



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 9 April 2026 at Stanton Village Hall.

159. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Dee Burdett

Barry McDonald

John Frizzell

Greg Meadwell (Vice Chair)

Keith Marlow (Chair)

Martin Scowcroft

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillors:

	Reason	Approved/ not approved
Lorraine Frost	Ill health	Approved

160. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 26, with one amendment to correct the date of the Litter Pick to Saturday 16 May 26, were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

161. Public Forum: One member of the public attended:

Phil Smith from Stanton Football Club.

At this point the Chairman proposed that agenda item 9e be brought forward on the agenda for consideration. Stanton Football Club requested that they be permitted to install a second container at the Recreation Ground as the current one is not big enough as the club is growing. A small tree/shrub would need to be removed and the Chairman asked that the Football Club consider planting a similar tree/shrub in another location at the Recreation Ground. Councillors were all in favour of the proposal and wished to commend the Football Club for their success. **It was approved to permit Stanton Football Club to locate a second container at the Recreation Ground at the location agreed with the Chairman with all councillors in favour.**

162. Reports from:

a. West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke

- The new Local Plan is due to start soon.
- A building at Doctor's Hall in Bury Lane was being referred to the Enforcement team.
- Better Recycling – bins had started to be delivered, though not yet in Stanton.

- Several complaints had been received about the Bloors development: bleeping vehicles, loud radio and swearing.
- The application to fell a tree at a property in Church Close that was considered by the Parish Council at the March meeting, was recommended by officers to be refused. Apparently, a report did not show correctly on the Portal and therefore wasn't available at the time the Parish Council considered the application. However, the view of councillors was that they still had no objections.

b. **Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer sent her apologies and was unable to attend this meeting.**

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

- The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted her resignation giving 3 months' notice due to personal and family reasons. She hoped a new Clerk could be employed and a thorough handover provided.
- The Clerk had liaised with Top Garden Services regarding grass cutting. As it was the beginning of the season, they were ensuring that all first cuts would be completed as soon as possible, then they would be in a position to confirm regular cutting dates.¹

164. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

165. Statutory Business / Governance

a. Accounts

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

Cleared transactions since last meeting

Cleared receipts	£187.13
Cleared payments	£5,817.92

Bank Reconciliation

This was received and signed by the Chairman.

Balance per Bank Statements	£69,731.18
Unpresented payments	£139.37
Unpresented receipts	£0.00
Adjusted Bank Balance	£69,591.81

Schedule of Payments – councillors approved the following payments

Salaries (all)	BACS	£1,749.54
Clerk Reimbursement for Phone/Internet	BACS	£10.00

¹ The Recreation Ground was cut on 10 April 2026.

Cllr Reimbursement – Cllr Meadwell	BACS	£44.78
Cllr Reimbursement – Cllr Burdett	BACS	£77.27
Octopus Energy – Floodlights	Direct Debit	£23.24
Octopus Energy – Clock Tower	Direct Debit	£23.23
PWLB – Loan Repayment	Direct Debit	£10,064.91
Amazon – Stationery	Debit Card	£15.19
Amazon – Stationery	Debit Card	£12.92
Amazon – Stationery	Debit Card	£17.99
Amazon – Cleaning & Toilet Tissue	Debit Card	£51.27
Refresh Cartridges	Debit Card	£51.47
Defib Warehouse – new defib Pad	Debit Card	£91.14

It was further authorised to transfer £20,000 from the Business Account to the Treasurer Account.

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

- ii. **Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report** – Councillors received and noted this report. In summary, the budget set was to spend **£7.1k** more than income, but the actual expenditure for the year was **£16.5k** more than the actual income. This discrepancy was due the Toilet Refurbishment project: the drain to the main sewer needed to be fully replaced rather than just repaired in places. This had not been anticipated.

The precept had remained at the same level for the past 3 years and this was no longer sustainable which meant that the parish council precept would rise by about 10% for the coming year.

- b. **Community Recognition Awards** – Nominations had been received for two residents to receive Community Recognition Awards. Both nominees had worked tirelessly for the parish for many years and both were nominated for their relentless work in producing and distributing the Stanton Steamer. Councillors agreed that they were both worthy recipients.

The awards would be made at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on **Thursday 23 April 2026 at 7pm in Stanton Community Village Hall.**

166. Planning Applications

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a. New Applications

i.	DC/26/0331/HH Morningside, Bury Road	No objections.
ii.	DC/26/0391/HH Mount Farm, Upthorpe Road	No objections.

b. Previous Application recommended for Refusal

i.	DC/26/0286/TPO 1 Church Close	This has been discussed as part of the District Councillor's report and the Parish Council still had no objections.
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167. Matters for noting and resolution:

- a. **Play Area Inspection Reports for March 2026** – the reports were received and noted. Some repairs had recently been undertaken and the Clerk would be provided with a list of spare parts for her to order that could be kept for future repairs.
- b. **Village Issues List** – list to be updated as follows:
The list was growing and it was agreed that Cllrs Marlow and Meadwell would review the list and prioritise the works required.
- c. **West Suffolk Council – Call for Sites** – West Suffolk Council had formally started the process looking for potential development sites as part of the preparation for the new Local Plan. One councillor confirmed that they had been approached already by a third party. The parish council would not be informed by West Suffolk Council about any potential sites as this information would be considered sensitive.
- d. **Recreation Ground redevelopment and S106 funding** – Cllrs Meadwell and Burdett confirmed that one quote had been received from Playdale, a second quote from Komplan was expected by middle of May and they would be approaching a third supplier for an additional quote. Cllr Meadwell would approach Barningham Parish Council who had recently submitted a successful request for S106 funding, to ask if they would be willing to share their submission information. Cllr Meadwell would also submit the quotations as they are received with the S106 officers at WSC to ensure they were aware that Stanton are fully committed to the improvements.

The Chairman felt that the priority for S106 funding from the Bloors development should be the Recreation Ground as it was adjacent to the development and was based recreational facilities.

However, work would continue for Old School Park with seeking quotations for the pathway and installing benches.

- f. **Protection of grass verges and grassed area next to the bus stop** - the Parish Council had previously discussed whether hedging could be used to prevent cars parking on this triangle of grassed area. The Clerk would ascertain whether this land was owned by Havebury before any further action was taken.
- g. **Asset Register** – all councillors confirmed that progress had been made and the Clerk asked that any information be passed to her as it is obtained, so that she could add this to the Asset Register.
- h. **Quotation for bookcases for Book Exchange at Clock Tower** – Cllr Meadwell had obtained a quotation for two bespoke bookcases to be built into the side walls of the Clock Tower shelter. It was agreed that a further quotation should be sought and this could be considered with the original quotation at the May meeting.

168. Correspondence received – all correspondence was received and noted.

- The Clerk highlighted that the slides from the recent Parish and Town forum included information about the new 20mph guidance.

- The Chairman highlighted that Communities Capital Funding had been received for the Mill View play areas in Stanton.
- The Chairman would arrange a meeting with Bloors to discuss potential road names – he would circulate potential dates to councillors.

169. Matters for discussion

- The Clerk had circulated details of planning training to councillors and requested they inform her if they were interested in attending either of the dates so this could be booked.
- The Clerk would email the editor of The Steamer and suggest they submit a Grant Application to be considered at the June meeting.

170. The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 14 June 2026 at 7pm

171. Meeting concluded at 20:55 pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____