

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 4 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Stevie Bezencenet – Chairman (SB),
Sean Fry (SF) – Vice-chairman
Adam Sedgwick (AS)
Martin Nielsen (MN) (7.30-8.00)
Vivienne Klimowicz (VK)
Nigel Warren-Thomas (NWT)
Rosie Emeny (RE)

Apologies: Fred Grosch (FG), BDC Councillor Melanie Barrett

In attendance: James Dark, Parish Clerk (JD), SCC councillor James Finch (JF) (7.30-8.30), (7.45-8.30), Jeremy Bloomfield (JB), Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee, 1 other member of the public

22.10.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

FG had sent his apologies and reason for absence. This was approved.

22.10.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None declared.

22.10.3 PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present, plus the Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee.

22.10.4 MINUTES

22.10.4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were approved.

22.10.4.2 Actions from previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda

•SB reported that she had contacted Tendring Hall Estate to request an update on any plans for works on The Downs path, and been referred to the estate manager.

Action: Clerk to contact the estate manager to request update.

22.10.5 REPORTS OF/REQUESTS TO BDC & SCC COUNCILLORS

22.10.5.1 District Councillor's report

The written report was noted.

Action: Clerk to ask MB to send her report a week before the meeting if possible.

22.10.5.1.1 Maintenance requirements on Crossfields/Goldenlonds

RE reported that she had been in touch with MB to ask again for maintenance to a path at Crossfields. The District Council had carried out some work to a small section of the path recently, but significant issues remain and are becoming worse. It was noted that requests to cut back vegetation and smooth the surface of the path had been made repeatedly to MB for over a year, and that the condition of the path has been causing significant issues for elderly and disabled residents who are increasingly disappointed at BDC's lack of response.

Action: Clerk to escalate the matter by contacting BDC's Chief Executive to request action.

RE reported that BDC's maintenance team had indicated that they would soon be cutting back a tree where fallen debris is causing a hazard for a disabled resident, and also cutting back trees that are hitting asbestos garage roofs. Repairs are required to a number of these roofs, which have been reported repeatedly to the District Council.

22.10.5.2 County Councillor's report

The written report and oral update was noted.

JF's attention was drawn to a report from a campaign group that East Anglia would no longer be included in government/National Grid plans for an off shore power transmission network.

Action: MN to provide details to JF as per the action from the preceding planning and environment committee meeting.

VK made JF aware that activities provided by SCC for children from low income families during the summer holidays were based some distance from the parish and suggested to JF that SCC should ensure a more inclusive approach for rural areas in the future.

VK requested that JF ask Suffolk Highways to ensure that vegetation obscuring vehicle weight limit signs on the A134 is cut back. She pointed out that this request is made every year.

Action: JF said he would raise this with SCC's new local highways co-ordinator.

22.10.5.2.1 Highways and traffic

Traffic calming

JF reported that he was not aware that SCC Highways had contacted the parish council stating that suitable sites had been identified for temporary VAS traffic calming signage and that SCC would start work on the scheme. JF said his latest information from SCC Highways was that suitable sites had not been identified in the parish.

Action: Clerk to forward correspondence from SCC to JF. JF to confirm what SCC Highways' position is and, depending on the outcome, ask them when signage will be installed.

SCC Lorry Route Review

SCC's response to the parish council's inquiry was noted. It indicated that part of the Lorry Route towards Stoke by Nayland had been retained due to demand analysis. In practice the route is designated as a local access route with restrictions, and the designation serves to discourage hauliers from using the route as a through route. The existing Traffic Regulation Order providing the 18t limit in Stoke village is unaffected.

Meeting with farmers regarding 18t limit and traffic issues in Stoke village

It was reported that concerns reported by farmers included cars parked adjacent to The Angel which reduced line of sight and created difficulties for farm vehicles.

It was noted that parking issues in this area also affect a number of other road users including pedestrians, and that this had been discussed previously at parish council meetings. It was agreed that the parish council should consider again and what options are available to address the issues.

Village gateway signs

MN had been called from the meeting and so was unavailable to report. Councillors expressed appreciation and thanks to MN and volunteers for the work carried out to restore signage. JF indicated that he could contribute funding towards the cost of materials.

Signage at the entrance to The Blundens

SB reported that a resident had approached her to ask if signage at the entrance to the Blundens could be clearer in indicating that the road is a dead end, which may help to reduce the number of cars turning. It was agreed that the parish council should approach BDC to ask whether 'cul-de-sac' could be added to the sign.

Action: Clerk to approach BDC to ask whether this change to the signage would be possible.

VK reported issues with visibility and maintenance of signs on School St and near The Downs.

Action: Clerk to report these issues to SCC.

One School Transport

The Clerk reported that the school had responded to a request from the parish council stating that it would not be possible to reroute buses away from the centre of the village.

Other highways and traffic matters

RE reported that parking on Sudbury Road is becoming increasingly difficult for residents, as the number of cars per household has increased. This is also causing difficulties for drivers who need to wait to pass a long row of parked cars with no gaps.

22.10.5.2.2 Public transport

VK reported that the Chief Executive of Go-Ahead East Anglia had agreed to meet her to understand the problems created by the withdrawal of almost all buses through Stoke village and discuss any actions it may be practical for the company to take. SCC transport manager Simon Barnett was being invited to attend.

It was agreed that items on insurance and police contacts should be moved forward on the agenda to minimise waiting time at the meeting for JB, who may be asked to contribute to these discussions.

22.10.6 INSURANCE COVER

SB had asked NWT to report at the meeting on the parish council's insurance provision and any issues to be considered.

NWT recommended that a surveyor should be contracted to provide a valuation of the buildings owned by the parish council (bus stop, well housing and flock-up) for insurance purposes. This was to ensure the reinstatement values took appropriate account of professional fees associated with rebuild and recent increases in the cost of materials.

Action: It was agreed that NWT should prepare a brief for surveyors to provide a valuation and work with the Clerk to obtain quotes.

NWT asked for clarification on the ownership of the village hall. It was noted that the building is owned by a charity and that the Secretary of the VH committee would have the details which he could provide to NWT as a committee member. It was noted that the parish council does not own, manage or have an insurable interest in the hall.

It was noted that the parish council does not have an insurable interest in the Recreation Ground and is not listed as a Trustee in the insurance taken out by the Recreation Ground Committee. This was consistent with a legal position a solicitor had advised to NWT which had been circulated before the meeting.

It was reiterated that legally (under Trustee law) the parish council is not permitted to have any part in the management of the Recreation Ground. Therefore inquiries from residents on these matters must be referred to the RG committee.

The Clerk reported that the insurance renewal offered no longer includes cyber insurance. The broker had advised that cyber represented a very low risk to a parish council such as Stoke by Nayland. Cyber insurance was available separately at a cost of over £300.

It was agreed that the parish council should take out the one year option for insurance renewal offered by the broker, without cyber insurance. A wider range of brokers could be contacted for quotes next year.

Action: Clerk to contact the broker with the decision.

Action: Clerk and NWT to arrange quotes for insurance renewal to be considered at the September 2023 parish council meeting.

22.10.7 POLICE CONTACTS

Correspondence from JB which highlighted that a cat had been shot in the village recently, and the report of the incident to the police, was noted.

RE reported that the police had indicated to her that there is a wider issue in the area regarding illegal animal hunting and trapping, and that the police were aiming to find the people responsible who had travelled from a different region of the country. The police officer had provided RE with his contact details.

Action: RE to write a note for the LSPN and parish noticeboard on these matters including details for contacting the police officer. JB to place the notice on the RG board.

SF and JB reported that police had indicated that patrols would be increased in the area following these reports and reports of wider anti-social behaviour. However, they considered that making routine contact with the police can be problematic including lack of telephone contact details and officers' often being reluctant to give personal contact details for follow up enquiries. This would be considered further at a future meeting.

22.10.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

22.10.8.1 RFO's report

Members received the RFO's report and were satisfied it was a correct record of the PC's financial position.

22.10.8.2 Orders requested for payment

It was agreed to approve all orders on the RFO's report totalling £1912.62. In addition invoices received after the report was circulated were approved – Village Hall £25; SALC £54 payroll service; CAS website hosting £60; Hut and Home grit bin repair £339.58.

22.10.8.3 Budget Working Party

SF agreed to arrange a BWP meeting to inform the Clerk's report for the November PC meeting.

Action: Clerk to provide information to inform the BWP meeting.

22.10.9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN/DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

JB, Chairman of the NHP Group, has previously reported that he would arrange a meeting.

The procedural Reg 16 Consultation on Leavenheath Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan was noted.

Action: It was agreed that AS should draft a response for circulation.

The Inspectors' update on the Examination of the District Council's JLP was noted, including the likelihood of the public consultation being delayed from the autumn.

The District Council's consultation on 5 year land supply was noted including the surplus of land. With regard to development in the parish, only one development (1 Butt Road) is shown and the forthcoming Hastoe development of 8 houses had been omitted.

Action: Clerk to inform BDC of this omission.

22.10.10 COUNCILLORS' AND CLERK'S REPORTS

22.10.10.1 Report from Planning & Environment Committee

MN had left the meeting. The meeting was updated that clarification would be sought on whether the Angel is open for drinking without a meal.

22.10.10.2 Website

This item was deferred to the next meeting as FG was not present.

22.10.11 ITEMS FOR REPORT IN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The Chairman and Clerk would discuss this after the meeting.

22.10.11 CLERK AND CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Action: It was agreed that the Clerk would approach the seasonal ranger to ask if he would consider speaking at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

22.10.12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Website
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Traffic calming
- Parking/traffic issues in centre of Stoke village
- The Downs
- Police contacts

22.10.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 7.30pm – Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.