OSR. To be removed Feb/March 2024. RM TP/Working Group  RM Deferred until the autumn.  TP/GL GL
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP, RK & GT. RK reported on a useful meeting with the Local Emergency Planning Officer at MSDC. An emergency plan template had been supplied. The Village Hall had been mentioned as a focal meeting point and rest centre. The draft plan had been sent back to the MSDC emergency officer. Pending - RK
18/5/23	Preparation of Village Welcome Pack	Draft Welcome Pack for consideration. Agenda item

21/9/23	Availability of grant funding – Stoke Ash VH & Thwaite OSR	District Cllr Weller stated capital funding could be available providing the application met with the funding requirements. GT progressing.
16/11/23	<p>Stoke Ash:</p> <p>1. Provide a double-sided High-Water Sign at the ford to give warning from both directions.</p> <p>2. Provide Flood Warning sign at Stoke Ash Street/Deadman's Lane junction</p> <p>4. Clear pipes under road at the Ford and Bridge</p> <p>5. Ditches Wetheringsett side of Deadman's Lane ford</p>	<p>Suffolk CC declined. Application made to Cllr Stringer locality budget to fund the sign. Email application sent to Cllr Stringer as requested. Pending response from Highway officer. As above.</p> <p>Suffolk CC assessed but declined at present. A further request to clear pipe &amp; ditches had been made via Suffolk CC website. Request landowner clear ditches – Cllr Pulham had spoken to the landowner. This work would be included in the Stoke Ash s.19 report.</p>
16/11/23	<p>Thwaite:</p> <p>1. River Dove clearance from Deadman's Lane bridge to Thwaite</p> <p>2. Resolve flooding at A140/Wickham Road junction during rainfall</p> <p>3. New manhole drain in Wickham Road at dip between Church Lane and OSR</p>	<p>Reported via Suffolk CC reporting tool Roadside ditches partially cleared. Cllr Pulham &amp; Cllr Stringer to inspect</p> <p>Cllr Stringer would have further detail to report at the next meeting.</p>
18/7/24	<p>Replace 6-8 reflective bollards Church Lane/Wickham Road junction</p>	RK
18/1/24	Clear ditches adjacent Church Lane	TP/RK to speak to landowner
18/1/24	Reinstate Church Lane SA 30mph speed sign/s	Cllr Stringer to provide replacement.
21/3/24	Thwaite Allotments – investigate whether covered by Allotment Act	Cllr Weller
16/5/24	Gift for parish resident to present at village fete 29/6/24	All Councillors - complete
16/5/24	Note in Parish Magazine re. loud fireworks in Stoke Ash	GL - complete
16/5/24	Parish Magazine funding application – apply to District Councillor	GL- complete
16/5/24	News Bulletin for Parishioners – report in Parish Magazine	RK - complete

## 7. To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC

- DC/24/02399: Brookside, The Street, Stoke Ash - Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/23/00385 dated 12/05/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - (Reserved Matters following approval of Outline Planning Permission DC/21/02447 - Severance of garden and erection 1No. dwelling including creation of new vehicular access and works to ditch - Submission of details for Layout, Scale, Appearance and Landscaping.) To vary condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) in order to allow alterations to approved elevations following the proposed increase of the roof pitch to 45 degrees. Parish Council supported.

2. DC/24/01942: The Stables, Annexe to Barn Field House, The Street, Stoke Ash – application for Listed Building Consent – conversion of attached double garage to additional living accommodation and insertion of rooflights into living room, kitchen and bathroom Parish Councillors considered the application and recommended support of the proposed works.
3. DC/24/01651: The Stables, Annexe to Barn Field House, The Street, Stoke Ash – application for Planning Permission – conversion of attached double garage to additional living accommodation and insertion of rooflights into living room, kitchen and bathroom Parish Councillors considered the application and recommended support of the proposed works.

#### 8. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC.24/02662: Rose Cottage, Church Lane, Thwaite - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/03373 - Partial Discharge of Condition 12 (Windows and Doors) relating to repairs to existing windows. Part Discharged by MSDC

#### 9. Planning correspondence – none.

#### 10. Neighbourhood Watch report

Cllr Kember reported on complaints received concerning noise and disruption from one of the air b&b's at The Street, Stoke Ash. Cllr Tancred stated he had spoken to and reported the incident of anti-social behaviour to the owner of the holiday lets stating this was causing upset and reducing the quality of life of neighbouring residents and he suggested this was followed up with a letter from the Parish Council. Cllr Tancred offered to draft a letter for approval by all councillors.

#### 11. Village Welcome Pack – progress report

Cllr Mrs Lane had produced a final draft of the document, this had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Kember made some additions regarding waste collection in Thwaite and information on the Coffee Caravan visits would be included. There were no objections to including councillors telephone numbers. Cllr Leggett would include some information on the Welcome Pack in the parish magazine. Councillors unanimously approved the document and recorded thanks to Cllr Mrs Lane for producing it. Copies would be made available as and when required.

#### 12. Thwaite Community Projects Group report

1. Report on Allotment Lettings – Cllrs Leggett and the Chair would ensure the plots were prepared for letting from October 2024.
2. Report on pruning/removal of trees on Allotment land – deferred to next meeting.
3. Report on pruning fruit tree on Allotment land – deferred to next meeting.
4. St George's Hall and Old School Room report

Cllr Kember stated he had received an invitation to view refurbishment work at Westrup Village Hall. Three councillors had attended the recent meeting at held at Eye Town Hall on the availability of grant aid from various organization for community projects. It was agreed a decision was now required on the future of the buildings. Evidence of regular meetings and use of either building would be required by any grant funder. Although currently one regular group used the Old School Room councillors believed it would be worth looking at improvement works via grant funding. The next step would include convening a meeting with Thwaite parishioners to discuss the future of the buildings. Cllr Kember would notify parishioners of a meeting to be held before the next parish council meeting on 19 September 2024. County Cllr Stringer suggested a composting wc sited between both buildings.

#### 13. Wickham Road, Thwaite – report on provision of new surface water drain. Deferred pending further information from County Cllr Stringer.

#### 14. Deadman's Lane – report on funding application for double-sided High-Water sign and Flood Warning sign Deadman's lane/The Street from County Councillor locality budget.

Cllr Stringer had referred the application to the Suffolk CC Highway Officer for the area.

#### 15. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.
2. Accounts for Payment/Receipts received

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
18/7/24	MSDC	Dog & waste bin emptying 24-24	£290.80	£58.16	£348.96	Agreed	100545
18/7/24	Clerk	Sal-expen May-July 2024	£751.75	-	£751.75	Agreed	100546

18/7/24	Stoke Ash VH	Hire charges 2024-25	£120.00	-	£120.00	Agreed	100547
18/7/24	E.on	Thwaite OSR electricity 4/5/24-30/6/24	£35.01	-	£35.01	Agreed	100313

The above payments were proposed, seconded and agreed.

4. Finance report including review of Internal Audit Report year end 31.3.24

The internal audit report 2023-24 had been received 30 June 2024 and circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The report had been satisfactory with queries raised by the auditor as follows:

NALC revised Financial Regulations – these would need to be adopted at the next annual review.

Pension responsibilities – redeclaration due 2024

Provide Councillors’ Register of Interests link to MSDC website

Set up official gov.uk email and domain name

Members noted the queries raised, these would be progressed.

16. **To consider for adoption the following policy documents 2024/25:**

LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) documents

The above policy documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr R Maisey proposed adoption of both documents, seconded Cllr Kember – unanimously agreed.

17. **Clerk’s report/correspondence**

Village Gateway signs to aid speed reduction – costs to be investigated.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon proposal – consultation. Members agreed to make no comment.

18. **Chair’s report** – none.

19. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests**

A resident had queried the two cameras on poles at the White Horse, Stoke Ash junction. It was understood these were for monitoring the junction as there had been some suggestion by county highways of installing a roundabout at the junction.

20. **Date of next meeting: Thursday 19 September 2024, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall**

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

**Summary of action points**

6. 7.5.19	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	Currently 3 vacancies – continue to advertise
17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	TP liaising with Record Office.
17.5.18 18.5.23 18.5.23 21.9.23 18.1.24	Thwaite Comm Projects Hardstanding at OSR Tree/s on Allotment land Prepare allotment land for letting Prune Fruit Tree on allotment land Request to donate Conifer tree to plant next OSR, Thwaite	<i>See Agenda item</i> Deferred pending work at OSR. To be reported Sept 2024 meeting. RM GL/TP preparing plots Deferred to Sept 2024 meeting - RM Deferred until the autumn.
16/5/24	Four Willow Trees -Prune/remove OSR – improvement Project	TP/GL RK convening meeting with parishioners
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP, RK & GT. RK reported on a useful meeting with the Local Emergency Planning Officer at MSDC. An emergency plan template had been supplied. The Village Hall had been mentioned as a

		focal meeting point and rest centre. The draft plan had been sent back to the MSDC emergency officer. Pending - RK
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21/9/23	Availability of grant funding – Stoke Ash VH & Thwaite OSR	District Cllr Weller stated capital funding could be available providing the application met with the funding requirements. GT/RK progressing
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16/11/23	Thwaite: 1. River Dove clearance from Deadman's Lane bridge to Thwaite 2. Resolve flooding at A140/Wickham Road junction during rainfall 3. New manhole drain in Wickham Road at dip between Church Lane and OSR 18/7/24 Replace 6-8 reflective bollards Church Lane/Wickham Road junction	Reported via Suffolk CC reporting tool  Roadside ditches partially cleared. Cllr Pulham & Cllr Stringer to inspect  Cllr Stringer to report to Sept 2024 meeting.  RK/AS
18/1/24	Clear ditches adjacent Church Lane	TP/RK to speak to landowner
18/1/24	Reinstate Church Lane SA 30mph speed sign/s	Cllr Stringer to provide replacement.
21/3/24	Thwaite Allotments – investigate whether covered by Allotment Act	Cllr Weller
18/7/24	Trees – Church Lane, Thwaite – concerned raised by parishioner re. height and stability of trees near residential	GL to obtain report on condition and height of trees from Rishangles tree surgeon
18/7/24	Draft letter to Holiday Let owner re. disturbances	GT
18/7/24	Meeting with Thwaite parishioners to discuss future of St George's Hall and OSR	RK
18/7/24	Obtain cost/s for Village Gateways	LC

Scrutiny Committee met on Thursday 13 June to review the council's priority action plan to improve SEND services. The plan had to be created following the poor Ofsted/CQC inspection report which was published at the end of January. The committee heard about the extra £4.4m funding to recruit more staff, including educational psychologists. There are plans to invest more money in the improvements and this will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting in July. The Department for Education will be undertaking 'deep dive' reviews into progress, the first one into the timeliness and quality of EHCPs which is due very soon. Among the issues discussed were communication with parents and carers and responses to complaints and the importance of early intervention to support young children with needs as soon as possible.

### **Councils call for more Foster Carers**

Suffolk County Council is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East along with ten other councils in the region. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England, with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month.

The Foster East initiative is funded by the Department of Education and is a new, collaborative approach to foster carer recruitment and support. Potential foster carers will be nurtured through their fostering journey with their local council and via a buddy network. Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children.

Foster East will give people considering fostering the opportunity to speak to an advisor from 8am to 8pm daily, and the chance to talk to an experienced foster carer to find out more about what the role involves and ask any questions. More information can be found on [www.fostereast.org.uk](http://www.fostereast.org.uk)

### **Funding Secured to boost Digital Technology Innovation**

Suffolk County Council, working with Norfolk County Council and Connected Innovation, has secured funding from Barclays Eagle Labs Ecosystem Partnership Programme to boost support for the region's digital technology sector. This funding will be used for 'The Future', a joint project which aims to support and scale digital technology innovation in Suffolk and Norfolk by:

- Developing stronger connections between experienced entrepreneurs and the next generation of regional startups
- Developing a process for identifying, engaging and supporting early-stage startups and integrating them into the community
- Creating more opportunities for startup founders from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds by offering stipends to those who would not otherwise be able to commit to their venture full-time

The project will be delivered in Suffolk by Innovation Labs: <https://innovationlabsgroup.com/>

### **Planning Changes**

The new incoming government has wasted little time in setting their stall out regarding planning, The government policy of economic growth being essential to their plans has lead to some changes on the planning system, as well as major decisions such as Sunnica Solar Farm on the Cambridge Suffolk border being swiftly approved. The position the government has taken on this 2500acre solar farm will encourage the current array of similar projects being planned at present.

With the housing completion targets being raised this could put pressure on our new Local plans, bit ti date the government has focussed on the "green Belt" and not published the methodology for assessing the housing numbers required. We hope to have a clear picture before we next meet.

## Cold Callers

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards have asked residents to be vigilant about tradesmen knocking on their doors to offer services, after several examples recently of cold callers persuading people to part with large sums of money for unnecessary or substandard work. The council is recommending that residents only use workmen on the Trusted Trader website: <https://trustedtrader.team/Suffolk/about-us>

Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone – there are now more than 200 of these across Suffolk. In order to nominate your road or neighbourhood, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/fair-trading/no-cold-calling-zones>

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**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

## District Councillor Report – July 2024

Full Council meeting	The pre-election period triggered postponement of key Council meetings. The re-scheduled Council meeting from June will now convene on 25 <sup>th</sup> July. Items for discussion and approval include a proposal for adoption of a local listed building consent order and local development order. If approved this will potentially enable owners of listed buildings to apply specific energy efficiency measures to their homes without onerous planning requirements.
Cabinet meeting	The re-scheduled Cabinet meeting took place on 15 <sup>th</sup> July. Items included approval to support residents in need, a new social value policy and a regeneration initiative for Stowmarket town centre. In addition, the Council's formal response to the statutory consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury National Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP) was approved.
Economic Lands Needs Assessment report	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have published an Economic Land Needs Assessment document. This shows the future land requirements for employment purposes in the Districts to support the identified growth between 2023 to 2037, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The document can be viewed at <a href="#">babergh-and-mid-suffolk-economic-land-needs-assessment-report-june-2024</a> .

Student Event	Mid Suffolk District Council hosted a well-attended event for pupils from schools across the district to find out about democracy and careers within the Council. The event was supported by officers, graduate interns and councillors from both Councils. At a Q&A and debate session convened in the Council Chamber pupils raised; devolution, councillor allowances, educating young people about local government and council finances among other topics.
Locality Awards 2024/25	Applications for this year's Locality Awards grants are now open, <a href="https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards">https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</a>

Tim Weller  
District Councillor Palgrave Ward  
Cabinet Member Environment, Culture & Wellbeing

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