

STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Thursday 20 January 2022, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Morris, R Kember, Mrs V Lane, G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey, T Pulham and G Tancred. County Cllr A Stringer

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and explained the December 2021 had been cancelled following Government advice regarding increased numbers of covid omicron cases and advice from SALC that meetings should not be held during December.

1. **Apologies for absence** – District Cllr David Burn
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 – Cllr Stringer presented his written report - copy attached to Minutes.

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

Queries raised included the building development in Brockford Street – work was going ahead on the properties along the A140 boundary despite the second planning application as yet undecided. Cllr Stringer stated that building strip formed part of both applications (ie the approved 9 dwellings) and there was no change in the latest application for 14 dwellings. Building along that strip only could therefore continue.

Brockford Road/Mendlesham Road appeals – Cllr Stringer stated the appeal relating to Plot 8 had been withdrawn. The Inspector was now free to give a decision – it was hoped this would be received soon.

Cllr Stringer left to attend another meeting

Parishioners and Public – none.

4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 18 November 2021**

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report only**

May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	The current vacancy continued to be reported in the parish magazine.
17.5.18	Damaged road signs A140	Reported via Suffolk CC Highways website reporting tool. No action as yet from Suffolk CC to carry out repairs.
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 Mark allotment boundaries and pathways A future joint Thwaite/SACommunity Hall St George's Hall woodwork and	Parishioners' questionnaire on future of Hall TP/GL Deferred due to lockdown - RK Complete Obtain Stoke Ash VH committee view.
18.3.21	quinennial inspection	GL/TP
18.3.21	Use of allotments – agreement not to cultivate.	Complete
19.8.21	Advertise allotment availability	Plots to be re-let from October 2022
15/7/21	Grit Bins: Replace small bin at A140 junction opposite primary school with larger bin from opposite 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	Deferred pending survey TP obtaining quotation TP/GL to obtain quotation

	Stoke Ash Village Sign circular Seat	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	Play equipment/play surface grant funding Remove lower tree branches Action following Annual Inspection	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group PM GT to report
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. Enquire whether the project was to go ahead
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	GL pursuing with MSDC
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	GL, TP & RK
17.12.20	Roman Way – parking on public grassed areas. 2 options put forward – barriers or parking spaces.	PC suggested Grassguards on verges. Awaiting MSDC response. Complete pending action from MSDC currently reviewing grass verge policy
19/8/21	CPR training and Thwaite Defibrillator	Agree date for CPR training Cllrs Mrs and R Maisey dealing with defibrillator
18/11/21	Christmas Tree Festival - SA	GL to obtain tags from Parish Council tree

6. To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC

- DC/21/06374: The Walnut Tree, Norwich Road Thwaite – application for consent to display an advertisement- repositioning of existing pub signage. No comment agreed.
- DC/21/06798: Jem, Deadmans Lane, Stoke Ash – insertion of roof lights and window to facilitate loft conversion. A recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and agreed.

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

- DC/21/06054: Hill Farm, Huggins Lane, Stoke Ash - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to a flexible use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8) Hotels(Class C1) Commercial/Business/Service (Class E) uses previously classified as Assembly and Leisure (Class D2) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3; Class R. - Change of use of agricultural barn to dance hall. **Prior Approval Refused.**
Thanks were recorded to councillors for their time and efforts in dealing with the application.
It was noted there had been a vehicle accident at the A140 access junction to the village. It was suggested a log of any further incidents should be kept.
- DC/21/05827: Land adjacent The White Horse Inn, Ipswich Road, Stoke Ash – change of use of land for the stationing of up to 4 self-contained shepherds huts and creation of pond.
Planning Permission Granted

8. Planning correspondence – none.

9. Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme – no change

10. To consider a defibrillator for Thwaite parish and CPR community training

Cllr Mrs Maisey stated that she and Cllr R Maisey would take over arrangements for installing the Defibrillator in Thwaite.

Members were keen to arrange CPR training. Evening sessions were preferable. Include next agenda.

11. Neighbourhood Watch report

Cllr Mrs Lane was pleased to report on a very quiet month. Any information received had been forwarded to parishioners on the list circulation list.

12. MSDC Cil Award:

1. Play Equipment – Stoke Ash Village Hall playing field – item deferred pending a decision from the Village Hall Committee on the type of equipment required
2. Ditch Clearance – Church Lane, Thwaite – to consider quotation/s. Include next agenda.
3. Hardstanding next Old School Room, Thwaite – to consider quotation/s. Include next agenda.
4. Stoke Ash Village Sign – report on circular seat. Members questioned whether a seat was needed. Cllrs Tancred and Pulham would research further and report at the next meeting.

13. **Thwaite Community Projects Group**

1. Report on allotment review:
 - (i) Map – complete.
 - (ii) Rent Review and Tenancy Agreement – the Allotment Working Group had recommended tenancy agreements would not be issued 2021-22. This would enable the newly marked out plots to be let as from October 2022. The Working Group had sent letters to the two remaining tenants to that effect.
 - (iii) Lettings - see above (ii)
2. St George's Hall inspection and woodwork
Cllr Leggett reported on the advice received from the Diocesan Architect recommending treatment of the timbers was not carried out as it would not be effective. Instead it was recommended the building was cleaned to enable a survey for bat activity or wood boring beetle two weeks later. Advice on treatment could then be given. The Projects Working Group had a meeting arranged with the Diocesan Architect. They would clean the building in preparation for the survey.
3. Report on St George's Hall village questionnaire – Cllrs Pulham and Leggett were working on arrangements for the questionnaire.
4. Any further report
Old School Room – drainage. Cllr R Maisey reported on issues with the pipes/drains. When the weather improved he would carry out a hosepipe exercise to find the drain outlet.
Annual Return and Accounts for year-end 31.3.21 – The clerk reported these had been filed with the Charity Commission.

14. **Lunch Club report**

Cllr Leggett reported lunches were continuing. The kitchen inspection had been rated 5*. The Chairman recorded huge thanks to the organisers for getting the lunch up and running again. A sum of £85 was remaining in the lunch fund.

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

1. To consider MSDC annual play inspection report – deferred to next meeting.
A notice board on the green giving general information about the equipment and contact details for emergency and/or repairs was suggested.
2. To agree arrangements for fortnightly play equipment inspections
Cllr Tancred would carry out weekly inspections of the equipment and would keep a record book on the inspections made.

16. **Wash Lane report** – The Chairman stated there was nothing untoward to report.

17. **Stoke Ash – Parking on Roman Way grass verges update**

There appeared to be less parking on the verges. It was agreed this item be removed from the agenda pending report from MSDC on their updated Greens policy.

18. **Stoke Ash & Thwaite Xmas Event**

1. Report on event
Cllr Tancred reported on successful and well attended events in both villages. The Christmas presents had been really well received by the children and costumes very good. A very good event and well worth repeating. Expenses totalled £232.00. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Pulham for providing the tractor and trailer. On behalf of the Council and community the Chairman recorded thanks to Cllrs Tancred, Mrs Lane and Pulham and all those involved in organising the event.
2. To consider complaint from parishioner
The concern raised had related to singing Christmas Carols at the above events resulting in them being perceived as Christian and therefore not inclusive to all cultures.
Members were of the view all cultures would be welcomed and encouraged to attend village events. It was suggested the Council considered adopting a multicultural policy should the query arise again. Item to be included on the next agenda for consideration.

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

Stoke Ash litter pick would take place on Saturday 26 February, meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. Thwaite would take place on Sunday 27 February, meeting at 10am at the Old School Room.

Cllrs Pulham and Mrs Maisey would arrange refreshments after the litter picks. Equipment would be supplied. MSDC would be asked to pick up the full litterbags w/c Monday 28 February from Stoke Ash VH and Thwaite OSR.

20. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – a request had been received from Freshstart Ipswich. The request was declined on this occasion.

2. Accounts for Payment

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
16/12/21	SA Village Hall	PC hire of hall Oct – Nov 2021	£26.00		£26.00	Agreed	100511
16/12/21	Clerk	Sal-expen Nov-Dec 2021	£264.58	-	£264.58	Agreed	100512
5/1/22	Stoke Ash Baptist Church	Lunch club expenses Sept '21	£88.00	-	£88.00	Agreed	100513
20/1/22	Cllr G Tancred	Xmas event expenses	£193.01	£39.98	£232.99	Agreed	100514
20/1/22	Clerk	Sal-expen Dec-Jan'22	£329.61	-	£329.61	Agreed	100515
16/12/22	Zurich	Thwaite Projects – St Georges annual insurance premium	£370.55	-	£370.55	Agreed	100278
16/12/22	E.on	Thwaite Projects – OSR standing charge 1.11.21-3.12.21 (cheque returned due to error)	£10.36	-	£10.36	Agreed	100279
5/1/22	E.on	Thwaite Projects – OSR s/c 1.11.21 – 3.12.21	£10.36	-	£10.36	Agreed	100280
20/1/22	E.lon	Thwaite Projects – OSR s/c 4/12/21 – 3/1/22	£12.80	-	£12.80	Agreed	100282

Cllr Leggett proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Kember – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance Report - to consider for approval draft budget and precept proposals 2022-23

The Finance Group proposed draft budget and precept proposal of £6911.00 had been circulated and discussed at the November meeting. The meeting thanked the Finance Group for producing the figures. Although the figure of £6911.00 was lower than last year there would be a need to maintain a reserve going forward. Cllr Kember proposed approval of the precept request 2022-23 totalling £6911.00, seconded Cllr Tancred – unanimously agreed. The precept request form was duly completed.

4. To consider review of Financial Internal Controls policy

The statement of internal controls policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. No queries were raised. Cllr Kember proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane – unanimously agreed.

21. **Platinum Celebrations 2022** – report from Working Group

Cllr Pulham presented a summary of the Working Group meeting held 8 January 2022:

Events would be held over the Platinum weekend 3, 4 and 5 June at Stoke Ash Village Hall and The Street, Stoke Ash.

Friday 3 June – a Village Fete, primarily organized by the WI, cream teas and barbeque.

Saturday 4 June – a summer dance. Cllr Tancred had contacted the Stoke Ash White Horse regarding food.

Sunday 5 June – a street party focused on the youngsters in both villages. Finger food, bbq, entertainment, games, National Anthem.

The Group would try to obtain sponsorship for the events. Stoke Ash Baptist Church had offered the use of its mini bus for transporting parishioners from Thwaite or within Stoke Ash. A road closure order for The Street between The Village Hall building and the end of the Green (south) would be applied for, 10.30am – 7pm. A television would be available linked to events in London.

The Group were looking into providing the children in both parishes with a minted Platinum 50p coin and a Platinum mug for each household. The Modellers Club would provide a fly-past at the Street Party. Vintage cars would be on display, photographic display, Punch & Judy and a Flagpole. Children would be involved as much as possible. The White Horse would organize a licence for the sale of alcohol. Parking at the Church car park had been agreed. Cllr Kember would organize a Bring & Buy Stall, proceeds to the Projects Group.

The Chairman recorded thanks to the Working Group for their work so far.

22. To agree dates for Stoke Ash Parish and Thwaite Parish Annual Parish Meetings

A joint Stoke Ash and Thwaite Annual Parish Council meeting held at SA Village Hall on 28 April 2022, or two consecutive meetings on the same evening were suggested. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

23. Clerk's report/correspondence

Stoke Ash Parish Council Vacancy - there had not been a request to hold an election to fill the latest vacancy. The Council was now free to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

24. Chairman's report - none.

25. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Cllr Tancred requested an item for the next agenda - to consider reverting to bi-monthly meetings

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

Meeting closed 9.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Summary of Action Points

May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancies	The two Stoke Ash vacancies continued to be reported in the parish magazine.
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County Councillor A Stringer Report – January 2022

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

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council’s new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report

The Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group

brought up issues of a lack of opportunity to represent our ideas, we have asked for a wider pool of representatives.

Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – cementing the service’s commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it’s important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the ‘Vaxi Taxi’ service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit

www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

‘Support Social Care’ Campaign

A new campaign was released in December aimed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate the care professionals, and asks the public for a little patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter.

Every day, Suffolk receives on average 550 calls from people on adult social care, and on Christmas there will be around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes have a good Christmas.

You can support for Social Care on social media by using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare, or by offering to collect a neighbour-in-need’s prescription, or simply paying them a visit.

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT for DECEMBER-JANUARY 21/22 to STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL’S MEETING on 20 JANUARY 2022

Blueprint for districts’ future development to progress

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time. [Read the full story](#)

Work begins on carbon-cutting solar carport schemes

Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change. [Read the full story](#)

Scheme to support new small businesses marks successful six months

A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone. [Read the full story](#)

Councils urge National Highways to ‘unblock Copdock’

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted a joint response to a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange – urging the creation of a new link road to keep business traffic flowing freely. [Read the full story](#)

Cllr Wendy Turner resigns from Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllr Wendy Turner has resigned from Mid Suffolk District Council, having moved away from the area to be closer to her family. She represented the Thurston Green ward since her election in May 2019, alongside Cllr Harry Richardson. The date for the by-election will be 17 February. [Read the full story](#)

Making the districts' homes more energy-efficient

Residents in around 80 of the districts' least energy-efficient and low-income homes can look forward to a warmer, more energy efficient future thanks to £1.9m in Government funding. [Read the full story](#)

Councils chosen for neighbourhood planning pilot

Our districts are among 11 areas nationwide to be chosen as part of a pilot scheme to boost participation in neighbourhood planning, being funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. [Read the full story](#)

David Burn