

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stradbroke Parish Council

held at the Court House, Stradbroke on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Russell Ayling, Antony Bush, Lawrence Champion, James Hargrave, Karen Lynch, Maureen John, Caroline Stebbing (c), Toni Wisbey

**In attendance:** Odile Wladon (Clerk), District Cllr Linder, County Cllr Lloyd and 6 members of the public.

Item Ref	Description
26.01.01	<p><b>Chairman's welcome</b> The Chairman wished all a happy New Year.</p> <p>The following reminders were given: The meeting may be broadcast live and recorded. Any recording may be published on the council's website or may be available for repeated viewings on the Council's Facebook page, therefore anyone speaking at the meeting will be deemed to have given consent to being recorded.</p> <p>Members of the public are reminded that this is a meeting of the Parish Council held in public; it is not a public meeting. Members of the public may address the Council with comments on agenda items including planning applications during the public forum</p>
26.01.02	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> (a) Councillors received apologies for absence from Edward Chew (b) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to accept the apologies received. (c) Councillors noted that Mandy Allen has resigned from the Council. All expressed their thanks to her and wished her well for the future.</p>
26.01.03	<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b> Councillors to declare interests in subsequent agenda items as follows: (a) Pecuniary Interests (b) Other registerable interests (c) Non-registerable interests</p>
26.01.04	<p><b>Dispensations:</b> All councillors have dispensation to agree precept figure. No other requests were received.</p>
26.01.05	<p><b>Councillor vacancies:</b> No applications for co-option have been received.</p>
26.01.06	<p><b>Minutes:</b> Councillors <b>resolved</b> to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.</p>
26.01.07	<p><b>Updates from Councillors/Committees/Clerk</b> (a) Updates from Committees: no meetings since last full Council meeting. (b) Update for Broadband working group: No update for this meeting. (c) Councillors with specific responsibilities: i. Youth Voice – RA is meeting with the Head of School at the primary school. KL attended a VOSH meeting and reminded them how to get in touch with the Parish Council if they have anything to raise. ii. Climate Change – No update iii. SALC – No update iv. Bus transport – No transport funding available to fund over 70s voluntary drivers. (d) Training – RA has attended Safeguarding training.</p>

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	(e) Action taken by the Clerk Seesaw at Wilby Road play park has been taped off. New seats are being sourced.
26.01.08	<b>Public forum:</b> there were no comments or questions received.
26.01.09	<p><b>Stradbroke Trust:</b></p> <p>Mr Lead introduced himself to Councillors and advised that he has taken over the position of Chair at the Trust. There are currently 4 other Trustees.</p> <p>The Trust would like to smooth difficulties out, and get a partnership going. The Trustees look after the allotments and some footpaths. They manage two areas planted with trees – and both areas need some TLC.</p> <p>Trustees would welcome ideas of how the community can be made better and make areas for the public to enjoy.</p> <p>Mr Lead has been helping with a revised emergency plan and helped get the water course at Strawberry Fields dredged, an eye is being kept on the area.</p>
26.01.10	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors <b>resolved</b> a response to the following planning consultations:  <b>DC/25/05422</b> – Application for consent to display an advertisement – retention of large black and white aluminium and PVC illuminated backlit sign 14 wide and 4.5m high showing Skinners brand name and design. Roger Skinner Ltd, Queen Street IP21 5HL  Councillors agreed to submit comments on the application regarding lack of information on the illumination side of the application.</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted the outcome of the following planning applications determined by MSDC:  <b>DC/25/04962</b> – 1 Town House, Church St. Listed building consent GRANTED  <b>DC/21/04377</b> – Grove Farm, Queen St. 42 dwellings + 2 barn conversions GRANTED  <b>DC/25/05294</b> – Barley Brigg Farm, Laxfield Road PRIOR APPROVAL GIVEN</p> <p>(c) Planning applications responded to under delegated authority:  <b>SCC/0166/25MS</b> – Barley Brigg AD Plant, Laxfield Road. Comments submitted concerning vehicle movements and support for conditions proposed by Mid Suffolk District Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Linder arrived at this point</p>
26.01.10	<p><b>District Cllr Linder report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has responded to the Essex &amp; Suffolk Water project. He noted that the maps are not easy to read.</li> <li>• He is still working on sorting out parking at New Street Close.</li> <li>• There is still some grants available from his Locality Funding budget.</li> </ul>
26.01.11	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>(a) <u>Monthly accounts</u> - Councillors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. noted account balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.  Current: £9,204.45  Deposit: £152,218.02  Chair initialled bank statements</li> <li>ii. <b>resolved</b> to approve the payments as per the schedule prepared by the Clerk including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments already made in month to fulfil contractual obligations</li> <li>• Payments to be made after meeting as per the schedule attached to the minutes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. noted receipts from December 2025</li> </ol>

