

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th March at the Village Hall, The Street, Stonham Aspal

Present: Cllr Peter Emberson (Chair), Ian Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr Rob Stevenson, Cllr Jean Timms, Cllr Malcolm Leith, Cllr Charles Tydeman, Cllr Josephine Mitson

Attendance: Alison Green (Parish Clerk), Cllr Morley, 11 members of the public

19.28 Apologies and Approval of Absences

There were no absences

19.29 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

Cllr Emberson declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.i.a on the agenda, planning application DC/19/00973. Cllr Tydeman declared a pecuniary interest and Cllr Mitson a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.i.b on the agenda, planning application DC/19/01213.

19.30 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 19th February 2019

Subject to correction at point 19.19 which stated waring instead of warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology, Cllrs agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February 2019 were a true and accurate record and each page of the minutes were signed by Cllr Leith, the Acting Chair at the meeting on the 19th February.

19.31 Consideration of Reports by the District Councillor & County Councillor

Cllr Suzie Morley, presented her report to the meeting. Headlines from the report included

- Mid Suffolk adopts budget for 2019/20
- Tree of life scheme continues in 2019
- Councils public database wins prestigious award – iESE Bronze Award for transforming through technology
- £600k approved for visitor's centre at Needham Lakes
- OVO Energy Women's Tour coming to Stowmarket –
- Deadline to register to vote 12th April
- Plans for housing at former council offices and middle school sites in Needham Market approved
- Serial fly tipper jailed
- Mid Suffolk Leader, Nick Gowrley is supporting a call for Government Rural Strategy.

Cllr Morley also gave a brief update on Mid Suffolk planning enforcement action against Stonham Barns. The councils legal team are currently preparing action against the owner of the site for breach of planning conditions regarding residential occupation of holiday accommodation. The maximum penalty for the offence is £2500 per caravan occupied, around 12 were occupied during closed site. MSDC has been supporting vulnerable residents.

The Chairman delivered the County Councillors report. Headlines included

- Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved
- Funding agreed for Citizens Advice in Suffolk
- County Council announces timescale to progress the Ipswich Northern Route project

The reports are available on the Stonham Aspal Parish Council Website

19.32

Contributions by Members of the Public

Several members of the public wanted to voice their opposition to planning application DC/19/00973 for the erection of 36 houses on land to the east of Heatherleigh, East End Road. Their comments included.

- The proposed scheme was detrimental to the environment of listed buildings that overlooks the proposed site.
- Residents had chosen to live in the countryside not on an estate. This field is classified as open countryside
- The development is outside of the village boundary
- The site exits onto a 60mph road. A lot of drivers disregard the 30mph limit from the bend close to Crowfield road making it dangerous already with out additional traffic joining further down.
- Other sites within the village have previously been proposed for development, this field was not one of those sites.
- The development would have a horrific impact on the life style choices.
- Pathways from the site onto East End Road would increase the foot traffic going past houses which would change the feel of the road
- Residents had retired to a peaceful rural village and the expansion would ruin the feel of the village
- Concerns over whether the school and doctors have the capacity to cope with additional residents. And that any expansion would be detrimental to both
- Concerns the Village would lose its identity
- Concerns that East End Road would no longer be the lovely place to live that it is
- It would be a negative impact on the village particularly East End Lane.
- No mains sewers, poor water pressure
- Impact of construction traffic
- Knock on effect for more applications to expand Stonham Barns
- The scale of the increase in households. (15-20%)

Cllr Morley advised the members of public that she has asked for the application to be called into a committee.

In relation to the status of the village Cllr Morley advised that the Core Village proposal has been delayed until after the elections. Stonham Aspal is currently a secondary village. MSDC also have the 5 year land supply required and a press statement will be issued soon.

A member of the public also raised issues about the lack of planning enforcement on the Stonham Barns Site.

Cllr Morley explained that since she became a councillor in 2015, they have been trying to enforce planning conditions. However, it took 2 years to get the owner to submit a planning application. Planning was granted in October 2017 but it took another year, to November 2018, for the section 106 agreement to be finalised, (the legal list of what must be done eg lighting, paths, hydrants etc). Before this was in place, they could not take action.

Public and Parish Council felt that the planning enforcement issues went back way further tha

2015 and had not been addressed 10-12 years. And that nothing had been done by MSDC despite many reports of breaches, it is only in the past 2 years since any action has been taken.

Cllr Morley also confirmed that the exit onto the A1120 from the carpark was granted planning permission.

Chair expressed the opinion of wanting a successful business operating within the law.

Traffic through the village, in particular large lorries coming through the village was also raised by a member of the public.

All but 3 members of public left at the end of this section.

19.33 Planning

19.33.1 Consideration of Planning Applications

[DC/19/00973 Land To The East Of Heatherleigh East End Road Stonham Aspal](#) Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved) - Erection of 36 No. dwellings and associated garaging and parking (affordable housing elements to be agreed as per LPA policy). Creation of vehicular access to highway and pedestrian pavement link to village and adjacent Stonham Barns (via Stonham Barns Section 106 agreed route).

Cllr Peter Emberson, left the room whilst the council discussed the application. The council unanimously objected to the application, full comments can be found at appendix A.

