

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stradbroke Parish Council
held at the Court House, Stradbroke
Monday, 11th March 2019**

Present: James Hargrave, Kamal Ivory, Maureen John, Toni Wisbey, Chris Edwards, Jeremy Fox

In Attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), Cllr G McGregor, Cllr Julie Flatman and 6 members of the public.

		Action
19.3.1	Chairman's welcome	
19.3.2	Apologies for Absence	
(1)	Councillors noted apologies for absence from Velda Lummis	
(2)	Councillors voted unanimously to approve this absence.	
19.3.3	Declarations of Interest	
(1)	Councillors' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests – TW declared that two of the applicants for planning were known to her.	
(2)	There were no Councillors' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	
19.3.4	Dispensations There were no requests for dispensations	
19.3.5	Councillor vacancies Councillors noted the resignation of David Turner from the Parish Council.	
19.3.6	Minutes Councillors approved the minutes of the meetings of 11 th and 22 nd February 2019 as a true record of the business conducted subject to the change of day on 22 nd February to Friday.	
19.3.7	Public forum: Jane Merritt spoke on behalf of the Stradbroke Trust – a copy of the statement was requested by TW as she had not been able to hear what was said - this is appended to the minutes. The statement has been redacted to remove a comment concerning an individual who is not part of the Trust and has asked not to be quoted in this matter. <i>JH noted there appeared to be confusion by the Trust regarding the Council's statement published in February 2019. The Trust statement read at this meeting inferred that the Parish Council did not feel the building had been properly maintained . JH read the following section from the PC statement: "The Parish Council will be able to ensure that in the future the focus is on the health centre in Stradbroke by using the revenue from the rent to ensure that the health centre continues to be properly maintained." The Parish Councillors agreed that this part of the statement is clear and does not infer any malpractice by the Trust.</i>	
19.3.8	Reports from County & District Councillors: The submitted reports are appended to these minutes.	
19.3.9	Planning	
(1)	Councillors considered and reviewed the following new applications: DC/19/00614 – Full planning application: erection of 1 no. dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling). York Cottage, Laxfield Road IP21 5HX.	

(2)	<p>Councillors unanimously approved this application subject to comments made on the need for the dwelling to be connected to the main sewer and concerns regarding surface water drainage and the filling of the current pond. The application should comply with neighbourhood plan policies: STRAD4 and STRAD5</p> <p>DC/19/00783 – Application for Listed Building Consent: Installation of a new passenger stair lift to the existing ground to first floor staircase and removal of the existing modern (2010’s) softwood timber handrail. Church House, Queen Street IP21 5GH. Approved by unanimous vote.</p> <p>DC/19/00789 – Application for Listed Building Consent: replacement of first floor windows. Town Cottage, Church Street IP21 5HT. Approved by unanimous vote</p> <p>DC/19/00853 – Full planning application: change of use of hair salon to dwelling. Oak Cottage, Laxfield Road IP21 5HX. Approved by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Councillors noted the results of planning applications considered by MSDC since the PC last met:</p> <p>DC/19/00022 –Land to the south of new Street, Stradbroke NO UPDATE</p> <p>DC/18/04706 - Land opposite Magnolia House, Wilby Road, Stradbroke, Suffolk NO UPDATE</p>	
<p>19.3.10</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>(4)</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Councillors noted Account Balances at 28th February 2019: Current Account - £7,308.65 Deposit Account - £16,099.80 JH initialled the bank statements.</p> <p>Councillors approved cheques for signature or BACS/DD payment for online authorisation as per the schedule prepared by the Clerk. The schedule is appended to the minutes.</p> <p>Councillors noted the receipts received in the month and the estimated reserved accounts balances taking into account committed funds as per the schedule prepared by the Clerk. The schedule is appended to the minutes.</p> <p>Councillors approved the appointment of Mr Trevor Brown as internal auditor for the Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2019.</p>	
19.3.11	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Councillors noted that a report will be prepared for the 18th March 2019 meeting at MSDC to formally adopt the plan as part of MSDC planning policy.</p>	
19.3.12	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund – All Saints Church</p> <p>Councillors reviewed a letter received from FOASS (copy attached) regarding the fundraising for All Saints Church. Councillors noted that there are no plans for the Parish Council to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund grant but Councillors are happy to help in any way possible.</p> <p>Councillors approved a proposal that this item can be a regular agenda item if that would help the application and the Parish Council extend an offer to contribute advice and support to FOASS.</p>	
19.3.13	<p>Polices/Procedures reviewed and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguarding Policy ● Press & Media Policy ● Protocol on Communications 	

	All Policies and Procedures are available to view on the Parish Council website at: https://www.stradbrokepc.org/statutory-information	
19.3.14	Councillor Reports <u>Community Centre</u> : TW reported that the Community Centre Trust are sponsoring the Stradbrokeonline website and that a revised constitution is being prepared.	
19.3.15	Risk Assessment - Councillors received reports on: (1) Community Centre Play Park – nothing to report (2) Westhall Play Park – nothing to report (3) Fitness Track – the track had no issues. One piece of fitness equipment – log gate – was considered too slippery at the present time and a notice stating unsafe would be place on the equipment. (4) Permissive Path – nothing to report (5) Cemetery – nothing to report	
19.3.16	Health Centre Councillors noted that following the Stradbroke Trust’s request to surrender the lease, work is underway to finalise arrangements for the Health Centre from 1 st April 2019 onwards. A Deed of Surrender submitted by the Trust was reviewed. The Clerk will circulate an updated Deed and an extraordinary meeting will be called to sign off the document. The following steps have been taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors approved a one year quote for building insurance through Zurich Insurance. • Councillors approved the appointment of a surveyor to carry out a conditions survey, should this be required, at an estimated cost of £800-£900 plus VAT. • A meeting has been arranged with the Practice Manager. • The medical practice has chased the outstanding notional rent review. • The Secretary of the Stradbroke Trust has advised the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asbestos Risk Assessment – has been completed. 2. Legionella Risk Assessment – has been completed 3. Fire Safety Improvements – FlamkeSkill the organisation employed to look after the firefighting equipment and emergency lighting have indicated that there are a number of fire safety improvements required at Stradbroke. This work has not yet been completed and Councillors requested a quote for the work be obtained. 	
19.3.17	Clerk’s Report: (1) Health Centre: No formal request for work on the premises had been received for review. (2) Training: Councillors noted that no training has been undertaken and no requests for training were made at the meeting. (3) General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report on the trees and hedge cutting has not been prepared in time for this meeting. This item was delegated to the Finance Committee. • No contractor has been identified regarding servicing of the play park equipment – the Clerk will ask SALC to circulate an email to all Clerks seeking 	Fin Ctte

	<p>any information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on digitally recording the burial book has not been completed. c/f • Schedule of works for chapel has been circulated – no response has been received to date from Councillors no how they wish to proceed. • The Clerk has been advised that the noticeboard opposite the junction of Wilby Road and New Street/Church Street is deteriorating. This will be replaced with the Oak Noticeboard which was at the Community Centre when found. • Michael Hugman is investigating the possibility of facilitation another Sports Open Day in Stradbroke and would be happy to hear from anyone willing to help with the event. • The Cricket Club will be using some of the funds reserved for maintenance of the playing field. • Following advice received since the last meeting concerning the election moratorium period 12/3 – 2/5, the Annual Parish Meeting has been moved to 9th May 2019. The Hall at the Stradbroke Sports and Community Centre was already booked for most of the evenings in May, therefore an alternative location has been found. This year the annual parish meeting will be held in the Assembly Hall of Stradbroke High School. 	
19.3.18	Correspondence	
(1)	Tabled: none	
(2)	Emailed prior to meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly SALC bulletins • Rural Services Network Bulletin 	
19.3.19	Matters for inclusion in the Agenda of the next meeting: 8th April 2019 Councillors to note that matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting need to be submitted to the Clerk by 29 th March 2019.	

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

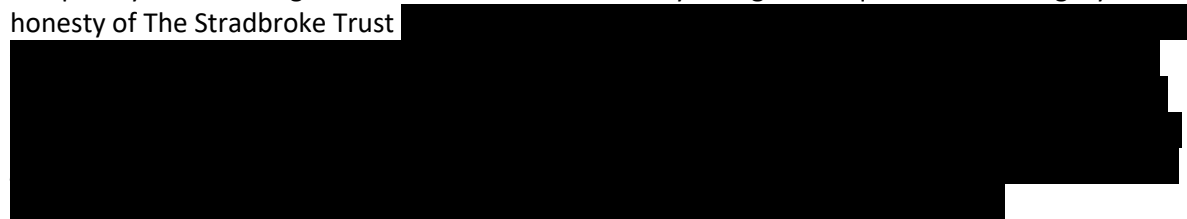
Minute ref: 19.3.7

Statement from Stradbroke Trust to the Parish Council – March 11th 2019

On behalf of The Stradbroke Trust I have been asked to read out this statement.

Over the last few months, The Stradbroke Trust has striven to keep hold of the Lease for the Stradbroke Surgery, but has finally surrendered this to the Parish Council despite all of our best efforts. The incredibly steep rises in the rent demanded by the Parish Council, has ensured that The Stradbroke Trust can no longer pay the rent of £12,500 from April 1st 2019 and at the same time maintain the Surgery to the standards we have set ourselves. This has devastated all the Trustees, in particular Peter Smith, who has voluntarily devoted so much of his time and energy over 25 years. It was his vision and dedication along with the other Trustees and the support of the Village, both financially and in kind, that ensured the Surgery was built and subsequently maintained and improved to the highest standards possible. At all times, the Trustees have been open and honest about how every penny of the rent received from the NHS has been spent or used towards health-related projects and good causes within Stradbroke and the surrounding Parishes served by the Surgery.

To read the article written by Councillors Wisbey and Ivory published in the November Stradbroke Monthly, which inferred financial malpractice and then the statement by the Parish Council, on February 26th, inferring that maintenance has not been of a high standard, is misleading and completely demoralising. These statements have already brought into question the integrity and honesty of The Stradbroke Trust



Therefore, the Trustees request that the Council statement is withdrawn and that Councillors Wisbey and Ivory publish an apology in the next issue of the Stradbroke Monthly. Finally, after the discussion of the surrender of the Lease this evening, we hope that the Parish Council will sign the Deed of Surrender submitted by the Trustees and bring an end to this deeply regrettable episode.

Minute ref: 19.3.8

Report for Stradbroke Parish Council by District Councillor Julie Flatman

- Needham Lake café and visitor centre was approved at cabinet on Monday the 4th of March.
- This will be a fantastic boost to Needham Market economy with over 300,000 visitors a year. The development will hopefully start in the Autumn if scheme is agreed at planning. The project will cost around 600,000.
- Needham Market former Council offices site approved for housing scheme at planning on 27th February. This site will be a mix of housing and retail.
- Women's cycle tour comes to Suffolk again this year, route to be announced on the 8th March.

Mid Suffolk makeover continues as shop grants brighten high streets

Facelifts of up to £15,000 are now on offer for shopfronts and businesses across the region – in a bid by Mid Suffolk District Council to rejuvenate our high streets.

Last summer Mid Suffolk District Council launched the Shop Front Grant Scheme to help refresh the high streets in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket.

The scheme has already helped several local retailers complete improvement work, updating their signage and external appearance.

Now, following feedback from businesses on the current scheme, the Council is expanding the scheme to also include grants for repairs, cosmetic improvements and accessibility aids like grab handles, wheelchair ramps, doorbells and automatic doors.

Grants are available to businesses across Mid Suffolk District for shop front improvements, painting, and rainwater management repairs. For retailers and businesses in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket there are grant packages available offering grants up to 100% of costs, up to £15,000 depending on the works involved and location.

Any business considering improvements to their shop front anywhere in Mid-Suffolk district should contact the Open for Business Team to discuss the assistance that may be available to them on 0300 1234 000, and press option 7 to speak to the operator.

Leaflets have been distributed by me and can be obtained from the Library.

Report from Cllr McGregor – Suffolk County Council

The Demands to pay the Council Tax for 2019 have now been sent out.

The increase from SCC is now set at 4% of which a 1% is allocated to the Adult Social Care Budget. Part of this increase is to plug the gap as a consequence in the reduction of Central Government Grant with the balance to meet the cost pressures (inflation, pension contribution increase etc)

What is especially significant is that over 75% of SCC Revenue Budget is now spent on the vital services of social care. This leaves about £130 million to cover the cost of the other services that are SCC's responsibility (Highways, Libraries, Fire & Public Protection etc).

In our Council Tax the biggest % increase is in the Police Precept at 12.7%. The need for efficient policing is well made but at a time when the Constabulary is giving up its responsibility for enforcing many motoring offences and with the % that Council Tax Payers pay for the maintenance of its Police Service is the highest in the country a rebalancing is obviously required.

Locally the Budget will have an effect on the provision of services but the exact impact has yet to be determined.

Guy McGregor
County Councillor
Hoxne & Eye Division.

Minute ref: 19.3.12

SAS (Saving All Saints) are currently preparing a further application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a substantial grant in order to complete all necessary repair work on the church. We are aware of your interest in and concern for the church building (ref: Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions - ACV proposal Dec 18; SARA article in Feb 19 Stradbroke Monthly) and, therefore, would like to ascertain whether the Parish Council or SARA are individually or collectively also considering this course of action.

Our aim is to build on the previous application with the focus on heritage and community alongside a much more sustainable and resilient longer-term plan. In this way, we have sought and gained expertise from a specialist architect and advisers from Historic England who are working closely with us as they have placed the church on At Risk register that includes providing some funding. However, we are open to further collaboration with village groups and organisations beyond those already identified in the outline plan and invite you to support us in our endeavours if you have not begun the process yourselves.

If you are intending to apply yourselves could you let us know before we proceed any further and please do not hesitate to contact us for any information we may have in order to assist you.

Kind Regards Gillian Rennie-Dunkerley. Carol Darling. Jane Merritt

8/2/19