

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stonham Aspal

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

Attendance: Cllr Suzie Morley (District Councillor), Cllr Matthew Hicks (County Councillor) and Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies and Approval of Absences**

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Emberson and his absence was approved.

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

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 21 August 2018**

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 21 August 2018 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 the 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 and Decision Notices**

(a) MSDC DC/18/03144: Application Granted (23 August 2018)

Old School House, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(b) MSDC DC/17/06247: Application Refused (23 August 2018)

Land at Elm Farm, Debenham Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AE

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

(c) MSDC DC/00/03367: Application Granted (10 September 2018)

Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT

Members noted the outcome of this planning application.

7. **Finance**

(a) Review of income, expenditure and budget reports of activity to 31 August 2018 were reviewed and noted.

(b) Approval of the bank reconciliation of activity to 31 August 2018 was proposed by Cllr Stevenson, seconded by Cllr Leith and agreed by Members.

(c) Members noted that a payment of £1,025.84 had been approved by HMRC for the VAT refund claim for 2017/18 on 7 September 2018.

(d) The Parish Clerk confirmed that relevant financial and other information relating to 2017/18 had been posted on the Council's web site by the deadline of 1 July 2018 in order to comply with the Transparency Code.

(e) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the annual External Audit submission had been made for 2017/18 and that the related notices and statements had been posted on the web site.

(f) Members noted the response and action plan presented by the Parish Clerk arising from the recommendations made by SALC following its completion of the Internal Audit 2017/18. A review of the progress made during the year was planned to take place at the meeting in March 2019.

(g) Following a review of the risks to be covered by Business Services at CAS Ltd by Members and reference to the Council's asset register recently verified by the Parish Clerk, the Parish Clerk agreed to take arising queries to the insurer for clarification. Approval of the Council's insurance cover from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019 was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Mitson and agreed by Members.

(h) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages, office and personal expenses (£242.44) and Business Services at CAS Ltd for annual insurance cover (October 2018 to September 2019) (£709.91). Approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Stevenson, seconded by Cllr Leith and agreed by Members.

8. Governance

(a) Approval to add the privacy notice presented by the Parish Clerk on the web site was proposed by Cllr Leith, seconded by Cllr Tydeman and agreed by Members.

(b) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's annual risk assessment for 2018/19 which was reviewed by Members. Approval and adoption of this document was proposed by Cllr Leith, seconded by Cllr Timms and agreed by Members.

(c) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's annual safety risk assessment for 2018/19. Following review and discussion by Members, the Parish Clerk agreed to ask the Recreation Ground representative if she would be willing to carry out monthly inspections of the playground equipment and to provide reports at future meetings. Approval and adoption of this document, including the undertaking of monthly playground equipment inspections, was proposed by Cllr Stevenson, seconded by Cllr Leith and agreed by Members.

(d) The Parish Clerk presented the Council's internal control statement for 2018/19 which was reviewed by Members. Approval and adoption of this document was proposed by Cllr Stevenson, seconded by Cllr Tydeman and agreed by Members.

(e) In the absence of Cllr Emberson leading on this matter, the Parish Clerk confirmed that a discussion on the introduction of a Parish Clerk's employment contract had commenced.

(f) Members reviewed the commemorative initiative being planned by the Royal British Legion on 8 November 2018 and agreed that details should be shared with the contact at the Parochial Church Council for co-ordination purposes. Cllr Emberson had previously confirmed that he would be happy to lead on behalf of the Council. Approval to proceed on this basis was proposed by Cllr Tydeman, seconded by Cllr Mitson and agreed by Members.

9. Recreation Ground

(a) The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Recreation Ground representative had advised that the new bin for the Recreation Ground had been delivered and was awaiting installation.

(b) Members agreed on the engagement of Roger Stannard to clear nettles at the Recreation Ground and that weedkiller could be obtained from Cllr Tydeman as necessary. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Recreation Ground representative would be advised.

(c) Following a previous report by the Recreation Ground representative that no work had been carried out to date on advised repairs at the Recreation Ground, Members agreed that this matter should be followed up. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Recreation Ground representative would be advised.

10. Highways

(a) Members reviewed the situation of the purchase of one or more grit bins and the funding assistance offered by Cllr Morley and Cllr Hicks. Members agreed that there were three potential locations for a new grit bin at The Pound, the junction of Mickfield Road and Debenham Road, and Scotts Hill by The Rectory. Following the Parish Clerk's query that definitive prices for the different types of grit bins available from Suffolk County Council did not appear to be promoted, Cllr Hicks agreed to look into this on the Council's behalf. It was understood that details of volunteers would also need to be agreed and confirmed on the order form in due course.

