

# Stonham Aspal Parish Council

## Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stonham Aspal

**Present:** Cllr Malcolm Leith (Chair), Cllr Ian Wright (Vice-Chair), Cllr Peter Emberson, Cllr Jean Timms and Cllr Charles Tydeman

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

**1. Apologies and Approval of Absences**

Apologies were received from Cllr Josephine Mitson. Cllr Rob Stevenson did not attend the meeting.

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

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 17 October 2017**

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 17 October 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.

**6. Consideration of Planning Applications & Decision Notices**

(a) MSDC DC/17/03247: Application Granted (25 October 2017)

Morgans End, Debenham Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6BZ

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(b) MSDC DC/17/03823: Application Granted (27 October 2017)

High Elm Bungalow, Crowfield Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AW

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(c) MSDC DC/17/01448: Application Granted (8 November 2017)

Fir Tree Lodge, The Street, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AL

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

**7. Finance**

(a) Cashbook, income, expenditure and budget reports of activity to 31 October 2017 were reviewed and noted.

(b) Approval of the bank reconciliation of activity to 31 October 2017 was proposed by Cllr Leith, seconded by Cllr Timms and agreed by Members.

(c) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages, office and personal expenses (£388.65). Payments were also authorised in favour of HMRC for the Parish Clerk's income tax (£91,40), Roger Stannard for Recreation Ground weed killing costs (£39.99), Community Action Suffolk for web site costs (November 2017 to October 2018) (£60.00) and Local Council Public Advisory Service for a GDPR training course (£7.50). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Tydeman and agreed by Members.

(d) A draft budget was presented to Members by the Parish Clerk which was then discussed and concluded with the setting of a precept of £7,000 for 2018/19 to be requested from Mid Suffolk District Council. Approval of the final budget and setting of the precept was proposed by Cllr Emberson, seconded by Cllr Timms and agreed by Members.

**8. Governance**

(a) The Parish Clerk confirmed that new fly tipping signage had been fixed to the recycling banks by MSDC Waste Services.

(b) The Parish Clerk updated Members on his attendance at a GDPR Training Course in Woodbridge on 1 November 2017. An assessment was required to take place of the extent to which the Council would be affected and the courses of action needing to be taken.

(c) Approval of the nomination of Cllr Wright to continue as Metcalf Educational Foundation Charity representative was proposed by Cllr Leith, seconded by Cllr Tydeman and agreed by Members.

**9. Highways**

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

(b) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the previous village event traffic congestion issues had been reported to SCC Highways and a response was still awaited.

**10. Stonham Barns**

(a) Cllr Timms confirmed her attendance at the Stonham Barns Liaison Meeting on 14 November 2017 and delivered a presentation on the site's future plans, including an adventure golf park, petting zoo and play barn, all subject to appropriate planning consent.

**11. Recreation Ground**

(a) An update on the play equipment had been provided by the Recreation Ground's committee representative following the recent findings of the annual inspection report. Appropriate matters had been referred to the supplier for attention and Cllr Tydeman agreed to speak to the fence's owner. Members agreed a preference for the purchase of a round plastic litter bin. Members requested an update at the next meeting.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan**

(a) Cllr Emberson agreed to continue his research into the development of a Stonham Aspal Neighbourhood Plan for presentation to residents at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

**13. Matters for Future Consideration**

Members agreed to include the following item on the agenda at the next meeting:

(a) Review, Approval & Adoption of the Council's Internal Control Statement 2017/18

**14. Dates of the Next Meetings**

(a) 12 December 2017 (Cancelled)

(b) 16 January 2018

(c) 20 February 2018

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk

[sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk)

16 January 2018

## **Report for The Stonhams Ward – November 2017**

### **New ways to access our services**

We are making it quicker, easier and more convenient for people to contact us at a time of their choosing. Following the closure of the councils' former headquarters in Hadleigh and Needham Market, customers can contact us in a variety of ways. Our websites enable residents to pay, report and apply for things 24 hours a day. We have also introduced a single telephone number 0300 123 4000, which is open between 8.45am and 5pm for people who live and work in the districts to call and be connected to any of the councils' services. Two new customer service centres have opened at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, and at the Town Hall in Old Market Place, Sudbury, where council staff are assisting residents who need extra support to access services.

In Stowmarket the customer services team is available on Mondays to Thursdays from 9am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 5pm and on Fridays between 9am to 12.30pm and from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. In Sudbury, the centre is open on Mondays to Thursdays, from 9am to 5pm and on Fridays between 9am to 4.30pm. Our postal address is: Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX.

### **Mid Suffolk Consults on New Council Tax Proposals**

Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a consultation on changes to their Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which would make the scheme simpler and easier to access. Mid Suffolk has unveiled proposals to change their Council Tax Reduction Scheme to reduce the burden of administration on residents accessing both the Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit schemes, treat customers' circumstances the same for both schemes and continue to support those customers most in need. The changes also aim to make provision for the introduction of Universal Credit and align the current scheme with the Housing Benefit scheme Mid Suffolk operates. To take part in the consultation visit the consultation page. The consultation runs until 27th November.

The current Council Tax Reduction Scheme – which replaced Council Tax Benefit in 2013 – includes a maximum discount of 95% for the least well off residents, requiring just 5% of the bill to be paid. This discount will remain in place under the new proposals. Over the last 4 years there have been a number of changes to Housing Benefit legislation, resulting in some residents seeing their circumstances being treated differently in application for support with Council Tax compared to Housing Benefit. The upcoming introduction of Universal Credit will also significantly change how residents receive financial support. Following the consultation a report will be produced and submitted to Mid Suffolk's Full Council Meeting in December, proposing the final changes come into effect on 1 April 2018.

Cllr John Whitehead, Mid Suffolk District Council Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "Our Council Tax Reduction scheme helps residents in the greatest need and we're proud to be able to support them in hard times, but sometimes the administration of different schemes can produce a headache for claimants when they least need them. These changes will ease that process and make the scheme easier to understand. Now is the chance for everyone to take a look at the proposals and let us know if we've got them right for our residents."

District Councillor Suzie Morley, The Stonhams Ward – 01449 711306 / 07976 927226

## **November 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks**

### **Don't put off your flu vaccination**

Health chiefs in Suffolk are reminding people to get a flu vaccination to ward off the worst effects of a potentially debilitating illness. Parents of 2-3-year-olds are being encouraged to take their child to have a simple nasal spray vaccination at their GP surgery, while carers are also advised not to put off their free flu jab. With higher than usual numbers of people contracting flu in the Southern Hemisphere during their winter season earlier this year, it is more important than ever not to delay getting the vaccination. Public Health England's Chief Medical Officer has warned flu and the complications associated with it cause, on average, 8,000 deaths a year. People with long term health conditions such as diabetes, heart, kidney or liver disease are eligible for a free vaccination, as are pregnant women and all those over 65. People should contact their GP, pharmacist or midwife to get the flu jab.

### **Suffolk Fostering Service launches first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns**

Suffolk County Council's Fostering Service will launch a series of campaigns over the coming months to encourage more Suffolk residents to become foster carers. 820 children currently live in care in Suffolk and there is an urgent need for more people to come forward to foster. Suffolk Fostering Service is the longest established provider of fostering services in the county, offering competitive fees, 24-hour support services and up to 21 days paid leave per year. Teenagers in care have often gone through a great deal in their lives and this campaign aims to give an honest reflection of what it takes to be a foster carer and the rewards that can come as a result. The campaign is accompanied by a [new promotional video](#) providing an insight into what it takes to be a foster carer for teenagers and the positive difference they make to a young person's life. The video addresses why the application process can be timely and thorough, describing how the vulnerability of the children in care makes the timeframe absolutely necessary. It also makes clear that the robustness and intensity of the process is equally there to benefit and protect the prospective foster carer, ensuring that they are fully prepared and certain of the commitment they are making. Suffolk residents are being asked to consider whether they have the patience, compassion and the spare room required to provide a child with the secure home life they need. Please visit [www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk)

### **A series of natural flood protection measures are currently being put in place around Debenham**

Local land owners are joining forces with local organisations including Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust and East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board to deliver the Deben Holistic Water Project. This work offers a new approach to managing water resources that flow through the area. Through constructive discussions, several landowners showed a willingness to work with the council and the other organisations to develop natural flood management features on their land, upstream from where flooding often occurs, using their knowledge of water flow and land heights. Records of historic flooding in Debenham go back to 1816, with the most notable recent floods occurring during the 1990s. Three tributaries of the River Deben converge in the village where the river is constrained by historic development. Traditional approaches to flood management have previously been modelled for consideration but have always proved too costly with estimations in the region of £10-12 million. The largest protection feature, located at Hill House Farm, covers 0.26 hectares and will include permanent water plus space for flood water. It will create a wonderful new watery habitat for plants and wildlife in years to come. So far, three features have been installed at Debenham Hall, Aspal Hall and Hill House Farm, funded by the local flood levy, SCC and the Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust. It is hoped that more similar features will be installed upstream on Debenham in the next few years, subject to funds being available. As well as reducing the risk of local flooding, these features will help to reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants getting into the river, and provide new habitats.

### **Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation**

We are seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2019/2020 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation, which started on Monday 2 October, will run until Monday 13 November 2017. There are proposals to make some minor changes to the admission arrangements and coordinated admissions scheme for schools in Suffolk for the 2019/2020 school year. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, free schools and academies are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools, you should contact the school.

**Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division**

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