

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM
THE COMMON ROOM, St GEORGES Rd**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Suggett (Vice Chair), Bourne, Catchpole, Marsh, and White. A Osman (clerk) was also in attendance along with four members of the public.

38 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Cuff sent apologies which were accepted.

39 **Declarations of Interest.** None.

40 **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024.** Cllr Bourne proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024 be approved. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The August meeting was cancelled due to no planning applications being received and no urgent actions.

41 **Matters arising from the last meeting:**

Minute 27: 15 July 2024: RBLI Statues. Cllr Suggett confirmed that the statues had arrived and she would store until needed for Remembrance.

Minute 31: 15 July 2024: Churchyard Grass Cutting. Cllr Cuff was not in attendance but had emailed to indicate that costings were still being sought. As the churchyard grass needed cutting, the **meeting agreed that a sum of up to £200 was authorised to pay for churchyard grass cutting** if costings came in before the next meeting.

Minute 33: 15 July 2024: Quiet Lane Scheme Funding – Stowlangtoft Estate. **Cllr Catchpole agreed to discuss a contribution of £1,000 with the Stowlangtoft Estate** to help fund the proposed Quiet Lane scheme on Kiln Lane.

County Cllr Mellen arrived at 7.37pm

42 **County Councillor Report.** The meeting noted the contents of the County Councillor's report that had been previously circulated. County Cllr Mellen confirmed that issues with Kiln Lane being used as a 'rat run' had been noted by Suffolk Highways along with the damage to verges. Further measures to seek to reduce traffic issues along Kiln Lane were due to be discussed at the end of the month by Suffolk Highways.

43 **District Councillors Report.** District Cllr Bradbury was not in attendance. The election for the 2nd District Cllr vacancy would take place on 24 September 2024.

44 **Admin and Finance:**

Finance Report. The meeting noted the financial report (current bank balance of £2,414.52 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £1,500 current account and £1,500 savings account), circulated before the meeting. Payments authorised:

Gipping Press	£63.00
Clerks Salary & Wages	£555.35

Cllr Suggett agreed to authorise payments.

2nd Dog Bin. The meeting agreed to purchase a 2nd dog bin for up to £200 plus VAT and £46.53 collection by Mid Suffolk District Council subject to the **Clerk confirming the proposed location on the grass corner of Church View/ The Street was acceptable** to the council (County or District) landowner.

The Common Room. The Clerk confirmed that Mid Suffolk District Council were preparing costings for consideration at the November Parish Council meeting on continuing the lease for the use of The Common Room beyond 1 April 2025.

45 **St George's Church.** Cllr White reported that a coffee morning was planned in the Church at 1030am on 28 September to allow people to view the architects plans for the building.

46 **Planning matters.**

DC/24/03488. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this planning application on the following material grounds:

- The proposed main access via Church View is a very narrow farm track/public footpath (2.5m) unsuitable for construction traffic or normal access use. There is more appropriate and wider access (4m) onto the A1088 as used by the other properties on this road.
- The proposed dwelling lacks details of access and boundary treatments. The dimensions of the dwelling also contain a mistake (the dwelling cannot be 1.45m wide)

47 **Highways matters:**

Quiet Lane. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Highways had agreed to work with the council to develop a Quiet Lane scheme for Kiln Lane. Information from the traffic survey conducted in February and County Cllr Mellen both supported the proposal. While final costings for the scheme were awaited from Suffolk Highways, **it was agreed that Cllr Marsh would arrange for the scheme to be highlighted in the Newsletter and on social media** with the aim of asking villagers to pass on any views to the Clerk.

48 **Correspondence:**

Policing Rural Communities. It was agreed to support Badwell Ash Parish Council's initiative to host a meeting with Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner, in the autumn.

Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. It was agreed not to comment on the consultation.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Consultation. It was agreed not to comment on the consultation.

Changes to Bus Timetable. The meeting noted the changes to the Simmonds bus serving the village and **Cllr Marsh agreed to arrange for the new bus timetable** to be reproduced in the Newsletter.

49 **Councillors' Forum.** Nothing raised.

50 **Public Forum.** Nothing raised.

51 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 November 2024 at 7.30pm The Common Room, St George's Rd.

If any planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the July meeting, these will be considered at a short meeting on Monday 21 October 2024 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

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Chair

Parish Report – September 2024

Councillor Andy Mellen

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Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care

On Wednesday 20th August the inspection report for Suffolk County Council's social care services for children was published, following a visit from Ofsted at the end of May. The report found that social care services for children, which include fostering and adoption, safeguarding, child protection, youth justice and corporate parenting (children in care), 'require improvement to be good.' My group are concerned by this as children's services were rated as 'Outstanding' the last time they were inspected in 2019, and the remarks on leadership – that leaders do not have 'sufficient grip' on all the services provided – are especially worrying. A new director for children's services started in July 2024, and more information will be available on the plans for improvement in September when the inspection report is tabled at Cabinet. Here is a summary of the findings of the report:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – Requires improvement to be good
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – Requires improvement to be good
- The experiences and progress of children in care – Good
- The experiences and progress of care leavers – Requires improvement to be good
- **Overall effectiveness – Requires improvement to be good**

This inspection is separate from the recent inspection into services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can read the full Ofsted inspection report here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80565>

Back to School Transitions

Do you know child starting primary or secondary school this September?

Moving up and changing school is a big change for children and a new stage of growing independence. To help parents and carers support children with this transitions, Suffolk County Council have a selection of Solihull Approach online courses which are free for anyone with a Suffolk postcode. You can access these using the link www.inourplace.co.uk/moving-up and register for an account using the access code WOLSEY. The Solihull Approach is a parenting support model which was developed by health visitors, child psychologists and psychotherapists in the 1990s and aims to understand child behaviour as part of their development.

Electric Vehicles

Over 60 new community venues across Suffolk will have new electric vehicle (EV) charge points, as Suffolk County Council's 'Plug-In Suffolk' project continues to grow.

Fast charging facilities will be installed at 63 new sites, including community centres, village halls, scout huts and other community hubs, and 25 existing charge points from an early iteration of Plug-In Suffolk will be adopted under a new contract.

The county council has successfully bid for £7.3 million from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver EV charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

£1.4 million of the LEVI funding will go towards the community charging infrastructure, with a further £5.9 million allocated for on-street charging, which will be developed later this year.

In addition, a trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the council's tender process for this beginning this month.

Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing 16 electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Launch of Solar Together Suffolk

Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers.

Suffolk residents can join the group-buying scheme, which offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate. The scheme allows homeowners to increase their independence from the National Grid.

It is free to register at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk, and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.

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Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](http://www.suffolkqli.wordpress.com)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>