(b) Members discussed the further consideration of a footpath on the north side of The Street and the co-operation of the homeowners involved that would be required. Members agreed that they would need to be contacted to ask if they would be willing to give up an appropriate amount of their roadside land to facilitate the introduction of a footpath. The Parish Clerk agreed to prepare the text for a letter to be delivered to the affected properties on the basis that the content of all responses received would be confidential.

(c) Following discussion by Members, the Parish Clerk agreed to contact SCC Highways to report a build up of silt on the road requiring attention in the area of A1120 and Scotts Hill.

11. Consultations

(a) Members agreed that they had to comments to make in connection with the MSDC Gambling Act (2005) Statement of Principles (Revision) consultation by 12 October 2018.

(b) Members agreed to postpone the approval of a response to the MSDC Joint Housing Strategy consultation by 1 November 2018 until the next meeting. The Parish Clerk agreed to share further information on this matter with Members when it became available.

12. Matters for Future Consideration

(a) Confirmation of the Receipt of the MSDC Precept (2/2) (£3,500.00) (1 October 2018)

(b) Confirmation of the Receipt of MSDC Recycling Credit Payment (£329.22) (to July 18)

(c) Review & Approval of the Council's Budget, Reserves & Precept Setting (2019/20)

(d) Review & Approval of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & LTN 87 Procurement

(e) Consideration of Village Hall Meeting Access & Accommodation Arrangements

(f) Consideration of the Appointment of a Tree Warden & Council's Responsibilities

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

(a) 16 October 2018 (Urgent Items Only & Documents Received by 8 October 2018)

- (b) 20 November 2018 (Agenda Items & Documents Received by 12 November 2018)
- (c) 15 January 2019
- (d) The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk
16 October 2018

Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – August 2018

One Million Square Feet of New Business Space for Stowmarket

Gateway 14 Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mid Suffolk District Council, has purchased 100 acres of land to the East of Stowmarket, directly adjacent to junction 50 of the A14 trunk road. Known as 'Gateway 14', the site is ideally situated to provide vital links to the Port of Felixstowe in the East, to the Midlands and the UK motorway network beyond.

With outline planning consent establishing the principle for employment development, there is the potential to accommodate over 1 million sq. ft. of logistics, warehousing, advanced manufacturing and business space.

It is envisaged that the site will be developed over the next 10 years to deliver high quality sustainable buildings for local and national businesses. This will also create a range of opportunities for local businesses to be involved in the construction, servicing and running of the Business Park, and will generate employment opportunities for Stowmarket and the surrounding area. The site benefits from both an Enterprise Zone and a Food Enterprise Zone designation offering further benefits to businesses locating to this site.

The Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, Cllr Nick Gowrley said: "The development of Gateway 14 is an exciting venture that will help Mid Suffolk's economy to thrive whilst promoting opportunities to support new and existing local businesses."

Chris Haworth, Chair of the Board of Gateway 14 Ltd, said: "Gateway 14 Limited's acquisition of this 100-acre site is a bold and entrepreneurial move by Mid Suffolk District Council. The Eastern A14 is gathering serious attention from major occupiers and investors because of the lack of supply in other established markets and the great value offered by sites in this region. This is an exciting time to be acquiring a site of this size and quality."

GVA, a major National property consultancy, is the appointed agent for the site, supporting Gateway 14 Limited in the options for development, and discussions are already underway with potential occupiers for the site.

For further information on availability on the business park please contact the Managing Director of Gateway 14 Limited Emily Atack on 01449 724 856 and/or email John Allan.

Foyer Scheme to Open Doubling Homelessness Provision

A restored facility at The Foyer in Stowmarket is set to more than double the Council's provision of accommodation for families and vulnerable people in the Mid Suffolk District that find themselves without a home when it opens on 10 September.

The Foyer, previously owned by Flagship Housing, has been unused for over a year. Mid Suffolk District Council has now purchased the building and carried out repairs to bring the building back into use. The new scheme will provide housing for 17 vulnerable families and individuals while the Council investigates their housing needs and requirements. The Foyer will provide a mix of single, double and twin rooms and enables the council to place larger families in more than one room.

The scheme will be able to provide accommodation for local people in need who meet certain criteria from September. The location and capacity of the Foyer will allow more families to remain in the area and gives children the option to be in close proximity to their school and help to reduce the effect of what is a difficult time for families.

Cllr Jill Wilshaw, Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "The restored Foyer building will be a great asset to the local community and will increase our ability to provide accommodation to vulnerable families and individuals. Being homeless or under the threat of homelessness is distressing for any family and to remain in the area you know helps. Our focus remains on preventing homelessness in Mid Suffolk over the provision of temporary accommodation."

Cllr Wilshaw along with ward councillors and members of Mid Suffolk's Homelessness Team will be opening The Foyer on Monday 10 September at 10am, 29-37 Hill Rise, Stowmarket IP14 2HB.

Councils Demonstrate Housing Land Supply

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have demonstrated a Housing Land Supply of greater than five years, meeting their obligation under the National Planning Policy Framework.

A Five-Year Housing Land Supply is a demonstration that a local authority is seeing enough homes built to meet housing need over the next five years. With the publication of the updated 5-year land supply position planning officers will now be reviewing all current application and pre-application enquiries on which this has a bearing. This includes all applications for which formal planning permission has not yet been issued. You can read more online about the Mid Suffolk Land Supply.

Funding for Shop Fronts Unveiled

Businesses in Mid Suffolk's Market Towns are being invited to apply for funding to make improvements to their shopfronts and make their businesses more accessible under two new grant schemes launched Friday 31st August.

Businesses in Stowmarket, Needham Market, Eye and the surrounding villages can apply for grants to both make their buildings more attractive on the high street and help create a better experience for visitors. The improvements can be funded under a Shop front Grant or an Accessibility Fund grant, both of which are available to shop owners. Information can be found in the Shop Front Scheme leaflet.

The grants are being offered by Mid Suffolk District Council as part of its commitment to the prosperity of its Market Towns. This commitment has seen £350,000 allocated to fund the two new programmes to assist local businesses create a better experience for visitors.

The Shop Front Scheme and the Accessibility Scheme grant funds will be awarded for a range of applications including new shop fronts, painting, lighting, cladding, shop front signage and new awnings, and for improvement works that will make buildings more accessible including; widening of doorways, removal of steps, power assisted doors and training.

Under the Shop Front Grant Mid Suffolk are offering funding to cover up to 75% of the costs of shop front improvements worth £15,000. In addition, the Accessibility Fund Grant can provide up to £5,000 to improve access to businesses. These schemes support changes to buildings that will make a significant difference to the local street scene, creating a more welcoming and vibrant atmosphere.

The scheme is also open to owners of listed buildings, with Council Officers ready to help applicants with any necessary planning applications and other permissions needed to improve their shopfront. This will make sure that important heritage assets can be upgraded in a sympathetic way.

Cllr Julie Flatman, Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "Our communities have really excelled themselves in creating welcoming atmospheres for everyone, from Needham Market's Dementia Action Alliance to Stowmarket's Community Luncheon Club. These grants will support our businesses in making the bricks and mortar of their shops as accessible and welcoming to shoppers as the people who run them."

Cllr. Gerard Brewster, Mid Suffolk District Council's Cabinet Member for Economy, said: "Our high streets are at the heart of the local economy, not only for residents who use them regularly but for visitors who travel from far and wide to see our historic towns and their attractions. This scheme provides businesses the chance to revitalise their shop fronts, keeping our high streets attractive, interesting and accessible making them good places to visit and enjoy."

For advice and more information regarding the scheme shop owners can email the Economic Development Team or call 0300 1234000 or contact the team via:

Mid Suffolk Shop Front Grant Scheme Economic Development Team, Mid Suffolk District Council Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road Ipswich Suffolk, IP1 2BX

Nominate your Stars of Mid Suffolk

The search is on to find the Stars of Mid Suffolk!

This new award scheme was launched on 1 June 2018 by Mid Suffolk District Councils at the Oaksmere Hotel in Eye.

There are 17 categories, split between community awards and business accolades including five business awards, five community awards, seven Individual Community Awards.

People from across the districts are encouraged to make nominations and our media partner, Archant, will feature some of the stories of the nominees in the East Anglian Daily Times and the Ipswich Star.

The awards will be presented at a glittering ceremony on Thursday 18 October at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh, hosted by BBC Radio Suffolk breakfast show presenter Mark Murphy.

The Leader of Babergh District Council, Councillor John Ward said: "We are delighted to be launching the first Stars of Babergh and Mid Suffolk awards which recognise ordinary people doing extraordinary things for the benefit of others, as well as the achievements of our thriving business community. We are looking forward to receiving your nominations for these exciting new awards."

The Leader of Mid Suffolk Council, Councillor Nick Gowrley said: "The Stars of Babergh and Mid Suffolk awards are for the unsung heroes in our communities and we encourage you to nominate people you know who have made a difference. These awards also celebrate the success of the businesses which drive our local economy."

The Stars of Babergh and Mid Suffolk is part of a larger Stars awards scheme which is now in its 12th year and is run across Suffolk and Norfolk by Parker Communications.

To nominate your Stars of Babergh and Mid Suffolk, please cut out and submit a nomination form printed in the East Anglian Daily Times. The closing date for nominations is midnight on Friday 28 September.

STARS Nomination Categories

BUSINESS AWARDS

1. Business in the Community Award - for helping to increase prosperity, employment or access to the borough through business initiatives. rewarding a business that actively supports their local community through positive action; going the extra mile to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the districts and their communities.
2. Business Growth Award
3. Customer Focus Award
4. Green Award - this will go to an organisation such as a school or community group. It could go to a group of litter pickers, a gardening enthusiast or enthusiasts, or a recycling champion - just anyone who promotes the green and clean message
5. Team of the Year - This category is open for the nomination of any 'team' from any organisation within Suffolk. The objective of this award is to recognise the enormous contribution made by teams whose combined effort makes a significant contribution to the people of Suffolk.

COMMUNITY GROUP AWARDS

6. Community Group of the Year - This category is open for the nomination of groups who have made a significant contribution to their community. This is a wide-ranging category and judges will consider any nomination that can be clearly seen to have 'made a difference'. Examples of a 'good' nomination would include – groups who have brought people together to deliver a local service, or have improved an aspect of their environment, a school that has delivered a specific benefit to the community or represented their community to deliver improvement.

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

September 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Suffolk students celebrate improved GCSE achievements

Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools, released on 23 August, show that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year. The majority of GCSEs results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. More than 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results. 80% of schools in Suffolk, 67% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and Maths this year. The figures state 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and Maths, compared with last year. Some schools have made significant gains compared to last year and Debenham High School has again reported the highest number of students achieving a grade 4 and above in English and Maths at 88%. The figures also show an increase in the number of disadvantaged students achieving the threshold measure in English and Maths. Approximately 3% more students in Suffolk achieved the measure this year compared to last year.

Another year of outstanding results for Suffolk students

Self-reported A-level figures, released on 16 August, show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average. Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A-levels in Suffolk. The figures show that 98.1% of A-levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*- E grade, compared with 97.6% nationally. Suffolk maintains its position, and continues to be above the national average, while the national figure reported today shows a decrease of 0.3%. Early indications also show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen by 0.2% compared with this time last year.

Grit bin changes

A new system is being introduced by Suffolk Highways for re-stocking grit bins and for approving new grit bins. A review of grit bin and grit heap provision was reported to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee on 1 May in a paper entitled 'Winter Maintenance Resilience'. Details of how the new system will operate are being sent to parish/town/borough and district councils. You should be aware that we can no longer stock grit heaps. Salt from heaps leaches into the verge and contaminates the watercourse. The leaching also reduces the effectiveness of the remaining material. Any parish/town which has a grit heap is encouraged to apply for a new grit bin in line with the guidance. The new guidance has been established to make it easier to request grit bin refills, explains the process of applying for a new grit bin and provides clarity of the grit bin process and associated responsibilities. We believe these changes will improve the service to communities.

Suffolk's tourist trade booming as economy hits £2bn mark

Suffolk's tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade – with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August by Visit Suffolk show that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before. Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. The number of jobs in the county's tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. This means 13.6 per cent of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector. These results would not have been achieved without the continued backing for the county-wide offer from all the district authorities, Suffolk County Council, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Destination Marketing/Management Organisations (DMOs).

Superfast broadband coverage continues to grow

On 24 August 2018, it was confirmed that 98% superfast broadband coverage will be achieved in 2020.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, Jo Churchill, MP for Bury St Edmunds and Clive Selley, CEO of Openreach, were joined by representatives from West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Church of England, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Better Broadband for Suffolk Team to confirm plans to reach 98% coverage in 2020 which highlights our commitment to connecting Suffolk. With this agreement in place, Openreach will continue to ensure that we meet our ambitious goal. In the meantime, we will continue to look for further funding opportunities to work on delivery to the final 2%. To check if a property can now access superfast broadband visit www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com and check the coverage for that area. The roll out is ongoing and Suffolk County Council is committed to delivering full coverage as quickly as possible. It is important to remind people that a switch to fibre broadband is not automatic. Each household or business will need to contact an internet service provider to upgrade their connection.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741 matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk