



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman, 20 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth, Suffolk IP31 2UJ
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Chair – Keith Marlow

Vice Chair – Greg Meadwell

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 11 December 2025 at Stanton Village Hall.

105. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett

Barry McDonald

John Frizzell

Greg Meadwell (Vice Chairman)

Keith Marlow (Chairman)

Martin Scowcroft

The following councillors did not attend the meeting, and their absence was not approved:

Lorraine Frost

Martin Scowcroft

106. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

107. Public Forum: No members of the public attended.

108. Presentation of design for Old School Park - Anne-Marie Stevens, a resident of Stanton, described her design for Old School Park. The approach was to provide an area that could be walked around with points of interest throughout. The design included a pathway made from bound gravel in the shape of 2 interlocking circles (the 2 circles represented the Steamer). Benches and picnic areas were included at various points with a kid's story circle, a willow arch, totem poles, a shady seating area and various trees, shrubs and planting. The spoil removed for the pathway would be re-used to create 'mounds' to add height. A few trees would be added to the existing ones with two that would 'centre' the 2 circles and provide focal points. Additional trees could be used to create a coppice area in one corner. The planting would use hard wearing drought tolerant plants and would be low maintenance (although watering would be required in the first year). Anne-Marie stressed that she was not a landscape gardener but had used her garden design expertise to come up with a design (at no cost to the Parish Council) to suit all ages and would be enjoyed by all residents in Stanton.

The Parish Council thanked Anne-Marie for her design and time in presenting it to the councillors. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should consult with parishioners to find out what they would like to see included at Old School Park. At the same time, the Parish Council would seek quotations on the work which could be carried out in stages if needed, and they would also investigate funding streams to allow this project to be completed.

109. Reports from:

a. West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke

DCllr Thorndyke was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following written report:

- Seasons greetings to all and best wishes for 2026
- No sign of Bloor's reserved matters application.
- Outline permission given by West Suffolk Council for 160 homes with access in Bardwell Road, Ixworth.
- Stanton former primary school site applications in for consideration (on agenda)
- New mayor decision for Norfolk and Suffolk is being delayed.
- Neighbourhood Plan meeting with Ixworth Chairman may have seemed a bit negative but much of what Ben was critical about was already in 'planning' while the Ixworth neighbourhood plan evolved, and like Bloor's in Stanton were not really part of the new plan. The neighbourhood plan must look to the future not what is already in the pipeline.

b. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

CCLlr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a brief verbal update to the Clerk:

- The road signs for Grove Lane and Upthorpe Road had now been order. CCLlr Spicer would fund 51% of the cost and 49% would be funded by the Parish Council. It was anticipated that this would be a cost of around £1200 to the Parish. Once the final bill had been received, this would be passed to the Clerk for authorisation and payment

Cllrs Marlow and Meadwell had recently met with the owner of Foundry Cottage who had previously raised concerns about the Co-op development. They concluded that the crossing was in the position as specified in the planning application but that there was still a temporary lighting connection and some resurfacing outstanding. Cllr Meadwell would update both DCllr Thorndyke and CCLlr Spicer on the meeting and would ask for answers to be provided as appropriate at the next PC meeting.

110. Clerks Report – The Clerk's Report had been circulated with the agenda and the following was highlighted:

- Plot 2 will have a new tenant wef 1 Jan 26. The waiting list currently stands at 4.

111. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Meadwell declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 9 a i and ii.

112. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

i. Finance Report – the report was received and accepted.

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£9,235.73
Cleared payments	£2,860.42

Bank Reconciliation

This was received and signed by the Chairman.

Balance per Bank Statements	£78,735.53
Unpresented payments	
Unpresented receipts	-£30.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	£78,705.53

ii. Schedule of Payments – councillors approved the following payments, proposed by Cllr Meadwell, seconded by Cllr McDonald and all in favour:

Salaries (all) (estimated)	BACS	£1,732.84
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet	BACS	£10.00
Hillcrest	BACS	£198.70
C Avis	BACS	£250.00
C Avis	BACS	£410.00
Tesco – Reimbursement Cllr Marlow	BACS	£120.50
Gryphon First Aid	BACS	£300.00
Octopus – Clock Tower (Oct)	Direct Debit	£23.23
Octopus – Floodlights (Oct)	Direct Debit	£32.67
Bank Charges	Direct Debit	£4.25
Octopus – Clock Tower (Nov)	Direct Debit	£23.71
Octopus – Floodlights (Nov)	Direct Debit	£35.15
Amazon (Firework Sundries)	Debit Card	£14.99

The Chairman signed the Schedule of Payments as listed in ii above.

