

STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.30 PM
BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL, BADWELL ASH**

Present: Cllrs D'Lima (Chair), Bourne, Cuff and Wales. A Osman (Clerk) was also in attendance with one member of the public.

43 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Suggett sent apologies which were accepted.

44 **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cuff declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 - Finance.

45 **Public Forum.** No issues raised.

46 **County Councillors Monthly Report.** The meeting noted County Cllr Mellen's monthly report which had been pre-circulated. It was subsequently reported that the Government is due to start an 8-week consultation over the two Suffolk local government review options on 19 November prior to a decision being made in March 2026.

47 **District Councillors Monthly Report.** The meeting noted District Cllr Richardson's monthly report which had been pre-circulated.

48 **Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2025.** Cllr Bourne proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2025 be approved. Cllr Wales seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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

No matters arising.

50 **St Georges Church.** Cllr Cuff reported that:

- Donated bulbs had been recently been planted in the churchyard.
- New officers in the PCC were considering the Parish Council's request for storage in the Church and reviewing options for water supply to the Church.

51 **Finance & Administration:**

Finance Report. The meeting noted the pre-circulated financial report (current bank balance of £3,041.21 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of £600 current account and £1,500 savings account), circulated before the meeting. Payments authorised:

CAS IT Services	£54.50
CAS website hosting	£66.00

The Chair agreed to authorise payments.

Budget for FY26/27. The meeting considered the budget for FY26/27 based upon a draft circulated before the meeting. The Clerk highlighted the impact of the one-off VAT claim next FY and provided an option of increasing the precept by £400 to prevent a larger increase to the precept being needed in FY 27/28. The draft budget as presented was approved but based upon a precept of £4,250, an increase of £400.

Meeting Dates 2026/27. The meeting discussed provisional dates of Parish Council meetings in FY 2026/27, along with venues, that had been pre-circulated. The dates and venues were agreed.

52 **Planning matters.**

Nil

53 **Highways matters:**

Footpath. Cllr Cuff gave details of the poor state of the footpath along The Street following the A1088 bridge closure and the more recent communications works; this had been reported on the Highways reporting Tool.

54 **Correspondence.**

None

County Cllr Andy Mellen arrived at 7.55pm

55 **Councillors' Forum:**

Website. Cllr Cuff highlighted recent issues with the home page of the Parish Council website not showing content. The Clerk confirmed that action had been taken to resolve this with One Suffolk, the web hosting provider, who confirmed that they had uploaded the only back up they had from March 2025. Any missing content could be reinstalled as required.

56 **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19 January 2026 at 7.30pm in Badwell Ash Village Hall. If any planning applications or urgent issues are identified after 17 November, these will be considered at a short meeting on 15 December 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.02pm.

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Chair

November 2025

Parish Report

Cllr Andy Mellen, Thedwastre North

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Devolution and the new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk

At Council on 2 October, Suffolk County Council voted to give the government their consent to create the Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority, which will be led by a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. Both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are involved in creating the new authority, which will have powers for the two counties including economic development, transport, skills and employment, public safety and housing and strategic planning. The authority will be led by the mayor, with four other members, two appointed by Suffolk County Council and two appointed by Norfolk County Council, and decisions will be made by majority, but the majority must include the vote of the mayor or the deputy mayor if the mayor is not present. The authority can also have associate members (for example, somebody from a local college or university) or a non-constituent member, for example from a district or borough council. As previously reported, the election of mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. So far, the candidates that have been announced are Caroline Topping (Green), who is currently the Leader of East Suffolk Council, and Tim Passmore (Conservative), who is currently the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be undertaken by the mayor after they are elected. It is likely that Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform UK candidates will be announced in the next few months, plus any independent candidates who decide to stand.

Get Suffolk Working Plan

On 2 October, Cabinet voted to approve the draft Get Suffolk Working plan which was prepared by the council's Skills team. This is the local version of the government's Get Britain Working initiative and aims to support people of working age who are not currently working to get into employment and address barriers they may face to employment, for example poor health, lack of transport, low qualifications and digital exclusion. Once the

plan is approved by NHS partners in Suffolk and the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), a Get Suffolk Working Partnership Board will be created to oversee the work. The plan includes the launch of the Connect to Work programme, which will be funded by up to £9.5m from the DWP over five years (the amount of funding received depends on level of participation in the scheme). This programme is to provide tailored training, support and job placements and match people with suitable employers based on their preferences, strengths and previous work experience.

Get Britain Working plans will become the responsibility of the mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk and the mayoral authority once in place, so Suffolk County Council is working with Norfolk County Council to make sure their plans are aligned.

You can read more about the Connect to Work programme here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/support-finding-employment/connect-to-work>

Dental Services in Suffolk

At Health Scrutiny Committee on 8 October, colleagues from the NHS joined the meeting to update the committee on improving dental services in Suffolk. This is not a council service, and health partners from the two ICBs that cover the county (Suffolk and North East Essex, Norfolk and Waveney) ran through their progress to increase access to NHS dentists, increase the number of urgent appointments available and ensure that there are enough dental practices across the county. They are also undertaking outreach work on oral health and preventing issues with children and older adults. Both ICBs are reporting that they have managed to increase the number of adults and children seen by dentists, and they are working on changes to their contracts with dental providers to support a focus on highest priority patients. People who need a dentist appointment can contact NHS 111 to get one, as well as contacting dental practises directly.

There are a lot of changes coming up in the health service soon, including the NHS 10 Year Plan which was published earlier this year, and from 1 April 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk will have one ICB. This means that plans for dentistry in the region, like other services, may be subject to review.

Recycling Centres Raise £500,000 for Charity

Re-use shops at Suffolk's recycling centres at Bury St Edmunds and Foxhall have raised over half a million for local charity The Benjamin Foundation, which operates the shops and provides families with childcare, mental health, youth and housing support. White goods play a key role, as The Benjamin Foundation repairs broken appliances and sells them on, which not only prolongs the life of the appliance, but also helps families access affordable household goods. The shop at Foxhall opened in 2016 and the one in Bury St Edmunds opened in 2020, and they have together repurposed over 4,200 tonnes of waste so far. Suffolk residents do not need to book a slot at the recycling centre to visit or donate to the shops.

Budget Survey

The council has launched its annual budget survey where it asks Suffolk residents their opinions and priorities for how it should spend money in the 2026-2027 financial year. The

consultation tries to provide some context on its financial position as well as asking for feedback which will be included in the budget-setting process. The first look at the new budget will be early January 2026, with councillors voting on the proposed budget in its February full council meeting. The consultation has been open since 14 October and will close on Tuesday 25 November, and can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk>



District Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

2 November 2025

<p>Call for Sites</p>	<p>Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, and Mid Suffolk councils are beginning work on new Local Plans, which will guide future development, housing, employment, and infrastructure in their areas. As part of this, a ‘Call for Sites’ is now open, inviting landowners and others to submit land for possible inclusion in these plans. The submission period runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026 (15 December 2025 for Ipswich).</p> <p>Submitting a site does not guarantee development; each proposal will be assessed and considered through public engagement before any decisions are made. The councils have coordinated their timetables, with Babergh and Mid Suffolk preparing a joint plan, East Suffolk replacing its previous plans, and Ipswich updating its 2022 plan. More details are available on each council’s website.</p>
<p>Local Listed Building Consent Order</p>	<p>Mid Suffolk has many listed properties, which often have poor energy efficiency due to features like single glazing. To help owners make improvements, Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils, with Historic England, have introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order—the first of its kind in a rural area.</p> <p>This order allows certain upgrades, such as installing secondary glazing or replacing windows in Grade II listed buildings, without needing individual consent, provided specific conditions are met. This change aims to make sensitive improvements easier and quicker, supporting both heritage and environmental goals.</p>
<p>Older generation encouraged to get active</p>	<p>A campaign celebrating older people’s fitness achievements is underway, running from 5 October (Silver Sunday) to 17 November. Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre and Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket are encouraging older residents to participate in a variety of activities. The operator, Everyone Active, already sees over 20,000 senior attendances each month nationwide.</p> <p>Local members, like 91-year-old Maureen Cotton from Stradbroke, demonstrate the benefits of staying active—she attends two fitness classes weekly and can hold a two-minute plank. The campaign highlights how exercise can improve quality of life for seniors</p>

**Reminder: Grant
funding
opportunities**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk grants and funding team will be hosting a free funding summit on Thursday 6 November at Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell, from 9am to 2.30pm. The event will help community organisations access the funding they need and is being delivered in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Cllr Harry Richardson

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