



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 12 February 2026 at Stanton Village Hall.

133. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett	Keith Marlow (Chair)
John Frizzell	Barry McDonald
Lorraine Frost (arrived late)	Greg Meadwell (Vice Chair)

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/not approved
Sue Foulds	Holiday	Approved
Martin Scowcroft	Work	Approved

134. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

135. Public Forum: 3 members of the public attended:

Maureen Johnson

- raised concerns about the worsening parking issue along The Chase due to patients and staff from the Doctor's Surgery parking along the road including on junctions and alongside dropped kerbs. The Chairman confirmed that there was not an easy solution but agreed to try again to meet and discuss the concerns with the Surgery.
- The Give Way sign between The Chase and Bury Road had been knocked over. The Clerk would ensure that this was reported to Highways.
- The pavement on Old Bury Road (opposite Rectory Gardens) was damaged by roots and causing a trip hazard. The Clerk would check that this was reported to Highways.

Tom Duchesne (Top Garden Services) and Jamie Martin-Edwards from Bloors, were in attendance to answer any questions at relevant agenda items.

136. Reports from:

a. **West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke**

Land East of Bury Road, Stanton- Bloors

- The development would have a temporary access onto the A143 on the western boundary whilst the site was being developed. Whilst the entrance was being built, there would be temporary traffic lights on the A143. Cllrs

raised concern that this would lead to vehicles using alternative and potentially unsuitable routes to avoid the traffic lights. The Bloors representative confirmed that this work would likely be completed during August. The Chairman would liaise with the neighbouring parishes to discuss proposal to ask that SCC put up additional signage that certain routes were single track, and where these signs should be positioned.

- The Bloors representative confirmed that they were awaiting final statutory consultee comments before they made agreed amendments to the designs which would then be re-submitted to West Suffolk Council.
- Cadent were due to be working in Bury Lane putting in gas supplies for the new houses.
- Cllr Burdett raised concerns that the Planning Portal was not working effectively and several residents struggled to submit comments due to the site not working. Cllr Thorndyke had also raised these concerns with the planning department and asked that any further issues should be notified to him.

Cllr Frost arrived during the consideration of this agenda item.

b. Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- Suffolk County Council had set their budget for the coming year, although 2 recent government announcements were not able to be included in this.
- The government confirmed that elections to SCC would be postponed with unitary elections taking place in May 2027. ^(See Note 1)
- The street light at The Grundle was scheduled to be repaired this week.
- SCC had conducted speed checks along the A143 between Stanton and Ixworth under the temporary 40 mph speed restriction.
- The pavement along George Hill had been completed.
- The temporary electricity connection at the Co-op was being pursued by SCC who would be contacting the 'bond holder' as they had received no response from the developer.
- Cllr Thorndyke stated that The Grundle bridleway was not currently suitable for horses. Cllr Spicer confirmed that the Rights of Way Officer would look into this and perhaps Cllr Foulds would be interested in attending.

Maureen Johnson and County Cllr Spicer left after the consideration of this agenda item.

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

- Cllr Frost asked when the barbed wire would be available for securing the allotment site. The Chairman confirmed that the Allotment Tenancy Agreement stipulates that as the Parish Council are responsible for the overall boundary of the site, they would be approaching a contractor in the next few weeks to carry out this work.

138. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

¹ Following the meeting, the government have announced that elections for Suffolk County Council will now take place in May 2026

139. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

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

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£5,789.04
Cleared payments	£4,340.21

Bank Reconciliation

This was received and signed by the Chairman.

Balance per Bank Statements	£77,985.49
Unpresented payments	£333.00
Unpresented receipts	-£30.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	£77,622.49

ii. Schedule of Payments – councillors approved the following payments:

Salaries (all) (estimated)	BACS	£1,749.54
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet	BACS	£10.00
Stanton Community Village Hall	BACS	£333.00
JF Play Ltd	BACS	£750.00
HMRC – PAYE	Direct Debit	£966.76
Bank Charges (10 Nov-9 Dec)	Direct Debit	£51.21
Bank Charges (10 Dec-9 Jan)	Direct Debit	£4.25
Octopus (Clock Tower)	Direct Debit	£25.15
Octopus (Floodlights)	Direct Debit	£24.28
Refresh Cartridges	Debit Card	£64.88
Amazon (Padlock for Cemetery Gate)	Debit Card	£10.99

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

b. Policy Approval – the following policies were received and approved as follows:

- i. IT Policy – proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr Meadwell and all in favour.
- ii. Co-option of Councillors and Co-option Application Form – proposed by Cllr Meadwell, seconded by Cllr Frizzell and all in favour.
- iii. Social Media Policy – proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr McDonald and all in favour.

140. Planning Applications

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a. New Applications

i.	DC/19/2481/OUT Land East of Bury Road, Stanton	Object in current form and would like to see changes to take account of points raised.
ii.	DC/26/0033/TCA Ivy Cottage, The Street	No objections.
iii.	DC/26/0121/ADV Land East of Bury Road, Stanton	No objections.
iv.	DC/26/0092/FUL	No objections.

2 Woodlands Way, Stanton	
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b. Appealed Applications

DC/25/0597/OUT Land South of Grove Lane, Stanton	The Parish Council noted the appeal for this application but had no further comment to their original response (see below)
<p>The response from Stanton Parish Council was as follows:</p> <p>Stanton Parish Council object to this application on the grounds that only limited information has been provided with this outline planning application. Concerns raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewage - there are known sewage problems that currently affect Shepherds Grove Park adjacent to this plot of land and adding more properties to the sewage system could have an adverse impact. - Clarity required about the status of the layby on Grove Lane adjacent to the plot - who owns this. - The proposed entrance to the development is too close to 2 other junctions: one accessing Shepherds Grove Residential Park, and the other on the opposite side of the road, leading to Scott & Sons scrap metal dealers. If this development were to proceed, the entrance would need to be at the other end of the site for safety reasons. - Ecological concerns about loss of wildlife and habitat if trees are felled. 	

141. Matters for noting and resolution:

- a.
 - i. **Play Area Inspection Reports for January 2026** – the reports were received and noted. There were no major areas of concern.
 - ii. **Service Level Agreement** – This was received and approved and the parish council agreed for the Parish Clerk to sign the agreement and return.
- b. **Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:
 - 1. **Highways**
No further updates
 - 2. **Grounds**
Before appointing a contractor to paint the two metal seats/tables at the Recreation Ground, expert advice is to be sought to ensure the correct treatment and paint is being used to ensure longevity.
- c. **Cemetery – approval of memorial applications:**
 - i. Ashes Plot AB35 for Kathleen Frances Swift – the application for a new tablet memorial was approved.
 - ii. Ashes Plot AA3 for Nancy Claire Brodie – the additional inscription was approved.
- d. **Grass Cutting Contract** – the parish council carefully considered the tenders received for the grass cutting contract for 2 years with effect from 1 April 2026. After careful consideration it was proposed by Cllr Frizzell, seconded by Cllr McDonald and all in favour that the contract should be awarded to Top Garden Services. The Clerk would notify all those who submitted tenders of the result.
- e. **Ixworth Patient Association** – the parish council considered the request to have a representative attend their quarterly meetings. However it was decided that it

would be more beneficial to become involved with the Stanton Surgery's Patient Participation Group.

- f. **Woodland Trust** – Cllr Burdett reminded the parish council that free hedging plants could be ordered from Woodland Trust now that approval had been given from Suffolk County Council for landscaping work to take place. It was agreed that this should be discussed with the contractor (when appointed), designer and Cllr Foulds to determine if this was something we should pursue further.
- g. **Parking on grass verges** – this issue had been raised by both residents and councillors, and the Chairman recently attended a meeting with Havebury to discuss the issue that affects the land they own. The Chairman confirmed that Havebury plan to install large boulders on the verges to deter vehicles from parking or driving over them. This same solution could be used in other areas of the parish and this would be considered at a future parish council meeting.
- h. **Fund Raising for Old School Park**- the parish council received a proposal from Cllr Burdett to hold Car Boot Sales on every Saturday in June in order to raise funds for Old School Park. The Clerk confirmed with SALC that the parish council could set up a 'Just Giving' page (or equivalent) for this project.

It was agreed that any grant applications should be completed and forwarded to the Parish Clerk who would submit them to the relevant organisations.

It was further agreed that the tendering process for a contractor to complete the work at Old School Park would be organised by the Parish Clerk when required.

The Clerk would contact Simon Collins at West Suffolk Council (Parks) to inform him of our proposals for Old School Park and the Recreation Ground and that we wish to be considered for S106 monies towards both projects.

Cllr Burdett asked for permission to hold Car Boot Sales every Saturday during June as a way of raising funds. Provided this did not impact on the Football Club nor the Village Hall, permission was granted.

- i. **Container Storage** – this item was deferred until the next meeting.

142. Correspondence received

- a. Planning reform and what it means for local councils - SALC – this was noted and all councillors had received an information sheet.
- b. Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2026 – SALC – noted.

143. Matters for discussion

- a. Annual Parish Meeting – the Clerk would be sending out invitations to local groups to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in March. It is likely the format would be the same as in previous years but could be discussed at the APM for suggestions for changes.

144. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 7pm

145. Meeting concluded at 21:10 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____