- b. Co-option to Stanton Parish Council** – An application to be co-opted to the Parish Council was considered. Concerns were raised about the amount of time that the applicant would have for Parish Council matters. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the applicant enclosing details of what is required of a councillor together with a copy of our Responsibilities List. If still interested, it was suggested that the applicant be invited to our next meeting to discuss their application.

113. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

Cllr Meadwell took no part in the consideration of the first two applications listed below:

i.	DC/25/1809/LB Grindle Cottage, Wyken Road	No objections.
ii.	DC/25/1808/HH Grindle Cottage, Wyken Road	No objections.

iii.	DC/25/1851/TCA Dawn Cottage, Duke Street	No objections.
iv.	DC/25/1820/FUL The Old School, Bury Lane	No objections.
v.	DC/25/1780/RM Former Stanton Community Primary School, Bury Lane	No objections.

- b. **Non-material amendment to DC/19/2481/OUT (Land East of Bury Road, Stanton)** – the Parish Council noted this amendment which allowed for revised wording of condition 2 to enable a phased approach.

114. Matters for noting and resolution:

- a. **Play Area Inspection Reports for November 2025** – the reports were received and noted. Cllr Marlow had received a quote from a company to undertake a repair to a piece of equipment at £750. This would need to be approved formally at the January meeting, but due to the urgency, it was agreed that the work could be carried out.
- b. **Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:
- 1 – Highways**
- 1.2 One of the 2 signs have been installed at the bottom of Upthorpe Road advising left turn is 'Unsuitable for HGVs'. A second sign to be positioned on the grass verge further up Upthorpe Road had been ordered.
- 1.4 The non-working street light on The Grundle is still outstanding.
- 2 – Grounds –**
- 2.2 Both bus shelters have now been painted inside and the rubbish bin affixed to the wall.
- 2.3 The dog waste bin in Barningham Road has been moved.
All other job requests will be followed up in the new year.
- c. **Hire of Recreation Ground request** - The request to hire the Recreation Ground for a period of 5 days for 50-70 tents/motor homes was considered but rejected on the basis that it could impact on residents wishing to use the Recreation Ground during the school summer holidays. The Clerk would respond to the request.
- d. **CCTV** – it was agreed that:
- i. Charlie Harvey-Evers be allowed to continue managing the CCTV system.
 - ii. The annual service at a cost of £141 plus VAT be approved.
 - iii. The ownership of the CCTV will move to the Clerk's email address, once the changes to the new domain are completed.
- f. **Notice board at All Saints Church** – it was proposed the Clerk would meet with Cllr McDonald, Brian Brown and Rev Cathy Bladen with C Avis (contractor) to discuss the preferred location of the sign and to request a quotation for the work.
- g. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Marlow reported that there was a smaller turnout to this meeting and that the Chairman of Ixworth Parish Council had attended to provide insight into the process as experienced in Ixworth.

- h. Grass Cutting Contract** – it was agreed that the specification and maps for the grass cutting contract for 2 years wef 1 April 2026 be approved. The suggested timeline was suitable and the Parish Clerk would submit an advertisement for The Steamer for the January edition.

115. Correspondence received – all noted.

116. Matters for discussion:

- a.**
 - i.** Book exchange - Quotations for cabinets for the Book Exchange would be obtained for consideration at a future meeting.
 - ii.** Zebra or traffic light crossings on A143 where existing refuge crossings are
 - iii.** 20 mph limit in Upthorpe Road during school drop-off and pick-up times.
 - iv.** White gates and speed limit signs when entering parish.

Cllr Meadwell would raise the last 3 items with Cllr Spicer so that she could advise the Parish Council at their next meeting.

- b.** Social media and use of emails – Cllr Marlow – this item was deferred.
- c.** Email from resident re Wyken Road – the resident had previously raised this as an issue and been given a response.
- d.** Cllr Burdett had made enquires with Playdale and Pentagon Play. One of the companies was offering a free design and costing with no obligation and could meet the Parish Council on 13 January 26 – Cllrs Marlow and Meadwell should be available for this meeting.
- e.** Brook Close – As Cllr Scowcroft was not present at this meeting this item was deferred.

117. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 8 January 2026 at 7pm

118. Meeting concluded at 21:08 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____