

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stonham Aspal

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

Attendance: Cllr Suzie Morley (District Councillor), Cllr Matthew Hicks (County Councillor), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk) and eight Members of the Public

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Charles Tydeman and his absence was approved.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest by Members

Cllr Mitson confirmed a pecuniary interest in item 6d) and agreed to leave the meeting during this item.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 21 November 2017

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 21 November 2017 were received and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Consideration of Reports by the District Councillor & County Councillor

Cllr Morley delivered her district council report at the meeting. Cllr Hicks delivered his county council report at the meeting. Copies of these reports have been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

5. Contributions by Members of the Public

There were no issues raised by members of the public other than those discussed at items 6a) to d) and 9d).

6. Consideration of Planning Applications & Decision Notices

(a) MSDC DC/17/05963: Application Received (Comments by 17 January 2018)
Kennylands, Thornbush Lane, Stonham Aspal, IP14 5DX

Members agreed to object to this planning application following parishioner input. This case, located via Thornbush Lane, a privately owned single track, is for the development of former allotments which are only served by pedestrian access via a public footpath. However, Thornbush Lane is not able to take on an increase in traffic and there is therefore inadequate vehicular access provision for this location.

(b) MSDC DC/17/06082: Application Received (Comments by 17 January 2018)
Longlands Hall, East End Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AR

Members agreed that they had no objections to this planning application.

- (c) MSDC DC/17/05720: Application Received (Comments by 18 January 2018)
Stonham Barns Leisure & Retail Village, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT
 Members agreed that they had no objections to this planning application.
- (d) MSDC DC/17/06247: Application Received (Comments by 23 January 2018)
Land at Elm Farm, Debenham Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AE
 Members agreed to object to this planning application following parishioner input. The proposed site would be located outside the village's boundary within open countryside and would create a precedent for future planning applications along the route to Mill Green which would detract from the rural nature of the village. Debenham Road is in a low-lying area and floods regularly, with the further danger of ice in the winter. There is no pedestrian access from this site to the village which will have an impact on the safety of its children attending the local school. It is already unsafe to walk along this road to gain access to the village's amenities. There is a lot of traffic along Debenham Road which has to move into the centre of the road to avoid pedestrians and often exceeds the 30-mph limit along this narrow, twisting and arguably the most dangerous road in the village.
- (e) MSDC DC/17/04844: Permission Granted (21 November 2017)
Ubbeston Hall, Stowmarket Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AD
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (f) MSDC DC/17/05122: Permission Granted (4 December 2017)
1 Belle Vue Cottages, Norwich Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 5DN
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (g) MSDC DC/17/04508: Permission Granted (6 December 2017)
Longshaw, The Street, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AJ
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (h) MSDC DC/17/04292: Permission Granted (7 December 2017)
Angel Hill Farm, Norwich Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 5DN
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (i) MSDC DC/17/04293: Permission Granted (7 December 2017)
Angel Hill Farm, Norwich Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 5DN
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (j) MSDC DC/17/04723: Permission Granted (14 December 2017)
Green Farm, Crowfield Road, Stonham Aspal, Suffolk
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (k) MSDC DC/17/04419: Permission Refused (18 December 2017)
Land Rear of The Leas, Quoits Meadow, The Street, Stonham Aspal, Suffolk
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.
- (l) MSDC DC/16/04324: Appeal Dismissed (4 December 2016)
Land Adjacent to Reeve & Co, Stonham Road, Mickfield, IP14 5LS
 Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. Finance

- (a) The Barclays Bank account balances of £5,781.89 on 8 December 2017 and £7,857.01 on 27 December 2017 were noted.
- (b) The Groundwork UK funding payment of £1,000.00 received on 20 November 2017 was noted.

(c) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages, office and personal expenses (£164.04), Groundwork UK - Tesco Bag Levy for repayment of a payment received in error (£1,000.00) and Mid Suffolk District Council for the annual playground inspection in 2017 (£57.04). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Mitson, seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by Members.

(d) Approval to make a donation of £50.00 to Headway Suffolk at the next meeting was proposed by Cllr Emberson, seconded by Cllr Stevenson and agreed by Members. The Parish Clerk agreed to make contact with Headway Suffolk before the next meeting.

(e) Approval to appoint Suffolk Association of Local Councils as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2017/18 was proposed by Cllr Emberson, seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed by Members.

8. Governance

(a) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's Internal Control Statement for 2017/18 which was reviewed by Members. Approval and adoption of this document was proposed by Cllr Stevenson, seconded by Cllr Emberson and agreed by Members.

(b) The Parish Clerk presented NALC's official guidance on the position of a parish council's Data Protection Officer which confirmed that it could not be held by the Parish Clerk. Guidance was also expected but was still awaited from the Society of Local Council Clerks.

(c) The Parish Clerk confirmed that a booking had been made to attend a free briefing session by PKF Littlejohn, as new external auditors, at the SALC offices on 30 January 2018.

9. Highways

(a) Cllr Hicks confirmed that the matter of a proposed footpath in the village had been surveyed by SCC Highways and that further progress would be reported in due course.

(b) The Parish Clerk reported that a response had been received from SCC Highways relating to the traffic congestion issues. There was an offer to speak to events management at Stonham Barns to discuss access to the site and the reduction of traffic congestion. Members agreed to postpone acceptance of the offer until the site's main planning application's decision notice had been issued by Mid Suffolk District Council.

(c) Members noted Mid Suffolk District Council's failure to consult with the Council regarding the naming of The Green at the village's Green Farm development.

(d) The Parish Clerk agreed to report the pot holes near the tennis courts at the bottom of Scotts Hill and just south of the entrance to Impaugh Farm at the top to SCC Highways.

10. Recreation Ground

(a) The original supplier had attended to the particular playground items arising from the annual inspection report. The Recreation Ground representative confirmed that the adequacy of the rectification work had still to be assessed and that discussions were taking place regarding the matter of the remaining items.

(b) As Cllr Tydeman did not attend the meeting, Members agreed to postpone the matter of his discussion with the owner of the fence until the next meeting.

11. Matters for Future Consideration

Members agreed to include the following items on the agenda at future meetings:

(a) Consideration of Alignment of Clerk's Salary to the Council Marketplace (February 2018)

(b) Development of a Neighbourhood Plan Presentation (Annual Parish Meeting)

12. Dates of the Next Meetings

(a) 20 February 2018 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 12 February 2018)

(b) 20 March 2018

(c) 17 April 2018

(d) The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk

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20 February 2018

Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – January 2018

Mid Suffolk signs up to the Woodland Trust's tree charter

Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed to sign up to the Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

At a meeting on Thursday 21 December, the Council backed the initiative by the national charity, which sets out people's rights to the benefits of trees, woods and forests. The charter's ten principles include planting more trees, a commitment to protecting irreplaceable trees and woods, sustaining landscapes rich in wildlife and using trees as the inspiration for cultural projects. Other pledges include planning greener local landscapes and combating threats to the ecosystems which each tree supports.

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor David Burn, said: "Trees surely stand at the heart of why we all enjoy living in one of the most rural parts of the country. Signing up to the Woodland Trust's Charter shows our support for the aims of planting, nurturing and protecting our trees, so that not only ourselves, but also future generations can continue to enjoy the benefits they bring to us."

January 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Suffolk school travel consultation launched

The two and half month consultation which started on Tuesday 12 December, invites people to help the council shape the future of school and post-16 travel policies. In Suffolk, £21 million of taxpayers' money is spent per year getting children to and from school. Suffolk County Council has already introduced a number of efficiency changes to the service saving around £2.6 million. Now, like many other councils across the country, the authority needs to consider making more significant changes. It is therefore consulting on changing its school and post-16 travel policies so the service can be affordable, sustainable, and capable of meeting growing demand in the future. The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above legal requirements, which means around 2400 children and young people receive free/subsidised school or post-16 travel that SCC is not legally required to provide and that they wouldn't get in many other parts of the country. In addition, around 2400 children receive free travel to schools further away than legally required to provide. The proposed consultation seeks views on changing these policies and includes three alternative options, pre-and post-16.

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils' nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis. This option would cost SCC an estimated £8.8 million to implement.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by SCC.

SCC is also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way as part of the way distance to a school is measured and a range of local solutions, such as Local collection hubs and opt-in to travel, which we have developed with a range of schools. Further details on these options can be found on the consultation website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel and the consultation runs until 28 February 2018 and there is a full programme of consultation workshops around the county and opportunities for discussion.

Primary School application deadline approaches

Parents and carers have until Monday 15th January to make their application to secure their child's place at a Suffolk Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2018. Any child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 is due to start primary school from September 2018. An application for a full-time school place must be made, even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site. It is recommended that parents and carers apply online as they will receive confirmation of their application. Alternatively, parents and carers can apply on a paper CAF1 application form. Both applications can be accessed at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions. A completed application must be submitted or posted for every child wanting a primary, infant, junior or middle school place from September 2018. If families are planning to move house or think their circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time. Families who apply online will be able to log on to the Online Service on the National Offer Day, 16th April 2018 to see their school place offer, and will also receive an email to confirm this offer on the same day. Offer letters will also be sent by second class post to all applicants.

Ground investigations for Ipswich's Upper Orwell Crossings to begin

Structural and environmental tests to finalise the detailed design for the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich are to begin early this year. The ground investigation works, which could last up to three months are scheduled to begin on 15 January 2018. Contractors Fugro GeoServices Ltd will dig trial holes and deep boreholes both on land and in the water. The works will determine the underlying properties of the ground and river bed. Geotechnical Engineers will analyse the information and use it to design the foundations on which the three bridges will sit. Land based work will take place between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am and 1pm on Saturdays, while the work in the water will be carried out 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Noise levels will be monitored closely throughout the works. There will also be a period where samples are required on pavements and roads – however this work will be undertaken outside of the morning and evening rush hour periods to minimise disruption to road users

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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