

PARISH OF STRADBROKE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

25th April 2024, 7.30pm start

Main Hall, Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre, Stradbroke

In attendance: Caroline Stebbing (Chair – Stradbroke Parish Council), District Councillor Linder, County Councillor Rout and 30 members of the public, Odile Wladon (Clerk to Stradbroke Parish Council – clerking).

1. The minutes of the 2024 meeting were approved.
2. Chair’s report of Parish Council (included in full as an appendix)
3. Anders Linder – District Councillor Report (included in full as an appendix)
4. Richard Rout – County Council:
 - introduced himself as Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council standing in for Cllr Gould to ensure that all parishes have cover and are represented. We wish Peter the best.
 - A year marked by stark budgetary pressures – SEN and home to school transport Children in Care and Adult Social Care, these can be hidden services. 75p in every pound is spent on these, which means an ever decreasing amount on everything else.
 - This is visible – roads are in a worse condition and the bus services are suffering. 8.6% increase from the government, 20% increase in cost of adult social care.
 - Eye ETRO – decision has been made, not allowed to announce the outcome until after the election on 2nd May.
 - Devolution – consultation running on whether Suffolk should sign up for a county deal, £16m per year for 30 years. Will need to be an elected leader.
 - NSIPs – not many in the Stradbroke area, pylon route is starting to attract solar farm applications.
 - New highways contract with Milestone – promised much improvement, haven’t seen the pace of change that we would like to see but this may be due to the floods.
 - Over the next year SCC will be investing £10m resurfacing residential roads. Wilby Road defect will be repaired on 27th June.
 - Locality Budget remains: £6k per year for community projects.
5. Reports from village clubs/groups/organisations:
 - a. **Cricket Club:** (included in full as an appendix)

- b. **Stradbroke Monthly:** It has been another 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. Two of the editors are celebrating 17 years and 13 years editing and producing the Monthly, and are always welcoming of anyone wishing to join and be part of the production of the newsletter! Thank you for your continued support!
- c. **Stradbroke Court House and Library Trust:** (included in full as an appendix)
- d. **Stradbroke Trust:** (included in full as an appendix)
- e. **Good Neighbours:** (included in full as an appendix)
- f. **WI:** (Included in full as an appendix)
- g. **Stradbroke Media:** (included in full as an appendix)

6. Questions to County Cllr Rout:

Q: Why resurfacing the by-roads when there are potholes all over.

A: Not that money being diverted, there is an additional £10m for potholes.

Q: Why some roads and not Eye for instance?

A: There is a periodic resurfacing and that will include Eye soon.

7. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Following refreshments, there was a launch of a consultation by the Parish Council on Pedestrian/Highway safety in Stradbroke.

STRADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

The beginning of the new Parish Council year saw the completion of remedial and decorative works to the Health Centre. Hopefully all patients who have visited the surgery during the past year will have noticed an improved reception area including new (and hopefully more comfortable!) seating. The building has also benefitted from new energy efficient double glazing, energy efficient lighting as well as air conditioning in consulting rooms and the reception area..

The first floor has also been reconfigured to allow this space to be used by Practice staff including the installation of data cables to allow for computer terminals to be used in these rooms.

Improvements outside include work to alleviate flooding issues at the front of the building and a newly re-surfaced disabled parking area. Finally the building has benefitted from having solar panels installed.

The development at All Saints Green has now seen some of the properties being occupied and we would like to welcome the new residents and hope that they enjoy living in our village.

A firm of solicitors has now been appointed to act on behalf of the Parish Council in the transfer from Lovell Homes, of land at the rear of the development. A meeting took place with the Biodiversity Project Manager to look at the land and review possible uses for nature recovery. The Project Manager agreed to work with the Council on tree, hedge and wildflower planting once the land has been signed over to the Parish Council. Monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for this development have been earmarked for infrastructure projects for the village.

The outcome of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) which is currently in place in Eye, is expected imminently. The Council has joined forces with other Parish Councils which are similarly affected as a result of the ban on lorries travelling through Eye and presented a submission to Suffolk Highways, detailing the adverse effect that this is having on these villages.

The Council's commitment to pedestrian and traffic safety in Stradbroke has also included the appointment of a traffic management consultant which has been working closely with the Council to produce a series of interventions to improve highways safety.

This year saw Rev. Susan Loxton resign from the Council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of service and support to the Council. We did however welcome Karen Lynch to the Council last June. The Parish Council now has 9 councillors out of a possible 13 and we would welcome any interest in joining us, particularly from newer residents.. You will see from the work that has been taking place that it has been an extremely busy year and we would welcome some extra support on the Council. Having said that, we do have a number of volunteers who help with various projects throughout the village and I would like to thank them all for what they do to help try and keep Stradbroke a lovely village to live in and be part of.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to Odile our Parish Clerk for the support she has given this past year. She works extremely hard to ensure that Councillors are able to come to informed decisions by advising them of statutory and legal requirements and also is the first point of contact for all residents in the village who may want to contact the Parish Council for any reason.

Caroline Stebbing

Chair, Stradbroke Parish Council

Report from your District Councillor, April 2024

*This month there has been no Mid Suffolk District Meeting due to rules regarding the by election in the Stowmarket area. So sadly, I can't give any insights into proposals, debates and outcomes. The period between the last Parish Meeting and today has been a bit quiet. The next MSDC meeting will be on May the 25th, this may be a lengthy stint with a lot of catching up to do.

*Last time there was a question about the possibility for members of the public to attend the County Council Meetings, I can now confirm that this is not a problem.

*The ongoing problem re the New Street Parking has not yet been solved, I have been in touch with a number of people, not least to find out why nothing happened after that the application to extend this parking was granted back in 2015. On this coming Friday I will talk to an Officer that I believe can help to find out and also tell me who can reapply.

*In May the Cabinet is expected to decide on bins and vehicles for separate food waste collections. This will have to be in place by April 2026. Mark Emms is the Officer dealing with this matter.

*A new Scrap Metal policy will be decided by Cabinet on the 14th of May. It will cover the period 2024 – 2029. Tracy Howard is the Officer who can provide further information.

*A Rural Transport Grants scheme will pass through Cabinet on the 14th of May. Officer Katherine Davies for more information.

*On the 22nd of May the MSDC is due to approve for consultation a Supplementary Intensive Livestock and Poultry Planning document. The Officer in charge is Robert Hobbs.

At the time of this AGM it is also time for me to think back on my first year as your District Councillor. On May the 4th last year I had the Honour of being elected to try to serve your interests and deal with some of your concerns. Rather than reiterating what is in my previous reports I'll outline some of the tasks and matters with which I get involved.

*I have and will continue to attend various, numerous training sessions. This is particularly important to me as I had no previous experience when I was elected.

*I contribute to 'Local Grants Applications', feeling sure that this will come to good use.

*Sometimes I am able to write supporting statements for projects, like for the Changing Facilities at the Stradbroke pool.

*Attempting to provide a useful input in contentious local planning matters.

*Trying to push for completion of works to be undertaken by developers.

*Encourage and learn about the development of new ideas and enterprises in the area. Hemp based building materials is an example of this.

*When approached by Parishioners re different personal problems I try to advise and guide to the best of my knowledge.

*Attending the Mid Suffolk District Council meetings is an important duty.

*Becoming a member of various Committees is both interesting and important. I take part in the Licensing Committee, the Gypsy and Travellers Committee and I am a Deputy Member of the Planning Committee.

*I try to be a conduit between the Council and Officers, passing on bits of information that I hope can be of use.

Please do give me your ideas for this second year of mine. I am looking forward to continue in my role.

My Sincere Regards,

Anders Linder



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Even the most imaginative Spin Doctor would struggle to be too positive about the current, and future state of Stradbroke Cricket Club, a Club with differing fortunes on and off the field, yet mirroring modern Society, at the same time. Off the field, the Club is well run, solvent, dynamic, and despite the ongoing saga of it's lease, continues to be progressive. The same cannot be said on the playing side. Not enough players want to play cricket. As some reach an age where they cannot play the sport anymore, there is a dearth of young cricketers, seemingly unwilling to leave the comforts of their sofas, to try a sport that on a wider scale will improve their physical, and hopefully mental health.

The All Stars & Dynamos initiative has been running for five years, aimed at Primary School age children. Their happy, enthusiastic demeanour is somehow taken by the time they are teenagers. A major breakthrough in 2024 is cricket being part of the PE Curriculum at Stradbroke High School. The Cricket Club are dovetailing coaching sessions at SHS to supplement this, for which we are grateful. How great the conversion rate from School to Club membership is, remains to be seen.

Hopefully we will all be here in twelve months time to hear the answer. Thank you for your time and continued support of what we do.

Michael Hugman
Chairman Stradbroke Cricket Club

STRADBROKE COURTHOUSE & LIBRARY TRUST (SCALT)

Stradbroke Courthouse continues to prosper and thrive with the Library, Courthouse Café and Post Office. The Post Office has become the local bank as most of our major banks locally have closed or will be closing soon.

The library contract is up for renewal this year and organisations are being invited to bid for the contract. Suffolk Libraries currently have the contract and they will be putting in a bid to have their contract renewed. We won't know the outcome until November 2024 but I personally would like Suffolk Libraries to retain the contract, as a lot of what we have achieved at Stradbroke Courthouse has been down to them being on board, especially by taking on the Post Office in the library. Suffolk Libraries have run our libraries since 2012 and have made a very good job of it.

This year SCALT managed to get a Peoples Lottery grant for £9,100 to continue what we provide in the Courthouse Café and to keep our prices down, so that they are affordable by the community and to provide a popular meeting place for people to come together and socialise.

