

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stradbroke Parish Council

held at the Court House, Stradbroke on
Monday, 14th September 2026 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Russell Ayling, James Hargrave, Maureen John, Caroline Stebbing (c), Toni Wisbey

In attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

Item Ref	Description
26.09.01	Chairman's welcome The Chairman advised the following: • 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. • Members of the public were 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.
26.09.02	Apologies for absence (a) Councillors receive apologies for absence from Karen Lynch, Maureen John, Edward Chew, Antony Bush (b) Councillors resolved to accept the apologies received.
26.09.03	Declarations of interests Councillors declared interest in subsequent agenda items as follows: (a) Pecuniary interests - none (b) Other registerable interests - none (c) Non-registerable interests – some Cllrs visit the White Hart.
26.09.04	Dispensations: no requests for dispensations were received.
26.09.05	Councillor vacancies: no applications for co-option were received.
26.09.06	Minutes: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the business conducted at the meeting held on 10th August 2026.
26.09.07	Updates from Councillors/Committee/Clerk (a) Committees: there have been no committee meetings since the last Full Council meeting (b) Broadband working group: there were no updates for this meeting (c) Councillors with specific responsibilities: i. Youth Voice: there were no updates for this meeting ii. Youth Club: LC updated Councillors as follows: • A committee has been established and a constitution adopted. • Hope to be up and running by October half term. • Locality Grant monies held by Parish Council will fund DBS checks and first aid training. • A bank account has been established, Clerk will arrange payment of first part of ear marked reserves. iii. Climate Change: TW reminded all present of the People's Emergency Briefing taking place on 24th September. She requested a volunteer for the door. iv. SALC: there were no updates for this meeting v. Stradbroke Sport & Community Centre: • At the AGM held on 8th September 2026, the Trustees had not accepted the Parish Council's

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	re-nomination of Lawrence Champion following the year he has already served. The reasons given were as follows: <i>"It is the opinion of the Trustees that the contribution made by Lawrence Champion towards the running, upkeep, refurbishment and general maintenance of the Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre over the past twelve months has been less than that of his associates on the committee and as such did not meet reasonable expectations of a Trustee."</i> • The Clerk prepared a report which highlighted that none of the reasons given reflect the requirements of the Centre's constitution for the appointment or functions of a Trustee. • LC commented as follows: he noted that the Trustees give up their time to support the Centre all done voluntarily. He did feel that there was inadequate provision of presentation of the sports clubs at the heart of decision making. He felt the behaviour at the AGM was unacceptable and he felt that he could have been told in advance of their decision not to accept his nomination – this would have avoided the humiliation that he had to endure at the meeting. He noted that he has put ideas forward, none of which were taken up by the other Trustees. He gave examples of offering to update the website and work on a capital project to future proof the centre. He noted that he did not expect his Trustee duties to include unpaid caretaker duties and free labour on the bar. He reminded all that the centre is an asset to the community, but he noted that the current elected Trustees appear to be out of their depth and have little understanding of what a Trustee should and could be doing. He only wanted to help, but accepts the decision of other Trustees but feels the whole matter could have been handled in a better manner. • At the AGM the Chair of Trustees had asked CS whether the nomination of LC had followed due process, she advised she could not recall. The perceived lack of due process was originally quoted as the reason for refusing the nomination. CS apologised to Councillors that she had forgotten LC had been formally nominated at the May 2026 meeting when put on the spot at the AGM and all noted that due process had been followed. • Councillors felt that LC has been treated unfairly and were sorry for what had happened at the centre's AGM. It was noted that LC was nominated as a representative of the Parish Council and the actions were not helpful in building a relationships between the centre and the Council, which is a shame as a lot of work has been put into improving the relationship over a number of years. The Council had originally raised objections to the new constitution, as the way it is worded allows this sort of action to be taken. It was also noted that Cllrs agreed with LC that there is not enough provision for representation by the sports clubs in the constitution and the Parish Council had raised concerns and objections to the Charity Commission at the time the new constitution was adopted and were surprised that the Commission had allowed it to progress in its current form. (d) Training – no reports for this meeting. (e) Action taken by the Clerk - A bricklayer had to be instructed to repair the pillar outside the health centre. Medical Practice has agreed to fund 50% of the cost. - A number of headstones have become loose at the cemetery due to the extreme cool weather. Jon Wilson has staked the loose headstones and others have been laid down. Bierton & Woods will be visiting the site to give advice on a way forward.
26.09.08	County & District Councillors: District Cllr Linder sent apologies. County Cllr Mittuch advised the following: • A budget meeting is scheduled for 17th September. • She is liaising with the Listed Building Team over section 19 notices and actions to be taken following the Storm Babet floods, to determine what actions have taken place. Improvements that could be made were referenced.

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26.09.09	Public Forum: A member of the public raised concerns about the GIVE WAY sign at the junction of Wilby Road and New Street which has fallen over. The Clerk advised this has been reported and will be reinstated by Suffolk Highways.
26.09.10	Planning (a) Councillors resolved a response to the following planning consultation: DC/26/03747 – change of use of existing public house to 1 dwellinghouse (use class C3). No alterations are proposed to the external appearance of the building. The White Hart, Church Street Councillors stated that they needed to maintain consistency with previous similar applications which had been objected to. Councillors voted to object to the application as it is contrary to the made Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair suggested that the Council should request that the application is called in to committee for a decision. (b) Councillors noted the outcome of the following planning applications determined by MSDC: DC/26/02935 – Brook House, Laxfield Road GRANTED DC/26/02813 – Grove Farm, Queen Street. Discharge of condition 3 – bricks. REFUSED (c) Other planning matters – a response was received from Mid Suffolk District Council concerning the expansion of the Cranswick factory at Eye. The Director of Place advised that the application was not subject to an EIA as it did not meet the threshold and that it was not called in to committee as it was not deemed controversial. A response to a FOI request is awaited.
26.09.11	Finance Monthly Accounts (a) Councillors noted account balances at 31st August 2026 as: Deposit - £131,886.75 Current - £19,163.24 The Chair initialled the bank statements (b) Councillors resolved to approve payments as per the schedule appended to the minutes. The payments included a revision to the Clerk's salary to reflect the nationally agreed pay increment which is to be backdated to April 2026. (c) Councillors noted receipts in August 2026, as per the schedule appended to the minutes. The receipts include the VAT reclaim of £15,201.35 (d) Councillors noted an internal transfer of £20,000 from current to deposit account was made on 13/9/26 following receipt of the 2nd half of the precept.
26.09.12	Updates on Council projects Councillors to receive updates on the following projects - (a) Pedestrian and highways safety - SIDs – still awaiting date of installation of final post. - Parking restrictions – contractor will return to complete the works, to ensure the lining is in accordance with the plan and not the amended mark on the highway. 20mph zone – Councillors resolved to accept the quote received from SCC Highways as follows: Professional services £7,539.06 / Construction £9,144.19 estimate /Total £16,683.25 exc VAT (b) Pedestrian crossing points – date awaited for the works to complete the final crossing point near the Spar. (c) Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors resolved to accept a quote of £10,959 (ex VAT) for LUC to undertake the SEA/HRA (d) Tennis Club lease – draft lease is being reviewed and once agreed it will be sent to the Tennis Club (e) Scorers' Hut – locality grant of £2,000 agreed and equipment is being purchased (f) Clock – no further issues have been reported. (g) Fitness Track – no work will be undertaken on this report, pending a decision on the new land

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	(h) Shed and compound extension – no update for this meeting (i) Chapel – no update for this meeting (j) Play equipment at Westhall – no update for this meeting (k) Health Centre – Councillors resolved to ratify the appointment of Hyams QS Ltd at a cost £850 + VAT. This is to prepare an estimate of costs for grant funding purposes.
26.09.13	Policies, Council protocols and documents: Councillors resolved to adopt the following: Communication Policy – 2 x additional sentences, highlighted in yellow in the published draft. IT & Email Policy – no changes made, reviewed to bring in line with Communication Policy review date.
26.09.14	Correspondence (a) Tabled correspondence – to agree any necessary action - Email to Cllr Mittuch re fly tipping on Rattlerow Farm. Action: as Parish Council cannot deal with fly tipping the email was noted and no further action required. - Wedding query for December 2027. Action: the Clerk has advised that food truck will be permitted and no further action required. - Tennis Club have sent details from a tree surgeon on who the trees would be cut. Action: To assist the Club with their maintenance obligations, Councillors resolved that the Clerk write to the Club giving permission for the Club to instruct the tree surgeon at their expense. - Email regarding vandalism to private property adjacent to the playing field. Action: Councillors noted the comments and the local neighbourhood policing team will be advised. (b) Emails previously circulated; including the SALC bulletins were noted.
26.09.15	Next meeting: 12th October 2026
26.09.16	Closed session: (a) Councillors resolved to review this item in closed session in accordance with the Public bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. (b) Councillors received an update from the Clerk, CS and JH on a planning matter.

Meeting closed at: 9.10pm

Signed: _____

Date: