

**PARISH OF STRADBROKE  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.30pm start**

**Court House, Queen Street, Stradbroke**

**In attendance:** James Hargrave (Chair – Stradbroke Parish Council), District Councillor Linder, and 12 members of the public, Odile Wladon (Clerk to Stradbroke Parish Council – clerking).

1. Welcome from James Hargrave Chair of the Parish Council
2. Apologies were received from:  
Mrs Millar – Stradbroke High School  
Jane Merritt – SSCC
3. Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022:  
True Record: Proposed acceptance by MJ, Seconded by TW – all in favour.  
Matters arising: none
4. **Parish Council:** full report attached
5. **District Council:** Cllr Anders Linder new district council. Thanked voters for having confidence in him to vote him in. He would do his best to represent us at the district council and to convey matters back to us. No report at the present. He stated that he lived in Braiseworth, which was similar to this area, has lived there for 18 years. Feels grounded in the Suffolk soil.
  - A member of the public wished him all the luck in the world.
  - Matter of the TRO in Eye were raised – with increased HGVs noted on Queen Street already.
6. **County Council:** the lengthy report was noted.
  - It was noted that perhaps another Councillor from SCC would attend meetings in the absence of Cllr Gould.

7. Village Groups/Organisations:

**Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre:** full report attached

Questions/Comments: A matter was raised concerning an ongoing issue between a sports club and the SSCC over a lease.

**Stradbroke Cricket Club:** full report attached

Malcolm Tenneson, from the Cricket Club, added thanks for fantastic support for new nets and surface and will help get resources back into schools.

**Stradbroke Monthly:**

It has been a quiet year of service to Stradbroke, sharing news and forthcoming events. The social and sporting life of the village is well represented in our pages and we continue to enjoy the support of all our contributors and advertisers.

The Stradbroke Monthly is quietly and diligently produced for the village 10 months a year, by the editors, and delivered in the same fashion by the delivery team who, rain or shine, ensure you receive your Monthly as soon as it is printed. The Governance Board maintains an important umbrella of wisdom and advice to the whole operation. We are grateful for their continued commitment to continuing the tradition of our village newsletter, produced by volunteers and free to all.

Two of the editors are celebrating 16 years and 12 years at the Monthly 'typeface' and are always welcoming of anyone wishing to join and be part of the production of the newsletter!

We are also looking forward to the 500th edition in the coming year, so are excited to see what will be happening in Stradbroke at that important milestone!

Thank you for your continued support!

**Stradbroke Court House and Library Trust:** full report attached

Susan Loxton – thanked volunteers of the café and bake cakes and sausage rolls etc.

Maureen thanked volunteers for their hard work.

**Stradbroke Media:**

Runs the village website and Facebook page, providing information online. Missing pets and keys and events in the village which continues to grow. Next Door competes strongly for the audience

25/3/20 – Radio Stradbroke has been broadcasting live every day. Resume fundraising events to help with Radio costs.

Stradbroke Music Day – will be on again this year, last year ABBA tribute band. This year, 8<sup>th</sup> July and there will be a Beatles tribute day.

**Climate Change:** see full report

**Women's Institute:** see full report

**Foodbank:**

761 meals supplied, people continue to drop items off at the rectory. Thanks from Susan Loxton.

# Stradbroke Parish Council

## Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

This year marks the end of the four-year term for the current parish council, which was elected in 2019, following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan earlier that year. Little did any of us know that less a year later we would be facing a global pandemic and at least two years of significant disruption. At that time the Parish Council had also just taken responsibility for the Doctor's surgery building, so it is pleasing to see a significant renovation of the building has now been completed, with further investment secured to keep this key asset in great condition, to the benefit of all villagers. The importance of valuing our local NHS staff who are keeping us all safe and healthy has been constantly in our minds.

The first houses that were promised as part of the Neighborhood Plan are now nearly completed and with them the first community infrastructure levy money enabling us to begin investing in local infrastructure. Soon we will see new people and new families making Stradbroke their home and I hope that they will find it a welcoming place to live, work and raise children.

As a Parish Council quite a bit of our work involves persuading, pushing, and working with our colleagues in Mid Suffolk District and Suffolk County Councils to ensure that Stradbroke gets at least its fair share (and more if possible!) of local resources and that works that need to be done, get done.

We will now be working with the newly elected Green Party administration at Mid Suffolk District Council and look forward to building good relationships with the new Council.

We are also continuing our campaign to see a 20 mile per hour speed limit in the centre of the village and to look at improving other traffic issues such as the Queen's Street and Church Street junction.

Every four years there are elections called for the 13 seats on the Parish Council. This year as there were 9 candidates for 13 seats so all of those that stood were elected unopposed.

All nine of the candidates elected are current member of the Council. Kamal Ivory has decided not to stand for re-election, and I would like to thank her for her work over a number of years as a councillor. We now have four vacancies for councillors, and these can be filled by the council electing candidates to fill the vacancies at our first meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. At this meeting we will also elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year.