In 2024 we will be looking at getting quotes in for soundproofing, as it can be very noisy in there when we are full and those who are hard of hearing find that difficult.

The Stradbroke Trust – CIO 1165750

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2024

In the Village Gardens all the allotments plots are rented, special thanks to the hard work and leadership of Mary Thompson. The orchard and woodland are both developing well and despite the incredibly wet winter the allotment group have taken on the care of the fruit trees.

The Trust was pleased to support the Community Centre in creating two new sites under Queen's Green Canopy project in 2022. The new woodland (behind Grove End) and the new wildflower meadow off Neaves Lane are now in their second year and doing well. A recent working party cut the wildflower meadow but we've had to rely on a contractor to cut the other sites.

The Trust's income is now severely limited so we are unable to do as much as we would like in the village, however, when opportunities do arise to help benefit our community we will try to respond positively.

If you would like to help and maybe become a trustee do get in touch.

Roger Turkington
Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting April 2024.

A report from Stradbroke Good Neighbours

This Good Neighbour scheme has now been running for 20 years and the client list has been growing steadily, we now have 128 clients, 40 of whom live outside Stradbroke.

Visits to hospitals have increased as they attempt to catch up with appointments and procedures since the lifting of Covid restrictions. Since the 2023 APM our drivers have made 416 journeys to hospitals, dentists, physiotherapists etc. and delivered a large number of prescriptions.

We have a policy of helping people within a five mile radius of Stradbroke, which takes in a number of small satellite villages such as Horham, Wilby and Hoxne. However, over the past year not only has our client list increased, but our number of drivers has decreased, (due to family needs and health issues), from 23 to 16. We desperately need more drivers, and also more help in manning the mobile 'phone, this latter is an ideal job for someone who wants to help but doesn't wish to commit to driving. We have made appeals through the Stradbroke Monthly and outside the village, but so far have had only one response. Sadly this means we have to prioritise Stradbroke residents, and, until we have more volunteers, we are unable to take any new clients from outside the village.

We would like to thank all those who have made donations; some small, but all very gratefully received. These are from clients, their families and organisations within and outside Stradbroke.

Please consider joining us in what is a very rewarding service to the community and pass the word around!

Jane Gemmill
Chairman for the Good Neighbours

Report from Stradbroke WI

This past year has seen the return of most of our members who have been cautious following Covid-19. We thank the hall committee and staff for their continued care of the hall.

Our meetings are once a month on the second Thursday at 7.30, except January and February when by members request, we meet at 2pm.

The national resolutions are for cleaner rivers, and better support to recognise and then support people with ADHD and autism.

We have continued using local people to enlighten and entertain us, informing us about their careers and life. among them have been Neil Ovens on timepieces, Russell Ayling an education consultant and Candice Steward with her marvellous paper sculpture.

Recycling is an interest to all members, so we found out what can and cannot be recycled currently and potentially in the future, from Suffolk Recycling. Tears were brought to our eyes as the local representative from Commonwealth War Graves Commission enlightened us about their work around the world, wherever British and Commonwealth personnel fell in active service.

A manager from KwikFit gave us the rundown on car tyres and their care. We gained further details of the life of a forensic scientist from Mary Newton, and then last month in readiness for the return of swifts we gained more information on their secret life.

During the year we had two visits, the first to the biogas plant at Barley Brigg and then to Gooderstone Water Gardens.

Members have started a 'litter pick' around the village in an attempt to make the village welcoming and tidy.

Stradbroke WI were formed nearly 100 years ago, we will be working towards ways to celebrate during the forthcoming year.



Stradbroke Media Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Stradbroke Village Website

<https://www.stradbroke.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/stradbrokeweb>

Providing information online has never been more important and our village Facebook page with 1700 likes continues to keep Stradbroke informed and entertained. From flooded roads, missing pets, missing keys, animals lose and photos we have seen record engagement on our site yet again this year.

Radio Stradbroke

<https://www.radiostradbroke.co.uk/>

This year we have continued our daily broadcasts from 10am and our partnership with the Breakfast Show “Harleston Breakfast” who we re-broadcast every weekday morning from 7am to 10am

Stradbroke Archive

<https://www.stradbrokearchive.org.uk/>

We provide the platform for the online village archive, recently adding a “life in Stradbroke archive” showing life in the Pandemic in Stradbroke.

Events

Music Day was a big success again in 2023 and will take place again this year on **Sat 13th July** with Norwich singer Gabby Rivers headlining a strong local line-up also including Stradbroke Community Choir, Stradbroke Primary School Choir and LK School of Dance.

We rely entirely on donations and grants and the profits from bar sales to fund both Radio Stradbroke’s modest annual operating costs – we had a very successful music quiz in the community centre earlier this year. A big thank you to Anders our District councillor for funding a marquee for music day and other events.

Thanks to all who have supported us!

James Hargrave
Secretary
Stradbroke Media CIC