

STOWLANGTOFT ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 19 MAY 2025 AT 7.45 PM
St GEORGE'S CHURCH, THE STREET**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Suggett (Vice Chair), Bourne, Cuff and Marsh. A Osman (clerk) was also in attendance along with County Cllr Mellen, District Cllr Richardson and 2 members of the public.

- 1 **Election and appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair.** Cllr Suggett proposed that Cllr D'Lima continue as Chair. Cllr Bourne seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Cllr D'Lima proposed that Cllr Suggett continue as Vice Chair. Cllr Marsh seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.
- 2 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Catchpole sent apologies which were accepted.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cuff declared an interest in Item 10 – finance report.
- 4 **Co-Option of Councillor.** Cllr Marsh proposed that Jim Wales be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill an existing vacancy. Cllr Suggett seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Cllr Wales signed the Acceptance of Office form at the end of the meeting.
- 5 **Public Forum.** A member of the public highlighted a planned Clay Shoot over the late May Bank Holiday weekend.
- 6 **County Councillors Monthly Report.** County Cllr Mellen's monthly report had been pre-circulated and the following was highlighted:
 - Final bids for the Local Government Review were due to be submitted to Government by the end of September with a decision potentially by the end of the year.
 - An issue with HGVs using the A1088 while the A14 was closed overnight was being investigated due to the number of non-permit holders using the road.
- 7 **District Councillors Monthly Report.** District Cllr Richardson's monthly report had been pre-circulated.

County Cllr Mellen and District Cllr Richardson left the meeting at 7.50pm

- 8 **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025.** Cllr Cuff proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025 be approved. Cllr Bourne seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The April 2025 meeting was cancelled due to no planning applications being received and no urgent actions.

- 9 **Matters arising from the last meeting:**

No matters arising.

10 **Finance:**

Finance Report. The meeting noted the financial report (current bank balance of £6,768.89 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £300 current account and £1,500 savings account), circulated before the meeting. Payments authorised:

SALC Payroll Service	£22.80
SALC Membership	£157.85
Clear Councils (Insurance)	£367.72
HART Farm Services	£225.00
Gipping Press	£77.00
Malcolm Saunders (Audit)	£90.00

Cllr Cuff agreed to authorise payments apart from to Gipping Press which would be authorised by Cllr Suggett.

Risk Assessment. The meeting approved the Parish Council's risk assessment which had been pre-circulated.

Asset Register. The meeting noted the Asset Register that had been pre-circulated.

Audit Report. The meeting noted the contents of the auditor's report, pre-circulated, which raised no observations.

Governance Report. The meeting approved the Annual Governance Report covered by Section 1 of the Stowlangtoft Parish Council Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 which had been pre-circulated. The meeting also confirmed that the Parish Council was exempt from a limited assurance review as its gross expenditure for 2024/25 did not exceed £25,000. **The Clerk was to return the signed Certificate of Exemption.**

End of Year Accounts. The meeting approved the Accounting Statements covered by Section 2 of the Stowlangtoft Parish Council Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 that had been pre-circulated.

Donations. The meeting approved the following donations:

£400 – Village Newsletter
£100 - SARS

11 **Planning matters.** The meeting noted the Mid Suffolk District Council brief on Neighbourhood Development Plans that had been pre-circulated.

12 **Highways matters:**

Kiln Lane Repairs. The meeting noted the repairs to Kiln Lane, surface dressing and verge repairs, were due to start shortly.

Quiet Lane. The meeting noted that work to introduce Quiet Lane status to Kiln Lane had been agreed with Suffolk County Council Highways and a date to begin the process was expected imminently.

13 **Correspondence.** The Chair reported he had received a request to install posts along Kiln Lane. It was agreed this was not a Parish Council responsibility.

14 **Councillors' Forum:**

Nil

15 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 July 2025 at 7.30pm in St George's Church, The Street.

If any planning applications or urgent actions are identified after the May meeting, these will be considered at a short meeting on Monday 16 June 2025 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.21pm.

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Chair

May 2025

Parish Report

Cllr Andy Mellen, Thedwastre North

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Increasing School Places for SEND Students

On Tuesday 1 April, Cabinet voted to increase the number of school places in the county for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), using £18.6m of available capital funding. The plans agreed include opening specialist units within existing mainstream schools, which would create around 100 new places for SEND students for the academic year beginning in September 2025. The second proposal agreed was to allocate up to £12m to create satellite provisions of the existing special schools in Suffolk, with a view that these would open in September 2026 and create another 100 places. The possibility of the council opening its own independent school was also discussed, and may be explored in the future. Since the Cabinet report was tabled, the government has announced that Suffolk will receive an extra £9,441,348 from the Department for Education to invest in new SEND school places. Plans will now be drawn up by the Local Area SEND Partnership on how to spend the money.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Action Plan

Cabinet on 1 April also discussed the proposed action plan to improve the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, following the Home Office's recent publication of their inspection report which found several areas for action, including improvement to the leadership and culture of the service, and ensuring members of staff felt confident about raising concerns. Cabinet agreed to approve to £1.6m to fund the necessary improvements, and reversed planned IT savings of £0.106m this year to fund the IT improvements needed. Progress on the action plan will be monitored by the Fire Service Steering Group, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member, Steve Wiles. The Action Plan will also be examined by the council's Scrutiny Committee. The next inspection of the fire service is due in 2027.

New Government Funding for Adult Learning

The Department for Education has allocated Suffolk County Council up to £4m to be spent delivering free skills training to an extra 1,345 adults across Norfolk and Suffolk this year. The money will be used to support the council's 'Skills Bootcamps', which help residents gain the specific skills they need to gain well-paid jobs with local employers. Courses last up to 16 weeks and offer a combination of online and in-person learning to suit a variety of schedules, this flexibility makes them ideal for people looking to upskill, change their careers or return to work. The funding also enables local businesses to train new staff or upskill existing employees, with many of the training costs covered. Employers can work directly with training providers to create courses that align with their needs. Those interested in taking part in the Skills Bootcamps can find more information here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/skills-bootcamps>

6,000 Public EV Chargepoints Planned

Suffolk County Council will be installing around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across the county. From the summer, thousands of charging points will be installed on residential streets, with many locations suggested by local residents following the survey which was undertaken last year, or by liaison with communities and district/borough councils. The majority of installations will be bollard-style units at the kerbside, suitable for long-stay or overnight charging, when drivers will be able to benefit from an overnight off-peak tariff, and there will also be a dedicated resident's tariff which features discounted charging at all times. Public car parks will also see a number of rapid and ultra-rapid chargepoint installations, for quicker charging. This project has been made possible due to a successful £5.3 million bid by SCC to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. This summer's roll-out will use a proportion of this funding, with a further £16 million of funding provided by the chargepoint operator, *Believe*.

Suffolk Councils Supporting Sustainability in Schools

32 Suffolk schools recently attended a conference to help them write their climate action plans and deliver sustainability initiatives. The Suffolk Sustainability in Education conference, held at St Joseph's College in Ipswich, is the first of three events in the East of England to support schools to deliver on the objectives set out in the Department of Education's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.

The government has said that all schools should have a Sustainability Lead and Climate Action Plan in place by the end of this academic year. The event was co-organised by the Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network, an initiative funded by Suffolk's public sector organisations and delivered by Suffolk County Council, to support the delivery of Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Suffolk County Council has drafted a new strategy to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and has launched a consultation so residents can share their views. The county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy is one of 48 across the country, aimed at

addressing the decline in nature and identifying a network of areas to help nature and biodiversity to recover. The plan is for the 48 strategies to create a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of new habitats, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands.

The consultation on the Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy is open to everyone in Suffolk - residents, landowners, land managers, farmers, businesses and the wider community. There is also the opportunity to view and respond to maps of local areas, where specific measures to help nature could be taken. Both opportunities to provide feedback will close on 11 June 2025, and can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

Social Media and Useful Links

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram – https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

[https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychan](https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6)

[nel=6](#) Benefits advice and support:

[https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchann](https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0)

[el=0](#)

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

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



District Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

2 May 2025

<p>Mid Suffolk Cu Fund</p>	<p>Nine organisations received £100,505 from the new Mid Suffolk Culture Fund to enrich the district's cultural scene.</p> <p>Recipients include DanceEast for dementia support classes, encouraging those affected to enjoy dancing, and East Anglian Traditional Music Trust, promoting regional music through traditional instruments and dance.</p> <p>Youth opportunities include Stowmarket Culture Group's 'Jubilant' summer arts festival involving 10 schools, and ERD Connection's 'Thrive and Flourish' youth theatre group, also in Stowmarket.</p> <p>Further funding went to the John Peel Centre and The Food Museum, supporting their partnership with Mid Suffolk District Council to continue offering unique experiences.</p> <p>Other beneficiaries include the Association of Suffolk Local Museums, Stowmarket Arts CIC, and Suffolk Artlink, helping them recruit and resource effectively.</p> <p>The next application window opens in October 2025, with another £100,000 available.</p>
<p>New Sport and Leisure Grant</p>	<p>The Community Sports Infrastructure Grant has allocated £750,000 from the council's General Fund to support new facilities and essential upgrades this year.</p> <p>While Stowmarket has seen significant sporting investments, this grant aims to enhance sports opportunities across the district by funding projects outside the town.</p> <p>Constituted VCFSE organisations can apply for £20,000 to £250,000, prioritizing large-scale projects. Eligible projects include upgrading, extending, or building sports facilities, installing floodlights, covering design or planning costs, general delivery expenses, accessible activities, and developing green spaces or pitches for physical activity.</p>

Free compost	<p>Residents of Babergh and Mid Suffolk can collect free compost next month to promote home gardening. These events aim to encourage greener living and the joys of growing plants. The giveaways align with International Compost Awareness Week (4-10 May), which highlights the benefits of composting, such as healthier soil and reduced emissions and waste.</p> <p>Collection events are taking place at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eye Community Centre – Saturday 3 May, from 8am• Morrisons car park, Hadleigh – Sunday 4 May, from 8am• Station Road car park, Sudbury – Saturday 10 May, from 8am• Needham Lake, Needham Market – Sunday 11 May, from 8am
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	<p>Attendees will be allowed up to a maximum of two bags per vehicle. The events will be on a first come, first served basis and will finish once the compost runs out.</p>
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Cllr Harry Richardson

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