



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council - Fiona Osman, 20 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth, Suffolk IP31 2UJ
Tel: - 07729 731128 Email stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chair – Keith Marlow

Vice Chair – Greg Meadwell

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 8 January 2026 at Stanton Village Hall.

119. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett

Barry McDonald

Sue Foulds (following her co-option)

Greg Meadwell (Vice Chair)

John Frizzell

Martin Scowcroft

Keith Marlow (Chair)

The following councillor did not attend the meeting, and their absence was not approved:
Lorraine Frost

- 120. Co-option** – The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed by all councillors, to bring forward agenda item 7c, to consider an application for co-option. Sue Foulds had previously submitted her application but was unable to attend the December meeting. However, she was present at this meeting. Sue confirmed that, although she was a busy person, she would endeavour to attend most if not all parish council meetings. The Chairman explained that there were also other duties and responsibilities outside of the formal meetings and Sue confirmed she would be open and available for these. Sue left the meeting for a short period whilst councillors discussed her application and on her return, the Chairman confirmed that councillors had voted for her Co-option to the Parish Council. She signed the Acceptance of Office form and joined the councillors for the remainder of the meeting.

- 121. Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 25 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.**

- 122. Public Forum:** None

123. Reports from:

a. West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke

- Asked if councillors had received the recently distributed 'Thriving West Suffolk' magazine – some councillors had received this.
- Bloor Homes had submitted a reserved matters application containing 103 documents which was now out for consultation. The Clerk confirmed that an extension to the deadline had been granted as there had not been the required notice to include on this agenda. Councillors were not happy with the designs of the properties and felt they did not reflect the local area. It was noted that the current West Suffolk Local Plan did not have any guidance on vernacular architecture but this could be raised when the new Local Plan is

being designed. The Chair and Vice Chair arranged a meeting on Thursday 15 January for councillors to discuss the response. This would enable the response to be drafted and circulated with the agenda for approval at the meeting on 12 February. The Clerk would book the Terry Bray Room as required.

Cllr Thorndyke informed the Parish Council that there was a pot of £70k within the S106 monies that has been put aside for local projects as per the email from Sarah Drane. He suggested that as well as the plan for Old School Park, the Parish Council should develop a plan for updating the Recreation Ground and submit both projects to be considered. The Chair would contact the Chair of Ixworth PC who had submitted a successful application for funding for a new Village Hall as this may help in developing our applications.

Cllr Meadwell would write to Bloor Homes to press them on where the 'promised' monies were for the Parish Council and that if not satisfied with the response, would contact the local press.

Cllrs Burdett and Meadwell were due to meet Playdale Parks at the Recreation Ground and Old School Park on Tuesday 13 January to seek quotations.

b. Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer:

- No update on the Co-op and street light issue. Cllr Spicer will continue to follow up on the 'bond' that is held by SCC to ensure that this issue is resolved. The Chair informed Cllr Spicer that he and the Vice Chair had recently met with the owner of Foundry Cottage to understand better his concerns. The resident felt that the zebra crossing was in the wrong location, but the Chair and Vice Chair did not agree as it was located as per the planning application. However, the resident had valid concerns about the access and driveway to his property not being resurfaced – DCllr Thorndyke had been chasing Planning Enforcement but to no avail, and suggested that the PC write directly to the Planning and Enforcement team to express their concerns.
- The road signs (3 in Grove Lane and 1 in Upthorpe Road) had been costed and the Clerk confirmed she had received an invoice which councillors would approve later on the agenda.
- The new SEND unit at the Primary School was now full and councillors confirmed that they weren't aware of any issues with transport.
- The public consultation on unitary council/s closes soon and there had not been any decision on whether elections would be held in May for the County Council.
- Cllr Meadwell asked for an update on the resurfacing (second time) of the A143. Cllr Spicer confirmed that this would be done and paid for by the contractor but that work would not take place until better weather.

Both DCllr Thorndyke and Cllr Spicer left the meeting at this point.

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

- The Clerk confirmed that a new security code would be implemented and tenants informed with their annual rent invoices.

125. Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of interest.

126. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

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

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£233.37
Cleared payments	£2,432.24

Bank Reconciliation

This was received and signed by the Chairman.

Balance per Bank Statements	£76,536.66
Unpresented payments	
Unpresented receipts	£30.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	£76,506.66

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

Salaries (all) (estimated due to Pay Award)	BACS	£1732.64
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet	BACS	£10.00
Paul Sparkes – Grave Digger x 2	BACS	£200.00
Rougham Estates – Christmas Tree	BACS	£350.45
Suffolk Cloud – 5Gb mailbox storage	BACS	£60.00
Bank Charge	Direct Debit	£5.25
Water – Cemetery	Direct Debit	£23.33
Amazon (Stationery)	Debit Card	£9.10
Amazon (Cleaning Materials)	Debit Card	£83.06

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

iii. Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report for the third quarter – The parish Council received and noted this report.

b. Budget 2026-2027 and Precept:

i. The Parish Council confirmed the budget for 2026-27.

ii. The Parish Council approved the precept application for 2026-27

c. Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2026-27 – these were approved.

d. Audit Arrangements – the Parish Council confirmed the appointment of Victoria Waples as Internal Auditor.

e. The Parish Council noted the previously agreed increase in Scale Point for the Parish Clerk to SCP 23 wef 1 January 2026.

f. Co-option – this item was considered earlier in the meeting (see minute 120 above)

127. Planning Applications

a. New Applications

i.	DC/25/1978/TCA Whispers, Wyken Road	No objections.
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ii.	DC/25/2012/TPO Berkeley Leisure, Shepherds Grove Park	No objections.
iii.	DC/25/2010/TPO Berkeley Leisure, Shepherds Grove Park	No objections.

128. Matters for noting and resolution:

- a. **Play Area Inspection Reports for November 2025** – the reports were received and noted. Cllr Meadwell was currently checking the reports against actions taken to ensure they were not still listed as outstanding on the report. JF Play Ltd had been appointed to undertake one of the repairs and this had been booked for 7 February.
- b. **Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:
- 1 – Highways**
- 1.2 **The Parish Council approved the cost of £392.73 to install a new sign at the bottom of Upthorpe Road indicating left turn not suitable for HGVs.**
- 1.4 Street Light at The Grundle was still outstanding.
- 1.7 **The Parish Council approved the cost of £626.12 to install 3 new signs on Grove Lane warning cars to slow down ahead of entrance to Shepherds Grove Park.**
- 2 – **Grounds** – There were a number of actions still outstanding – the Clerk would contact C Avis for quotes for these to be completed.
- c. **Community Recognition Awards for 2025-26 – arrangements were confirmed and the Clerk would send a copy of the Press Release to The Steamer for publication in the February edition.**
- d. **Annual Allotment Holders Meeting:**
- **This would be held on 19 February at 7pm in the Small Hall**
 - **The DRAFT agenda was noted.**
 - **The revised Roles and Responsibilities was noted.**
- The DRAFT Allotment Inspection checklist was noted. The Working Group would meet to discuss the annual meeting and agree how the inspections will be carried out.**
- Cllr Scowcroft left the meeting at this point.
- e. **Provision of dog waste bin at Goldsmith Way** – Cllr Frost was not at the meeting, but the Clerk confirmed that West Suffolk Council would not have the capacity to empty a bin in this location and suggested that normal rubbish bins were used instead.
- f. **Replacement of light fitting at Bus Shelter at War Memorial** – Cllr Meadwell had obtained a quote for replacement parts at £372.60 plus carriage. It was agreed that alternative options should be considered first.
- g. **Firework Display** – Cllr Marlow had been contacted by the provider of fairground rides to ascertain the date for this year’s display as they had already been receiving bookings.
- **It was agreed that the display should be held on Saturday 7th November 2026.**
 - Online ticket sales should be investigated.
 - Family tickets for 2 adults and up to 4 children should be offered.

- More car park volunteers were required at the start.
- Stewards need to be more obvious and focussed.

129. Correspondence received – this was noted. **The Clerk would forward the correspondence on Communities Capital Fund to Brian Brown with reference to Mill View play areas.**

130. Matters for discussion

- Cllr Frizzell raised concern about the encroachment on the pavement at George Hill on the narrowest section. The Clerk would ask West Suffolk Council if they could road sweep this.
- Shelving for the Container should be purchased – this had previously been approved by the PC (14 Nov 24 Minute 90f). Any remaining equipment left by the Football Club would need to be removed.
- Cllr Burdett had not been able to progress this with Cllr Scowcroft. It was suggested that at the February meeting, areas should be allocated to councillors for them to check and photograph assets.
- Other items for the February agenda:
 - Notice board at Church – arrangements to move this
 - High interest Bank Account
 - Water leak in public toilets in storeroom

131. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 12 February 2026 at 7pm

132. Meeting concluded at 21:07 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____