Now is a great time to consider joining the Council right at the start of our new four-year term of office. If you would like to consider putting yourself forward to become a councillor, then please email our clerk at [clerk@stradbrokepc.org](mailto:clerk@stradbrokepc.org) for more details. With new development coming to Stradbroke there is a lot for the Council to do so please do consider standing if you can, we meet once a month on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Being a councillor means that you can help influence the way new development comes to the village and how money that comes with those new developments gets spent – as well as trying to make Stradbroke a better place to live in.

We are keen to welcome new members to the Council and it is worth noting that four of the nine current councillors are new since the last elections. We are also keen to ensure the council is as representative and diverse as possible including those new to the village, those who have lived here all their lives, working and retired etc. There isn't an application form or interviews to complete, and you don't need any formal qualifications – however you don't get paid either! But if you are considering it please do speak to me, any other members of the Council or our clerk Odile.

All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who give up their time to try and make Stradbroke an even better place to live. As with any Council we understand we don't always please everyone all the time, but a huge thank you to everyone who has tried to do the best for the village and given up so much of their time. As Chair I would also like to thank everyone for their support and help, which has been much appreciated and has facilitated the improvements we have all seen in Stradbroke.

In our work we have been very fortunate to be supported by Odile our clerk. A final huge thank you to her for her support and energy in getting things done, even when it has sometimes seemed impossible!

*James Hargrave*  
*Chairman*  
*Stradbroke Parish Council*

*May 2023*

## **Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre - Annual Parish Meeting Report May 2023**

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 we held a successful 'inside' Queen's Jubilee Big Lunch in the Community Centre with music and entertainment provided by Stradbroke Radio and indoor games for the children. It was lovely to see the building full of people enjoying themselves.

At our Committee meeting in June 2022 the Vesting Declaration and the Transfer Documents were signed and witnessed ready to be sent to the Charity Commission with an agreed date of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 for the transfer of assets to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This completes two years of hard work, principally by Roger Turkington but disrupted by the pandemic, to convert from an Unincorporated Charity to a CIO and our grateful thanks are given to him.

The 5 CIO Trustees held their first Annual Meeting in September 2022, welcoming Mary Ellis as the Nominated Trustee for the Bowls and Cricket Clubs with other organisations declining to put forward a Nominated Trustee.

Correspondence from the Bowls Club regarding the original lease, between the Sports Clubs and the Village Hall (which no longer exists following the two organisations joining to become the Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre in 1998) was received and an amicable agreement reached for them to become Members of the SSCC, with a review of their annual fee in 2025. The Tennis and Youth Football Clubs also agreed to this Membership and review

As part of the late Queen's Green Canopy volunteers planted 450 saplings as a Woodland on land just off the Tyralla Way, along with the Stradbroke Oak. Another 150 saplings were planted in a Wildflower Meadow between the High School and Neaves Lane. We will watch with anticipation for the Woodland and Wildflower Meadow to grow for us all to enjoy in the future

Stradbroke Cinema's audience continues to slowly grow and we have enjoyed a variety of films over the months. A new laptop has been purchased as we now download films directly rather than rely on Blu-ray technology. Reluctantly we have increased our ticket price from May 2023 but will still provide good value for money with friendly staff!

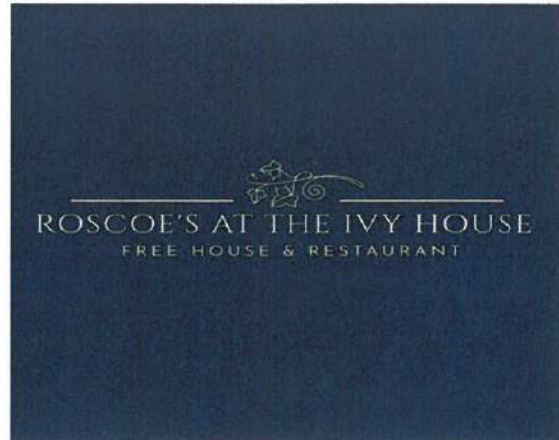
As the proposed extension is on hold, the Trustees agreed to replace the doors and windows in the Club Room and to repaint the windows and door in the Changing Rooms. This really has improved the whole look and insulation of the building. The refurbishment of the Kitchen and Toilets will also begin shortly.

As with other organisations we are looking for new Volunteers to help keep this valuable village asset thriving. We have had a good response but still need others to step forward, especially those with IT, administrative and bar work skills

Once again I would like to thank all the Trustees for their support over the past year with special thanks going to David Merritt for keeping our Community Centre in good order

Jane Merritt

Chair for the Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre



5/5/23

### Stradbroke Cricket Club report to Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you for allowing Stradbroke Cricket Club the time to present this report. The situation has changed little since our last annual report.

First, the positives. The Club is well run, and importantly, solvent in trying financial times, a tribute to the hard working Committee. In 2022 we welcomed five new playing members, riches indeed, and testament to the image we generate of a friendly, inclusive club for all ages and persuasions. Stradbroke Parish Council clearly believe in us, also, paying for the installation of our new nets on the Playing Field, for which we are very grateful. Contacts have been made with Stradbroke High School, who have a new found love of cricket. We hope to strengthen those links this year.