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	<p>(b) <u>Precept 2026-27</u>  Councillors to note that the Tax Base increased to 640.93, up 1.76 from provisional figure.  Councillors to agree the precept for 2026/27 @ £48,149 (2.72% increase).  Chair and Clerk signed the form for submission to MSDC.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Lloyd arrived at this point</p>
26.01.12	<p><b>County Cllr Lloyd report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He commented on the meetings held earlier in the day at Suffolk County Council regarding the Governments request for information necessary to determine if elections due in May 2026 should be postponed.</li> <li>• The bidding process on the 482 bus route is still ongoing.</li> <li>• There are skills bursary's available for Sizewell C.</li> </ul> <p>TW asked if there were any other funding options for helping voluntary drivers to regain the licence ability to drive minibuses.</p>
26.01.13	<p><b>Updates on Council Projects</b></p> <p>(a) <u>Pedestrian/Highways Safety Project:</u>  Councillors received updates on the following project areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SIDs – the location of the SID on Laxfield road is still under discussion and we still await installation of post on New Street. The SID on New Street appears to be having a positive impact.</li> <li>ii. Waiting restrictions – County Council consultation on the TRO is underway.</li> <li>iii. 20mph – a new policy approved by County Council cabinet. Cllr Lloyd has resubmitted the Parish Council's business case for a 20mph zone on Queen Street to be reconsidered.</li> </ol> <p>(b) <u>Pedestrian crossing points:</u> This project has been funded by a Central Government Active Travel Grant and has been managed by the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council. There has been no contribution necessary from the Parish Council. The majority of the works have been completed. The 2 final crossing points are awaiting confirmation of start date. It is good to see the ones already installed being used, but frustrating that vehicles are being parked across them, blocking access. The Parish Council considered a request from Highways to review a different location for the crossing point at the Spar. Councillors agreed that the one at the Spar should be progressed, but agreed that the one from the Church can be put on hold at the present time.</p> <p>(c) <u>Neighbourhood Plan review:</u> Work is underway to update the plan. Work on a design code to replace the existing policy can no longer be grant funded and will need to be funded from either Parish Council reserves or CIL. The cost of this is approximately £10,000; a formal quote has been requested from LUC.</p> <p>(d) <u>Tennis Courts:</u> Mid Suffolk District Council have advised formally that the grant bid of £47,770 has been successful subject to a lease being finalised and some additional success criteria being noted. Tennis Club had offered £10,000 towards the project and this will be used to upgrade the lighting. Councillors agreed that the lighting should be carried out before the resurfacing to protect the new surface. The solicitor has been contacted and an appointment will be arranged for work to commence on preparing a lease.</p> <p>(e) <u>Clock:</u> Winding mechanism and dial restoration; works started on 1<sup>st</sup> September.</p> <p>(f) <u>Playing field safety &amp; security:</u> Quotes obtained for the replacement shed – to be</p>

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	<p>reviewed in closed session. Quotes to increase the size of the compound yet to be obtained.</p> <p>(g) <u>Chapel</u>: No update for this meeting.</p> <p>(h) <u>Play equipment</u>: A date needs to be fixed to consult with families on what should replace the recently removed equipment at Westhall.</p>
<b>26.01.14</b>	<p><b>Policies and Council protocols and documents</b></p> <p>Updates to the following documents were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. PIIP – review updated plan, now including Cricket Club requirements.</li> <li>ii. CIL funding – to note updated funding statement, now including potential CIL from Grove Farm.</li> </ul>
<b>26.01.15</b>	<p><b>Playing field:</b> this agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.</p>
<b>26.01.16</b>	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting:</b></p> <p>Councillors noted that the meeting must be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June, must not start before 6pm.</p> <p>Unlike a Parish Council meeting can be held in a licenced premises – and alcohol can be served, alongside other refreshments</p> <p>It was agreed that in future to increase participation a guest speaker could be invited, local issue could be launched and the title of the meeting could be changed to Annual Parish Assembly (or similar). Local groups and societies could be encouraged to be there to pass on information on how villagers can become involved.</p>
<b>26.01.17</b>	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>(a) Tabled: Councillors noted and <b>agreed</b> actions for correspondence tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>Email re SIDs being removed from Laxfield Road and response from Clerk – no further action required.</p> <p>Email re parking near school and response from Clerk – no further action required</p> <p>Email re parking over dropped kerbs</p> <p>(b) Emails: Councillors noted correspondence previously circulated - SALC bulletins and NSIP information.</p>
<b>26.01.18</b>	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026</p>
<b>26.01.19</b>	<p><b>Confidential section</b></p> <p>(a) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to close the meeting in accordance with the Public bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confirmation nature of the business to be discussed.</p> <p>(b) Councillors <b>resolved</b> to accept the following:</p> <p>A roller will be purchased for the playing field, budget agreed £11,500</p> <p>A memorial bench will be purchased and placed on the pavement near the Church.</p> <p>A new wooden shed from C&amp;C sheds with ground works undertaken by Jon Wilson, agreed budget £1700.</p> <p>Clerk to investigate which of the two options for the tennis courts is most suitable to proceed with and authority delegated to place an order to enable works to take place ahead of resurfacing.</p>

Meeting closed at: 9.30pm

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

Date: