



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: - Mrs Joy Hart, Sucrerie, Old Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk IP31 2BX
Tel: - 01359 408759 Email stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chair – Francis Hart

Vice Chair – Barbara Smithson

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 13 August 2020 virtually by Zoom conference. The meeting was recorded.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Apologies for absence:

Present – Cllr Hart (Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Cleland-Smith, Cllr Frizzell, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Scowcroft, Cllr Shelton, Cllr Smith.

Apologies for absence accepted - Cllr Miller, Cllr Smithson

Also present – CCllr Spicer and DCllr Thorndyke

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 9 July and 16 July 2020 were approved - proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Frizzell. Cllr Gordon queried that they were 'largely verbatim' and this was amended to read 'verbatim'.

3. Public Forum: The public were invited to notify the Clerk by email at Stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com if they wished to take part in this virtual meeting and to outline the question they would like to put to the Council in advance if possible.

5 members of the public were present. **ST** wanted to observe the meeting.

AS wanted to ask about the proposals for the new housing estate and the proposal for access from Bury Lane. Also, Agenda item 10f which was causing a lot of issues in the Sturgeons Way area including Police involvement and threatening behaviour.

NR read out a pre prepared statement relating to a planning meeting held by West Suffolk Council. This is attached as Appendix A and can be viewed on the Parish Council Web site at – <https://stanton.suffolk.cloud/news/statement-from-dr-nick-redman-new-blog-entry/>

The Chair responded that he had attended the virtual planning meeting of West Suffolk Planning Committee to report the views of the full Council (as agreed at the June Meeting on the published minutes). He fully supported the Doctors Surgery and would leave it to others to report on the Hub.

CP and **SP** from Bloor Homes were present to respond to the Planning Application.DC/19/2481/OUT and outline changes to the proposals. They had met with Stanton Parish Council on 21 July and West Suffolk Council on 23 July. They have introduced the following changes – a reduction in the number of homes from 250 to 244 with 73 'affordable' homes. The vehicular access from Bury Lane has been removed and replaced with pedestrian and cycle access only and will only be used by emergency services if there is a need.

A cycle and pedestrian route has been introduced across the Recreation Ground.

Remodelled and relocated a noise bund closer to Bury Road.

Provided a pedestrian link to the NW of the site.

Community Recreation contribution of £50,000 paid to West Suffolk Council through S106 to improve Community and Recreational facilities within Stanton.

£2.9 million to be provided for Schools, libraries and Public Transport etc and a request from the NHS CCG for £145,000 towards improvements at the GP Surgery.

Benefits – Provision of much needed housing, allotments, 40 extra car parking spaces for the allotments and Recreation Ground, circular walk and cycle route to Bury Lane, provision of Public Open Space, widening of Bury Lane opposite the Bowls Club to allow cars to pass, traffic calming measures at Ixworth Roundabout and a wildlife area on the site.

Stanton PC now has the opportunity to comment on the application and they will now encourage the Parish Council to remove their objection and acknowledge the matters that have been addressed.

Reserved matters will deal with the detail of the development. 2 Car parking spaces for each 2/3 bed home and 3 spaces for each 4 bed. Min of 1 visitor space for every 4 homes. Electric vehicle charging points will be provided.

Cllr Gordon thanked **NR** for coming to the meeting and commented that the Council were under the impression that there were other options for the Drs Surgery which would have been better in terms of parking. **NR** acknowledged that the option to move to Upthorpe Road had been explored and it had been too expensive to consider. CCG would not agree to fund such an option.

Cllr Brown said that he was under the impression that the move to the Junior School site was on the cards in the future which had swayed his views and now it had been explained by **NR** what the situation was, his view was that should he be asked to give further consideration to the application his response may well be completely different. He was sorry and considered the Surgery was second to none.

Cllr Gordon asked if **NR** was aware of the funding from Bloor which he was but that money would go to the CCG.

Cllr Smith thanked **NR** for his attendance but commented that residents had been subject of abuse over parking issues which needed to be resolved. **NR** agreed that parking was an issue and notices had been placed asking patients to park considerately.

The Chair responded by thanking **NR** for his attendance and the Cllrs will consider the matter more fully when the application comes back to Council.

4. Matters arising from the July Minutes

- The Chair clarified that remarks in the July meeting about the knowledge of an email sent to Flagship Housing by the Clerk referred to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk only.
- A number of Councillors had asked that the Chair ask Cllr Gordon his reasoning in respect of his demand that all Councillors should resign. Cllr Gordon felt he was quite clear in the last meeting and made no further comment.

Cllr Brown asked Cllr Gordon the reasons why he (Cllr Brown) should personally be asked to resign. Cllr Gordon said that he made it clear at the last meeting and had not been provided with details of who was involved in stalking his property and he felt that was why all the Council should resign. Cllr Brown told Cllr Gordon that he was not involved in 'stalking' his property and asked Cllr Gordon to withdraw his statement in public in respect of Cllr Brown.

Cllr Gordon said that he would 'stand by his words'.

Cllr Brown stated that he was not a racist and would be considering legal advice.

Cllr Smith asked Cllr Gordon to report the allegations of racism to Police so that they could be put to bed.

Cllr Kemp commented that he agreed with Cllr Brown that this was a slur on each individual and asked Cllr Gordon to explain why he felt that they were all racist.

Cllr Gordon said that no Councillor had made contact with him after the last meeting to show their support towards him. By saying nothing it says a lot. He asked if CCllr Spicer had an opinion.

Cllr Shelton commented that Cllr Gordon's contact details had been removed at his request and objected strongly to being profiled as racist.

CCllr Spicer said that she had no response to make to Cllr Gordon and felt that the Parish Council needed to move on as members of the Public were waiting to respond to other items on the Agenda.

Council were asked to approve item 6 be heard before any other item This was resolved.

6. Report from:

- **B Cllr J Thorndyke** reported that Civil Parking monthly report – Bury 4877 visits, 1255 tickets issued. Stanton didn't get any visits due to having no areas to enforce.
- Cllr Kemp query re Sturgeons Way. Built 45 years ago (1974) and built with conditions that residents put cars in garages. All roads on that site are adopted and restrictions come under the Police, not the Council. Lay by on the front not part of the development and is part of Bury Lane.
- Tripp Batt development – whole site has been moved back two metres so access to the neighbouring two houses can be improved.
- Post Office building on the Cornhill - work to start soon
- Standards committee met last week to consider Code of Conduct.
- Community Chest applications now being invited for closing date end of October

The Chair asked whether DCllr Thorndyke wanted to respond to Dr Redman in respect of the Planning Application for the Doctors Surgery.

DCllr Thorndyke did not wish to respond except to say that it was a balanced decision with the Officers thinking it should go through and the committee thinking it shouldn't and it would be wrong of him to comment as he would be sitting with it again but basically it would come back in another month or so to be reconsidered. It would have been helpful if the Doctors had attended the meeting themselves to state their case.

- **S C Cllr J Spicer** said that she was sorry that staff had been upset in respect of the Planning decision on the Surgery but there had been objections from the Parish Council and a resident relating to the shortage of parking spaces which is what members of the Planning Committee had considered.
She agreed with NR that the complicated bureaucracy and governance of the CCG around decision making exposed the fact that there was a lack of transparency within.
There are two GP's operating out of the Village and future planning is taking into consideration the requirements of the surrounding villages and requirements of the Ixworth Practise. The project is therefore looking at the provision of health care for a significant number of villages. The Health Hub – if successful - will relocate the Children's Centre and Mental Health facilities and other Community Health services which are currently not available in Stanton.
It isn't a like for like replacement. She has urged County Council colleagues to bring forward the Health Hub plan as soon as possible and hopes by the next meeting to get more detail.
- Approval for A143 speed reduction and buffer zone (Ixworth End) North of Rose and Crown. Parish Council has budgeted £10,000 towards costs of new poles, advertising, posts, roundels etc on 8 junctions. Total cost £11-11,500. CCllr Spicer will meet the difference from one of her Highways budgets. County Council have asked PC to approve payment of 50% of cost. Thanks to Cllr Frizzell and Cllr Smith for work on business case.
- Outstanding footpath problems re Grundle are ongoing
- Some hedges cut including Old Bury Road and Barningham Road.

Cllr Gordon asked what Bloor Homes involvement was in contributing to the speed data. They were required to do this over their own traffic monitoring and they were not contributing to this calming scheme. They had however shared their own data. Road improvements would be required on the site if approved.

- Owner of Rose and Crown site has resurfaced the development but still items outstanding at junction

Cllr Frizzell raised the issue of the Rose and Crown sign that was missing. CCllr Spicer said that this is still a serious matter and the new owner will be required to replace it. This is with planning enforcement at the moment.

- Cllr Brown asked for any update with adoption of the Mill View development but no update was available.

5. Statutory Business/Governance

Cllr Shelton said that following the Govt advice on Coronavirus and under new legislation which came into force on 4 April 20, the Parish Council did not hold an Annual meeting where the election of officers for the following year would take place.

Existing officer roles would therefore stay in place until the Annual meeting in 2021. At the last Parish Council Meeting strong comments were voiced in public by a Councillor that the Chair should stand down at the earliest opportunity. In light of this he considered it necessary to ascertain whether this is a shared view or whether the Council has full confidence in the Chair until the next Annual Meeting.

a. **Motion – Cllr Shelton proposed a vote of confidence in Francis Hart as Chair.** Seconded by Cllr Smith

Request that verbal responses be recorded in the minutes from each Councillor.

Cllr Kemp – full agreement. Cllr Smith – agree. Cllr Cleland -Smith – agree. Cllr Frizzell – agree. Cllr Scowcroft – in favour. Cllr Gordon – object. Cllr Brown – full agreement.

RESOLVED – Confidence in Chair by 6 votes to 1

b. **Motion – Cllr Shelton proposed a vote of confidence in Joy Hart as Clerk.** Seconded by Cllr Smith

Request that verbal responses be recorded in the minutes from each Councillor.

Cllr Smith – Yes. Chair – Yes Cllr Scowcroft – Irrelevant as she is an employee and unelected but has my full support. Cllr Kemp – Yes. Cllr Brown – Yes. Cllr Cleland-Smith – Yes. Cllr Gordon – the monitoring officer would not find this acceptable. Cllr Frizzell – Yes.

Statement of support from Vice Chair for both the Chair (Cllr Hart) and the Clerk was read out by Cllr Shelton.

RESOLVED – Confidence in the Clerk by 7 votes to 1.

c. **Motion – to consider the adoption of a Social Media Policy** – Proposed by Cllr Frizzell. Seconded by Cllr Smith.

After discussion the policy was approved by 6 votes in favour to 1 against. 1 abstained as he had not read the policy.

RESOLVED – Adoption of a Social Media Policy to be reviewed as necessary.

d. **Motion – to consider the adoption of a Recording at Parish Council Meetings Policy** – Proposed by Cllr Frizzell. Seconded by Cllr Brown

After discussion the policy was approved unanimously

RESOLVED – Adoption of a Recording at Parish Council Meetings policy

7. **Clerk's Report:** There were no queries in relation to the Clerks report of the previous months activities.

8. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest in the remaining items on the Agenda

9. Planning Applications

The Chair asked for any objections to bringing forward DC/19/2481/OUT – no objections

a. **New Applications – Can be viewed at**

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/vieworcommentonplanningapplications.cfm>

DC/20/1057/HH | Householder Planning Application - Two storey side extension (following demolition of existing conservatory and covered walk-through) | Glen Cairn 1 Duke Street Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2AA

RESPONSE – There are no objections to this application

DC/20/1095/TPO | TPO 248 (1997) Tree Preservation Order -1no. Oak (T2 on plan within A1 on order) Crown lift to 6 metres above ground level | Berkeley Leisure Shepherds Grove Park Stanton IP31 2AY

RESPONSE – There are no objections to this application

DC/20/1118/VAR | Planning Application - Variation of Conditions 2, 8, 13, 17, 18 and 19 of DC/19/1714/FUL to enable changes to the approved layout and delivery times for (i) 6no. dwellings with off-street parking (ii) 1no. A1 (shop) with service yard, car park and associated works (following demolition of existing buildings) | Marlows Home And Garden Hepworth Road Stanton Suffolk IP31 2BT

RESPONSE - The Parish Council wish to make no further comment on this application

DC/20/1134/TPO | TPO 078(1966) Tree Preservation Order-(i) 1no. Conifer hedge (H1 on plan within A1 on order) Fell (ii) 1no. Robinia (T1 on plan within A1 on order) Pollard (iii) 1no. Conifer hedge (H2 on plan within A1 on order) crown reduce in height by up to 4 metres and trim sides by 30 centimetres (iv) 1no. Willow (T2 on plan within A1 on order) re pollard back to previous pollard points | The Old Rectory Old Rectory Gardens Stanton IP31 2BX

RESPONSE – There are no objections to this application

AMENDED APPLICATION _ DC/19/2481/OUT | Outline Planning Application (Means of Access and Landscaping to be considered) - up to 250 no. dwellings, open space and associated infrastructure. | Land East Of Bury Road Stanton Suffolk

RESPONSE - Stanton Parish Council acknowledge the willingness of Bloor homes to consult with the Parish Council on a number of occasions during 2019 and 2020 in respect of this application and will continue to work with the developer in the future should this application proceed.

At the Parish Council Meeting on 13 August 2020, Councillors listened to the presentation made by Bloor in respect of alterations made to the original planning application and have also considered significant feedback from residents received by word of mouth to Councillors, Social Media and through comments sent individually to the planning officers at West Suffolk Council. The changes to Bury Lane are to be welcomed. However, there is no detail as to how the cycleway will safely access the village centre as it passes through a narrow lane with no pedestrian pavement between the new development and Sturgeons Way.

Parish Councillors felt that the majority of traffic leaving the main development would join the A143 to turn left towards the main employment area and A14 corridor at Bury St Edmunds but also that a significant number of vehicles would need to turn right into oncoming traffic and towards the employment areas of the Shepherds Grove Ind Estate and A140/B1111 corridor to Norfolk. That 'turn right' manoeuvre would also be needed for traffic accessing the village such as parents driving children to school or visiting the village shops and facilities.

There are concerns that the extra traffic generated at this new junction would make it unsafe as the sheer volume of traffic at peak times on the A143 would lead to frustration from drivers as they try to exit. It is felt that this would be a hazard and cause accidents and would therefore be a risk to Highway safety.

Old Bury Road/Junction with the A143 is already a pinch point for Stanton traffic at peak times. Traffic exiting the village at Old Bury Road can often wait a long time to exit the junction (especially if turning right towards Bardwell or Barningham) causing a build-up of traffic towards the village. This could be replicated at the development junction.

The Parish Council has had a request for a reduction in the speed limit along the A143 approved in this area which would assist in slowing down traffic on the main road but would not affect the volume of vehicles which currently stands at an average daily flow of vehicles at 12,315 - <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/manualcountpoints/16671>

Many of these are large goods vehicles coming from and to the Industrial Areas of Stanton and also Eye Airfield which is also under development – <http://www.eyesuffolk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Eye-Airfield-Development-Framework-Feb-2013.pdf>

More importantly is the infrastructure of the Village. Councillors have heard from the GP surgery in the village that they are at capacity, especially so after an application to extend the surgery was not successful. There are parking issues at its current location which leads to complaints from residents and ideally an alternative site needs to be identified for the surgery to be moved before the village expands any more.

The consideration of the provision of a Doctors Surgery within the development could be a solution to this issue.

Councillors are aware of plans for a health hub in the village at a site in Upthorpe Road but they are not party to the negotiations and do not know what this proposal will provide in the way of GP capacity and healthcare.

Nor is there currently a time frame for the works to take place.

There are believed to be no primary school places available with village children having to be educated outside of the village although it is understood that the school has capacity for growth and this needs to be addressed before any further development is planned.

It is therefore absolutely essential that the village infrastructure is addressed before any development is allowed. Failing to plan ahead for the proposed increase in of an estimated 1000 residents will cause significant difficulties in the future. It is imperative that the Village considers the next ten years and beyond and the legacy of what might be left for others to attend to.

The County Council, District Council and Parish Council all have a duty of care to always act in the best interests of others and do not believe at this moment in time that a development of this size can be accommodated without risk of harm to the Village and its residents.

b. Determined Applications - None

c. Other Planning matters –

To receive a report from Cllr Hart in respect of a hearing on the Doctors Surgery application heard by committee on Wednesday 5 August 2020 – Covered above at Public Forum.

Chair confirmed that he had read out the objections that were submitted in June and agreed by Full Council – see June minutes

10. Matters for discussion:

- a. **Motion - To consider a suggestion to retain the services of a professional mediation service to attempt to resolve issues within Council.** Cost would be between £400 and £600. Proposed by Cllr Hart. Seconded by Cllr Smith.
After discussion, Cllr Gordon was asked whether he would enter into mediation which was declined. **The motion was not progressed.**
At that point Mrs Gordon entered the meeting via Cllr Gordon's electronic device and began to make comments about the Chair and Clerk being 'racist'. Cllr Gordon also demanded the resignation of both and accused them of being racist. They were asked on numerous occasions by the Chair to moderate their behaviour.
- b. **Motion – To resume live meetings.** Proposed by Cllr Hart and Seconded by Cllr Smith.
The Council discussed acceptable conditions for the resumption of face to face Council meetings at the Village Hall. During discussion Cllr Gordon demanded the resignation of the Chair and Clerk and continued to shout 'resign' whilst others were speaking, disrupting the meeting. Mrs Gordon also continued to disrupt the meeting by shouting 'resign'.
RESOLVED – To commence live meetings from September in line with Covid guidance
- c. **Motion - to update and amend current regulations regarding grave stones.** Cllr Gordon asked for rules relating to photographs and holograms on gravestones be changed to allow a recent request to be granted. Proposed by Cllr Gordon. The motion was not seconded.
Cllr Frizzell proposed an amendment to the proposal that the working party for the Cemetery meet to recommend changes and present to full Council for approval in due course. This was seconded by Cllr Gordon.
RESOLVED – Working party to meet to revisit rules relating to photographs on Memorials to be revisited.

Cllr Gordon and Mrs Gordon then continued to disrupt the meeting by shouting out 'resign' and were warned about their behaviour again. Mrs Gordon continued the disruption by calling all Councillors 'Racist' and demanding their resignation. As she was using Cllr Gordon's electronic device, both parties were removed to the virtual Zoom waiting room by the Chair.

The Chair then informed the Council that he had removed Cllr Gordon to the waiting room as he was in breach of Standing Order 2 and had failed to moderate his conduct after being requested to do so and moved that Cllr Gordon be excluded from the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Kemp. There were no objections.

- d. Stanton Parish Council Transparency (Cllr Gordon) – motion not heard
- e. **Motion – to carry forward funding reserved for the VE and VJ Day cancelled event in 2020 to 2021** . Cllr Smith advised Councillors that interested parties from SAFA and the British Legion had indicated that they would like to consider VE and VJ day celebrations in 2021. Proposed by Cllr Smith. Seconded by Cllr Kemp. There were no objections.
RESOLVED – *Funding for VE Day to be carried forward to 2021*
- f. Cllr Kemp had been approached by residents in **Sturgeons Way** in respect of a number of **issues relating to parking**. These issues had been raised with DCllr Thorndyke earlier. It was confirmed that the County Council were responsible for maintaining the adopted road, there is no allocated parking known and non-residents are entitled to use the lay by adjacent to Bury Lane. Incidents of damage to tyres and the body work of parked vehicles need to be referred to Police.
- g. Cllr Kemp asked whether there was an **update on the Tripp Batt site** and whether the developer of the Co-op and the developer of the housing behind it were separate parties and whether any dates had been set. DCllr Thorndyke responded that it was likely that there were two developer involved and the planning application – (as amended) - had been discussed earlier so nothing would change until that was granted.
- h. Cllr Scowcroft asked that any monies received from the Bloor development – if granted – be diverted to **improving the MUGA facilities**. Cllr Smith suggested that the Recreation Ground Committee meet to review the facilities and move this forward. All in favour.
- i. Cllr Scowcroft was concerned about the **S226 Proposals for the new development** by Bloor and the figures that had been quoted and would like to see a breakdown of how the figures had been reached
- j. Cllr Scowcroft wanted to raise the issue of **medical facilities in the village** and acknowledged the emotional statement made by Dr Redman earlier. He suggested that had the Council been aware of the content at the time of the original discussion in June there may have been a different outcome. That said, he felt that the current site was not future proofed and the extension would just be a ‘sticking plaster’. He would like to see proof of CCllr Spicers suggestion of a proposed hub in Upthorpe Road. Cllr Kemp commented that the proposal for staff to park at the Recreation Ground raised by Cllr Smith had not been addressed by Dr Redman when it was brought up. This may resolve the issue. There is a need to discuss these issues with the surgery
- k. An application for temporary **use of the Recreation Ground for exercise classes** whilst the Village Hall was unavailable due to Covid restrictions was approved. The Recreation Ground Committee agreed to revisit the rules and consider the introduction of any hire charges for use of the Recreation Ground for private (Chargeable) exercise classes going forward.
- l. An update from the County Councillor on **progress of adoption of Mill View** by Suffolk County Council – addressed in CCllr Spicers report above (Cllr Brown)
- m. To receive and approve the Annual Report 2020 (Clerk) – Deferred to September meeting.

11. Accounts

- a. The accounts as below were approved by Cllr Kemp and Cllr Scowcroft (General Power of Competence applies)
- b. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2019-20 and Section 3 External Auditor Report was received by Council.
- c. Bank Account total as at 30/7/20 - £94916.84

Table 1 List of payments and receipts

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Monthly water charges - Pumping station
Anglian Water	6.01		6.01	Cemetery Water – Q1
EDF	15.00	.71	14.29	Monthly Electricity - Pumphouse
EDF	18.00	.86	17.14	Monthly Electricity - Floodlights
Now TV	26.38		26.38	Monthly Telephone and Broadband
Anglia Surface Care	408.00	68.00	340.00	Court lining for Basketball Area
Suffolk County Council	6315.62	1052.60	5263.02	Part payment for speed reduction A143
SALC	15.00	2.50	12.50	Website Accessibility training - Clerk
PKF Littlejohn	360.00	60.00	300.00	External Audit 2019-20 fees
Vertas	1618.85	269.81	1349.04	Grass Cutting Q2
Staff Salaries	1171.10		1171.10	Litter picker, street cleaner and Clerk Salary (July)
RECEIPTS				
Lloyds Bank Interest	4.60			Bank Interest Jun
Dignity	280.00			Burial fees
Rosedales	280.00			Burial fees
Suffolk County Council	750.00			Grant for tree works – Hepworth Road
HMRC	402.10			VAT refund Q1 20-21

12. Coronavirus Updates

- a. The latest guidance from Government, County and District Councils relating to Covid 19 has been circulated.

13. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. Public Space Protection Orders (Dogs) 2017 – Review of Existing Orders by West Suffolk Council. Continuation of the order approved

14. Correspondence

- a. SALC - Quiet Lanes Suffolk – Expressions of Interest. Noted.
- b. SB – Request for use of Recreation Ground Car Park for Commercial Sale for the sale of plants and trees. To be considered by Recreation Ground working party
- c. PM – Re Graveyard maintenance. West Suffolk has responded directly.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.40pm

Minutes signed as correct..... F J Hart