On the negative side, the dispute with Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre over the lease, rumbles on. Thankfully it has not had an adverse effect on the playing side of the Club. Manpower is still a very big issue. Despite the five new players, commitment to cricket seems to be a lower priority with every passing year. Apart from giving support to SHS, we no longer have the resources to coach cricket in local Primary Schools. We still run All Stars & Dynamos Cricket, for youngsters, but keeping their interest in sport as they reach their teenage years, is nigh impossible. Maybe this reflects more upon Society than it does on us.

It would be a terrible shame if the Cricket Club went the way of so many rural clubs, and withered on the vine. Those who work hard, and support the Club, deserve more, and so does the Village of Stradbroke!

Michael Hugman  
Chairman

## **STRADBROKE COURTHOUSE & LIBRARY TRUST**

Stradbroke Courthouse is thriving. The Café continues to be well used by the community and is a much-valued asset to the village. During the winter months we were recognised as a 'Warm Hub' and Susan Loxton and the church used to open on Wednesday mornings in the café room for a 'Chat and a Cuppa', where refreshments were free of charge. 'Chat and Cuppa' is now open on the last Wednesday in the month.

SCALT received grants from MSDC and The East of England Co-op (funds allocated and administered by the Suffolk Foundation) to help pay the electricity bills and to keep the cost of refreshments down, in the Courthouse Café, so that the community could still afford to enjoy meeting up with friends for coffee, cake, sausage rolls and scones in a warm place. These grants were very welcome help.

In June last year SCALT paid £12,000 for the refurbishment of the Library space and we moved the children's area to a better location. Everyone comments how lovely the library looks now and we have increased our young borrowers.

The Post Office is highly valued in the community. Last November and December we had lots of problems with Royal Mail strikes but we managed to come through it all and cope.

Our Stradbroke Tapestry was completed last May and it looks lovely hanging in here.

We had a lovely 2 course lunch just before Christmas for our customers who attend the 'Friday Friends' dementia and we all had a good time. MSDC again contributed towards the cost of this. We plan another one in the next couple of months.

Maureen John

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**STRADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL  
Climate Change Working Party Report**

**Swifts—Biodiversity and Wildlife**

During the last 12 months, six swift boxes, donated by Save Our Swifts, (Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Bird Group) were painted by pupils from Stradbroke Primary School and installed on Stradbroke Leisure Centre. We were supported by a Locality Grant from Mid Suffolk and warmly thank the Leisure Centre and Melvyn Stannard for installation. It is hoped that swifts will nest in these boxes. This is part of a national scheme to counter the 60% decline in swifts in the UK. We have at present a Welcome Back to Swifts flying from All Saints Church.

**Geospatial Analysis of Solar Power Potential**

The Parish Council and Stradbroke Community Land Trust (SCLT) are working together on a Green Suffolk decarbonisation scheme, Eastern New Energy, (consisting of Community Works CIC and Suffolk Data Trust CIC). This is to develop a Community Energy Services Company (Community ESCO) in Stradbroke.

The Land Trust was funded by Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder grant to set up a geospatial analysis of the area to identify solar PV plus battery storage opportunities in Stradbroke. Together with the Parish Council we will build up a local portfolio of interested households and businesses over the next months.

Planning has begun and we hope to have an information event some time in the autumn.



Good evening, Gwyneth Harris, President of Stradbroke WI

Report to Parish council 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

We are nearly back to normal following the pandemic with a membership of 30.

Our monthly meeting in January and February are at members' suggestion being held in the afternoon, we continue with evening meeting for the rest of the year.

Our groups have restarted, with the Lunch Group sampling the delights of local restaurants and pubs.

Circle Dancers are meeting on alternative Tuesday afternoons, giving good exercise to the participants.

The book club and scrabble group members meet in their homes and keep their little grey cells up to scratch.

For this year we have selected most of our speakers from the village, giving us insight to the many facets villagers have to offer and what an interesting group of people they are.

To find out more about the village we have enjoyed two trips to the Biogas plant at Barley Brigg Farm which has augmented our understanding of the National Federations drive for a greener country.

Our current resolution is for better and earlier recognition in Women and Girls with who are Autistic or have ADHA, and for the appropriate treatment be given earlier than that is currently available.

Occasionally we have open meetings when we think the speaker is suitable, when we welcome non-members both male and female of any age, serving tea and cakes for refreshments.

We advertise our meeting in the community centre, the church notice board and in the Stradbroke magazine.

I would like to thank the management and staff of the community centre for their assistance especially with the electric gadgetry as a lot of speakers turn up with visual aids and needing a microphone.

**AOB Matters:**

A matter was raised regarding damage to a house caused by a traffic incident.  
Invite a County Councillor to discuss highways matters.

Meeting closed at: 8.15pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: