

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stradbroke Parish Council

held at the Court House, Stradbroke on
Monday, 10th March 2025 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Antony Bush, Lawrence Champion, James Hargrave, Maureen John, Irene Mucklow, Caroline Stebbing (c), Toni Wisbey

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

Item Ref	Description
25.03.01	<p>Chairman's welcome</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>
25.03.02	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>(a) Councillors resolved to grant 6 month leave of absence to Karen Lynch. (b) Councillors received apologies for absence from Mandy Allen, Russell Ayling and Edward Chew. (c) Councillors resolved to accept the apologies received.</p>
25.03.03	<p>Declarations of Interests</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
25.03.04	<p>Dispensations: There were no requests for dispensations.</p>
25.03.05	<p>Councillor vacancies: There were no applications for co-option.</p>
25.03.06	<p>Minutes: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held 10th February 2025</p>
25.03.07	<p>Updates from Councillors/Committees/Clerk</p> <p>(a) Updates from Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) There have been no committee meetings since the last full Council meeting (ii) Councillors resolved to co-opt Irene Mucklow to the Personnel Committee <p>(b) Task & Finish Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband – there was no update for this meeting <p>(c) Councillors with specific responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Voice – no update for this meeting. • Climate Change – no update for this meeting. • SALC – no update for this meeting. • Bus transport – information on a new service to Martlesham was. There is no update on the proposal to reinstate the 482 service. <p>(d) Training – Clerk attended a Mid Suffolk Town & Parish Liaison meeting regarding devolution and notes had been made available at the meeting.</p> <p>(e) Action taken by the Clerk: The Tennis Court land was valued as amenity land and a value submitted to the Parish Council's solicitor to enable the registration to progress.</p>

Item Ref	Description
25.03.08	<p>Public forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant for DC/21/04377 addressed councillors at this point. • Members of the public requested to have the opportunity to question the District & County Councillors once they arrived and presented their reports – the Chair agreed to this.
25.03.09	<p>Planning</p> <p>(a) Councillors resolved a response to the following planning applications: DC/21/04377 – re-consultation on full planning application for 42 dwellings and associated garages, change of use and conversion of 2 barns to 2 dwellings, construction of roads, drainage and infrastructure. Grove Farm, Queen Street. Councillors resolved to maintain the previous objections and in particular noted their concerns about the potential service and maintenance charges and the confusion over how the surface water drainage will be dealt with.</p> <p>(b) Other planning matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Land off Mill Road – this item was deferred as the applicant was unable to attend. (ii) Councillors resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to respond to planning applications received after the agenda was published with a response deadline ahead of the next meeting.
25.03.10	<p>District & County Councillors:</p> <p>District Cllr Linder</p> <p>Questions/comments on report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that Andy Mellen, Leader of the Council, has been appointed co-president of UK100, National Climate Change Developments. • Capital spending programme - £540k has been set aside for the Leisure Centre in Stradbroke – Cllr Linder advised there was no information available on what would be planned. • Councillors are concerned that the responsibility for the leisure centre could be devolved to the Parish Council as part of the Local Government Reorganisation. <p>Cllr Linder highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The councils will be winding down in a couple of years. Financial surplus for the coming year and a deficit is forecast for 2026/27 with the ending of the a rural grant received by Government. • Housing revenue account – District housing stock is in poor condition and will require investment. • Joint Local Development Scheme – planned for adoption by 2029. This will replace the current Part 1 of the Joint Local Plan which remains in sound until new plan adopted. • Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution – 2 workshops were run for District Councillors. The workload for Councillors is a concern and the size and numbers of Councils has yet to be determined. Information on both areas was shared. • Fennings Farm – a community liaison meeting was held and a brief update was given. • Update on New Street – costings for the design are awaited. <p>County Cllr Lloyd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that one unitary Suffolk is the best route, on the condition that the number of Councillors is increased to ensure it is representative and that area committees are instigated. • Grant Thornton have been appointed as a consultant to assist the County Council.

Item Ref	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar proposal near Eye – the county council has opposed the application due to the timescale of 1 year from application, grant and starting to build. • Budget was covered in his report not at the meeting – no response to question raised last month regarding where £70m savings would be made. • Hoxne may be permitted to have 2 of the 3 20mph zones they recently requested. Cllr Lloyd has advised them that he will be supporting their requests for 2x 20mph zones as he believes they are fair and measured. Question: Has SCC’s position changed on 20mph limits as Stradbroke were advised there would be no further 20mph limits at the time their request was rejected? Cllr Lloyd is seeking clarification for this and will revisit the request from Stradbroke with Highways team – Clerk advised that SCC policy needs to be updated if County Councillor support of a project does not carry the weight indicated in the policy. They have also requested 40mph buffer zones. Cllr Lloyd has advised he will be supporting the speed buffers but they are unlikely to receive approval. • The remainder of the time was dedicated to a discussion and question/answer session on the proposal by Suffolk County Council to bring control of all the libraries in-house. It was noted that there was no cost/benefit analysis included in the papers released by Suffolk County Council.
25.03.11	<p>Finance:</p> <p>(a) Monthly accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Councillors noted account balances at 28th February 2025 as: Current £8,055.87 Deposit £143,563.60 The Chair initialled the bank statements. (ii) Councillors resolved to approve the payments as per the schedule appended to the minutes. (iii) Councillors noted the receipts received during February 2025. <p>(b) Following a request from Mr Skinner concerning funds that are available from a charitable fund, Councillors gave some ideas of where the funds could be spent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the new land behind All Saints Green • Internal works at the Chapel at the Cemetery • Electrical connection for the Chapel. • Any of the projects included in CIL projects that are awaiting funding, including an accessible path at the cemetery.
25.03.12	<p>Updates on Council Projects</p> <p>(a) Pedestrian/Highways Safety Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Work by Highways on the designing the crossing points as part of the Active Travel Grant is ongoing, an “H” mark to stop parking across the driveway access adjacent to the Spar will be included. (ii) Councillors noted advice that the 40mph buffer zones are unlikely to be supported and advisory signs were suggested for the road where most speeding occurs. (iii) Councillors resolved to purchase an advisory sign Laxfield Road and SLOW to be painted on the road adjacent to the sign. (iv) Councillors resolved to request the cost of replacing STRADBROKE signs and posts at Laxfield Road, Queen Street and New Street with 30mph roundels painted on the adjacent road service. (v) Councillors resolved not to progress with painting “parking bays” in layby outside

Item Ref	Description
	<p>Spar.</p> <p>(vi) Councillors resolved to approve the business case for the waiting restrictions at the junction of Church Street and Queen Street.</p> <p>(vii) Councillors resolved to submit the business case to Cllr Lloyd with a request that he submits this on behalf of the Parish Council to the Highways Team for consideration.</p> <p>(viii) Highways Safety team have advised that a virtual footway along Church Street will not be supported as there is a safe walking route on the other side of the road.</p> <p>(b) Electrical kiosk at playing field, Wilby Road: work on the trench is due to take place shortly with the ducting to be installed; once this is complete the cabling will be purchased.</p> <p>(c) Neighbourhood Plan review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial draft changes are being reviewed by the Steering Group. • Work continues on site assessments. • LUC have been advised of a significant update in one of the sites proposed. <p>(d) Chapel – quotes are being sought for the internal plastering as the preferred contractor is no longer available.</p>
25.03.13	Policies and Procedures: There are none to review for this meeting.
25.03.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>(a) Tabled: Councillors agreed actions for correspondence tabled at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMSDC – letter regarding adoption of joint local development scheme – work on a new joint local plan. Noted • Correspondence with Cllr Lloyd on future of Suffolk Libraries. Noted • Public emails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern regarding a site off Neaves Lane currently being reviewed as part of the NP. Clerk has responded – no further action required. ○ Query over no virtual footway on Church St – update given during the meeting and full update will be published in Monthly. ○ State of playing field near land to be given to PC –Clerk to write to Lovell and asks them to improve the ditch they installed. ○ EV charging points at Leisure Centre car park – Clerk has written to company, awaiting response. ○ Flooding off Laxfield Road – Clerk has responded, no further request for help has been received. ○ State of layby adjacent to pedestrian entrance to High School – Clerk to respond with link to Suffolk Highways report it tool. ○ Email from Lord of the Manor of Stradbroke – Clerk to email inviting them to a Parish Council meeting when they next visit. ○ Emails: Councillors noted correspondence previously circulated and congratulated SALC on being awarded Association of the Year at the NALC Star Awards.
25.03.15	<p>Next meeting: Monday, 14th April 2025</p> <p>Councillors resolved to change the date of the September 2025 meeting to 1st September.</p>

Meeting closed at: 9.30pm

Signed: _____

Date: