



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the council: Sophie Bond

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Chair – Keith Marlow

Vice Chair – Greg Meadwell

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 9 July 2026 at Stanton Village Hall.

1. Roll Call & Apologies

The following councillors were present:

Cllr. Greg Meadwell (acting Chair)

Cllr. Martin Scowcroft

Cllr. Dee Burdett

Cllr. Hayley Howe

Cllr. Barry McDonald

Cllr. Lorraine Frost

Apologies for absence were received from the following councillor

Cllr Keith Marlow (Chairman)

Approved

Absent

Cllr. Sue Foulds

Also in attendance:

County Cllr Harry Richardson

District Cllr Jim Thorndyke

1 member of the public

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 May 2026 were confirmed as a correct record but not signed

3. Public Forum

A143 Road Closures

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the current road closures on the A143 and asked how long the road is expected to remain closed.

Cll. Richardson has written to the Chief Executive and Highways Department to raise these concerns.

It was explained that works carried out in September were subsequently found to be defective. Further remedial works were scheduled for the spring but were delayed due to excessive rainfall. The works were then rescheduled for May but were postponed because of the extreme heat. Highways has now decided that the road will be repaired in sections throughout the year.

The A143 is currently scheduled to remain closed until Monday 13th July.

Members discussed whether a one-way traffic control system could have been used as an alternative to a full road closure. It was noted that roadworks at the Bloors site appear to be operating on an ad hoc basis using temporary traffic controls, and members questioned why a similar approach could not be adopted for the A143.

The suggestion of installing a barrier to prevent HGVs from travelling through the village was also discussed. However, concerns were raised that if an HGV travelled beyond the barrier, it would have insufficient space to turn around. It was noted that there have already been incidents involving a horsebox and several cars ending up in the ditch.

Councillors also questioned what Highways' original traffic management plan had been when the initial proposal was to close the road, particularly in relation to how diverted traffic was intended to be managed.

George Hill

Members questioned why the works at George Hill have taken 26 days to complete. They were advised that the works involve widening the access point at the side of the road and the installation of an underground power infrastructure.

Bus Stop

A question was raised regarding whether a bus stop would be closed. It was confirmed that no bus stops are being closed.

4. Co-option of Councillors

Hayley was formally appointed as a councillor and completed the necessary paperwork during the meeting, enabling her to participate as a councillor for the remainder of the meeting.

Bev Shave's application for appointment as a councillor was approved. However, as she was unable to attend the meeting, the required paperwork will be completed at the next meeting.

5. Reports

a. West Suffolk District Councillor Jim Thorndyke's report

Cllr. Thorndyke reported that the average speed of vehicles recorded through the village has increased.

There are currently no planned road closures associated with the Bloors development.

Environmental Health has visited the overgrown property following concerns being raised. Following an inspection, no evidence of rats was found; however, the property owners have been advised to cut back the overgrown grass.

Members were advised that RAF Barnham has already been converted to accommodate more than 1,250 migrants, despite there being no planning application considered by West Suffolk Council.

It was also reported that the planning application for Forest City has been refused.

b. Suffolk County Councillor Harry Richardson's report

Cllr. Meadwell expressed his thanks to Cllr. Richardson for his continued efforts and prompt communication on local matters.

Cllr. Richardson reported that there was relatively little to update from Suffolk County Council at present, as the authority continues to navigate the ongoing local government reorganisation, the outcome of which remains uncertain.

Members discussed the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and whether additional traffic-calming measures could be introduced. Suggestions included the installation of a "20 is Plenty" sign near the school and "Slow" signs on the grass verges.

Cllr. Burdett raised concerns that, as a result of the road closures, some schoolchildren had been arriving late to school through no fault of their own and, in some cases, had reportedly received detention. She asked whether the Parish Council could write to local schools requesting that pupils are not penalised where late arrival is due to delays caused by the road closures. Cllr. Richardson agreed to look into the matter.

Members also raised concerns regarding the overgrown footpath on George Hill. The pathway is very narrow and heavily overgrown with nettles, brambles, thistles and thorny vegetation, making it hazardous for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs or wheelchairs. A request was made for the vegetation to be cut back on a regular basis. County Councillor. agreed to investigate the issue.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that they had responded to the external audit queries, attended Clerk training provided by Norfolk Parish Training, made enquiries regarding Assertion 10, and continued to carry out the day-to-day duties of the Clerk.

Actions for the Coming Month:

- Update the Parish Council website and remove the previous Clerk's contact information.
- Contact Suffolk County Council to request that Councillor Dee's details are added to the relevant council information, as they are not currently listed.

7. Declarations of Interest

None

8. Statutory Business/Governance

a. Accounts:

- to receive Finance Report as at 31 May 2026 – presented and approved but not signed, will be brought to next PC meeting

Cleared receipts	£127.73
Cleared payments	£10404.81

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per Bank Statements	£124600.41
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Unpresented payments	£1105.20
Unpresented receipts	£0
Adjusted Bank Balance	£123,495.21

- ii. to approve payments as scheduled - presented and approved but not signed, will be brought to next PC meeting

Salaries (all) (estimated)	BACS	£1,749.84
National Allotment Society Membership	BACS	£84
Scribe Cemetery	BACS	331.20
Scribe Allotments	BACS	£144
Clerk Reimbursement – Phone + Internet	BACS	£10
Clerk Reimbursement	BACS	£36

b. Grant Applications:

- i. Friends of Stanton Primary School – £450

The application for £450 was considered. Members voted unanimously in favour of approving the grant.

- ii. Youth Club – DBS Checks (3 × £21.50)

Members agreed in principle to support the application. However, further information is required, including additional details of the request and the anticipated timeframe for the DBS checks, before a final decision can be made.

- iii. Byways, Stanton Methodist Church – £738

Members did not approve the application in full. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute 50% of the requested amount, subject to the Church exploring alternative fundraising opportunities to meet the remaining costs.

Action: The Clerk will research potential grant funding opportunities and provide the findings to Stanton Methodist Church.

c. Data Protection and Information Management Policy

The Data Protection and Information Management Policy was approved, subject to the addition of a requirement that all emails containing confidential or sensitive information are clearly marked "Private and Confidential" in the subject line.

9. Planning applications – already approved by Council

10. Matters for noting and resolution:

- a. Play Area Inspection Reports for May 2026 – West Suffolk report monthly It was agreed that a working party would be arranged to clean the play equipment. The possibility of publishing the inspection information at the school was also discussed. Work Party to clean equipment, publish at school?
- b. Village Maintenance List - To be discussed further with full breakdown and reallocation of jobs.
- c. The Grundle – This item was not discussed as Cllr. Foulds was not present.
- d. Seating for Recreation Ground and Old School Park – The proposal for additional seating at the Recreation Ground and Old School Park was approved.
- e. Approval of Clerk's Laptop Purchase – Approved

11. Correspondence received:

- a. West Suffolk Council – Pavement Licences - N/A
- b. West Suffolk Council – invitation to Civic Service – No, too late
- c. West Suffolk Council – next Parish and Town Forum - No
- d. West Suffolk Council – Public Spaces Protection Orders – update
- e. Email from resident regarding anti social behaviour – Thank you for bringing to our attention – continue to report
- f. West Suffolk Council – Parish Training presentation (Planning) - Clerk to distribute to councillors.

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Clerk to email Police inviting them to attend future meetings.

12. Matters for discussion:

To consider any questions to the Chairman and whether items should be added to future agendas.

Armed Forces Day: Cllr. Burdett reported plans to work with local organisations, including the school, Lakenheath, and the Vikings, to create a large-scale Armed Forces Day event. It is intended that 50% of any profits raised will be donated to Tommy's Little Soldiers. Cllr. Burdett also advised that she would speak to the Royal British Legion to seek their advice, as they may wish to organise an event.

Cemetery Sign: It was suggested that the sign at the cemetery be repositioned to face the opposite direction, as it is currently facing the sun, causing posters displayed on it to fade.

Bus Shelter: Keith has the bookshelves ready and awaiting installation in the bus shelter. Volunteers are being sought to assist with painting the inside of the bus shelter.

Berkeley Parks: Cllr. Burdett queried whether her draft email to Berkley Parks.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 13th August 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 9pm

Signed by:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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