Cllr Emberson returned to the room.

[DC/19/01213 Broughton Hall Stowmarket Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AD](#) Application for Prior Notification of Agricultural Development - Proposed combinable crop store building. Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 6

Cllr Tydeman left the room whilst the council discussed the application

The council unanimously agreed to support the application

Cllr Tydeman returned to the room.

19.33.2 Decision Notices

DC/18/04374- Refused - Planning Application - Erection of 5no. dwellings with associated air source heat pumps, garages, parking, landscaping and sewage treatment plants. Improvement of existing vehicular access. Chevers Farm, Crowfield Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AN

DC/18/04808 – approval of reserved matters - Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission DC/17/05963 - Details of Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for detached 2 bedroom bungalow Kennylands, Thornbush Lane, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5DX

DC/18/05221 – Planning Permission Granted - Application under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning act reference DC/17/04723 and 4847/16 without compliance with condition 2 (approved plans and documents) to remove reference to 'no dig' construction via Arboricultural Assessment by AT COOMBES ASSOCIATES. Green Farm, Crowfield Road, Stonham Aspal, Suffolk

Members noted the above planning decisions.

19.33.3 Stonham Barns Liaison Group update

Cllr Emberson and Cllr Timms attended the meeting on 8th March. Minutes of the meeting are attached to these minutes as appendix b

19.34 Finance

19.34.1 Authorisation of Payments

Members approved the following payments and signed the authorisation and cheque book
Clerks Salary and expenses £233.85
SALC – Election Training course £30.00
Ladywell Accountancy Services – Payroll - £75.00

19.34.2 Review of income and expenditure vs budget.

Reports of income and expenditure vs budget were distributed to members.

19.34.3 Review and approval of the Councils Bank Reconciliation to 8th March

The bank reconciliation to 8th March was reviewed and signed off by two non-signatory members.

19.34.4 CIL bids, Money awarded and possible projects

It was agreed to discuss possible projects at the next meeting of the council.

Funding for the installation of a disabled toilet at the church was put forward as a possible project. However, the Clerk advised (on the advice of MSDC) that money is for projects that will mitigate the impact of development on the village. If the church were used for multiple community groups and classes this may be justified expenditure but as it stands with weekly coffee mornings this would not be the case

19.34.5 Confirmation of the Auditor Appointment of an internal auditor for 2018/19 accounts

Cllr Timms gave an overview of the reference provided by Mendlesham Council for Heelis and Lodge as 2018/9 auditors. Their appointment has been confirmed

19.35 Governance

19.35.1 Election update – three current members provided nomination papers for the clerk to deliver to MSDC. Other nominations will need to be delivered by hand to the council.

19.35.2 Annual Parish Meeting - this will take the same format as previous years

19.35.3 Presentation and approval of terms of reference for Stonham Aspal Tree warden

The members sought clarification on the need for insurance for the tree warden but otherwise approved the terms of reference. It was agreed that the Tree Warden should be invited to report to the Annual Meeting and provide regular reports thereafter.

19.36 Recreation Ground

Update by recreation ground representative on repairs, monthly report and other issues – the only issue at the recreation ground was weed growth. It was agreed to ask Roger Stannard to spray the weeds.

- Update on fence to be provided at next meeting
- Safeguarding policy will be circulated to all council members
- Training for Recreation Ground representative to be sourced by clerk

19.37 Highways

Update on current issues

Road safety on The Street. Cllr Emberson Met with David Chenery and Keith Sampson of Suffolk County Council Highways to discuss traffic issues principally on The Street and Scotts Hill. Full notes from the meeting can be found at appendix C.

Grit Bins – Suffolk County Council Highways confirmed that grit bins on the site of the old piles would not be approved as they are all on a priority 2 gritting routes. Officials decide when to grit these routes on the basis of several forecasts. Further definition can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/check-which-roads-are-gritted>.

Grips and Gullies on The Street ref 228313 – SCC confirmed that these were last cleared on 4th April 2017 and were due to be done again in August 2019. They would not be done sooner unless it was an emergency.

Repairs and drainage on Scotts Hill / Mill Green – the ditch near the bend has been dug out however there are still blockages causing water to pool / run across the road in wet weather.

Sign cleaning – Suffolk County Council confirmed that they do still undertake sign cleaning. A warden will check the signs before actioning the request. Priority is given to warning signs

19.38 Noticeboard repairs

The clerk provided some outline prices for wooden and aluminium notice boards. It was agreed that further quotations would be sought from Duncan Harrison, MC carpentry and via facebook request.

19.39 Dog fouling and waste provision

It was agreed that the competition to design posters at the school had been a success and the new signs had provoked many comments. Cllr Emberson is going to continue with his monthly updates in the village magazine.

The members agreed to fund
Stencils and temporary white paint for the paths £21.98
20 plastic signs at £6 each = £120

New Bin £86.52
Posts £63.53 x 2 =127.06
Sticker for existing bin £14.54
Total for 2 bins = 230.12 +VAT and installation

19.40 Dates of the next meetings

28th March 7:30p,
16th April 2019 7pm followed by APM at 7:30pm
14th May 2019 APCM

19.41 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:45pm

Alison Green, Clerk to Stonham Aspal Parish Council, sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk