

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow
Held at The Cross Keys Stow**

Thursday 9th January 2025 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Waudby, Cllr Hewitt, Cllr Arden, Cllr Eden, Cllr Turner, Cllr Martinson

In attendance: Miss N Culliford (Clerk), Cllr Butroid, Cllr Mullally, three members of the public including Miss K Leach (applicant for vacant councillor post)

082. Apologies for Absence

None received.

083. Declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and any dispensations that may arise

There were no additional declarations of interest.

084. Minutes of previous meeting of Thursday 7th November 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Eden to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting as a true copy of the meeting, with one amendment regarding new Parish Clerk access to Bank account. **Resolved** All in favour.

085. Clerk's report on matters arising

a. Cllr Waudby has contacted the village youth club who have agreed to approach the council with future requests for financial contribution. Suggested amount of £50-100 annually.

b. Cllr Eden has investigated costs for speed management solutions throughout the village and suggested the purchase and installation of nine passive speed limit reminder notices (30mph, 40 mph) at specific locations at a maximum cost of £180. There is potential for three notices to be provided at no cost (total £120) and Cllr Butroid will confirm whether he is able to provide all nine at no cost. It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Martinson. **Resolved** all in favour.

c. Cllr Butroid confirmed that LCC have no current plans to carry out improvement works to land at cemetery entrance. He agreed to investigate land ownership and report back.

Additional Discussion:

- Cllr Waudby raised concerns over recent flooding from pipes running across fields in village. Cllr. Butroid confirmed the pipe is on LCCs annual maintenance list but will request a visit to investigate the current issue further.

- Cllr Butroid enquired about gas pipe (South Drive) that was due to be relocated away from drain to mitigate flooding issues. No further updates noted so he will chase progress with this issue.

- Cllr. Martinson raised further issues with potholes and inappropriate parking, also on South Drive. Cllr Butroid confirmed these would be further addressed following drainage improvements.

d. Cllr. Arden agreed to take a lead on police liaison matters on behalf of the parish council, with support from Cllr. Eden for online meetings where required. Community lead remains unallocated but will be revisited at future meeting when newly appointed councillors may wish to volunteer.

e. Clerk confirmed that flood advice and emergency contacts have been posted on Stow parish website and Stow Bugle.

086. Financial Matters

a. Accounts from 1st November 2024- 31st December 2024

To agree payment of invoices paid since last meeting:

			Receipts	Payments	VAT	Total
06/11/2024	M Cotterill	Salary		156.72		156.72
08/11/2024	S Solecki	Grass & Hedge Cutting		430.50	86.1	515.60
06/12/2024	M Cotterill	Salary		271.50		271.50
06/12/2024	N Culliford	Salary		97.03		97.03
06/12/2024	N Culliford	PAYE		24.20		24.20

Receipts £

Cheques None

PC Bank Balance as of 06/12/2024* £13285.42

**awaiting approval of access to parish bank account hence balance only available to 6th Dec when last recorded by previous clerk. Accounts for the period 01Nov-31Dec24 to be updated and recirculated in due course.*

Balance includes:

Currently £468.87 is ring fenced from Stow Recreational Fund for play equipment, which is accessible to children with disabilities.

Stow Recreation Fund (including ring fenced)	Balance	£5316.23
Cil Allowance for items for village use	Balance	£3709.56

- The accounts were accepted and proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Martinson. It was **Resolved** all in favour to accept the accounts.
- Cllr Eden will review the process for the signing off clerk salary payments to mitigate personal risk to the clerk. Recommendations will be brought back to the council for discussion.

b. There is no further action required regarding 2025/2026 precept, as sign off has been completed and received by WLDC.

087. Council and Village Matters

a. Clerk confirmed that new councillor J Martinson has completed co-option paperwork.

b. Co-option application was considered from resident K Leach. It was proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Arden that Miss Leach is co-opted to the council. **Resolved** all in favour.

c. Amended bench design (donated by resident) and memorial wording for cemetery was reviewed and it was proposed by Cllr. Arden and seconded by Cllr. Martinson that this be approved. **Resolved** all in favour. Clerk to re confirm donor responsibility to maintain bench and ensure secure fixing to ground.

d. Design for memorial vase (addition to existing headstone) was reviewed and it was proposed by Cllr. Hewitt and seconded by Cllr. Martinson that this be approved. **Resolved** all in favour.

Additional Discussion:

- A member of the public in attendance raised a request for additional dog bins at two locations in the village (end of Green Lane & Normanby Road) having experienced residents complaining about distance between existing facilities. Cllr Mullally will provide some additional dog fouling warning stickers as in interim solution and will contact Simon Smoothy (WLDC) re additional bins.
- A member of the public in attendance raised concerns about high hedges along church road. It was confirmed that there is a history of complaints regarding these hedges but no resulting action to date. It was noted that WLDC policy dictates a maximum of 1.1m hedge height for property boundaries

088. Highways Update

No specific updates to report.

Before leaving the meeting, Cllr. Butroid provided a brief update on the forthcoming devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire. It is possible that planned 2026 elections may be impacted due to proposed changes to existing County and District Council structures.

089. Communications with Parish Residents

a. Cllr. Eden shared brief bio/profile (including headshot) for himself and Cllr. Arden as template for councillor introductions in The Bugle. It was suggested that two councillor introductions are included in Bugle editions over the coming months.

- All councillors to forward their own brief bio/profile and headshot to clerk for sharing with Clare at The Bugle.
- Clerk to confirm 2025/26 publication dates
- Clerk to write production of bio and headshot into new councillor induction process as standard

090. Ongoing Solar Projects and Battery Storage.

a. It was agreed that Parish Council representation is not required at forthcoming Tillbridge solar hearings (14th and 25th January). Cllr Mullally is due to attend AM session on 15th at Lincs. Showground.

100. Training

a. Clerk to send details of LALC parish councillor online induction/refresher training session 18th March to Miss K Leach (newly cop opted councillor).

101. Planning

All planning applications will be publicised on the web page along with a line in the Stow Bugle for public view with a link to West Lindsey site for them to comment and or to feed their views back to the council.

No new applications to report since last meeting.

WL/2024/00395 – Land at Barker Farm, Stow Park Road. Ground mounted Solar PV array. **Extension of time to 31Jan25 agreed 21/11/2024**

WL/2024/00662 – BESS Land at Willingham by Stow farm, Marton Road, DN21 5BH

Installation and operation of Battery Energy Storage system. **Amended documents submitted 21/11/2024 (inc. biodiversity calculation, landscape plan, ecological report).**

WL/2024/00766 – Harpers Barn, Stow Park Road, Stow, LN1 2AJ. Change of use of land and erection of a garage granted 22/11/2023 – increase size to accommodate utility room. **Permission granted 5/11/2024**

It was agreed that currently no further action by Councillors is required on these applications.

102. Correspondence

- It was agreed that Steeple Renewables (solar project) correspondence does not require action due to being out of area.

- Grass cutting contract renewal was raised by Cllr. Hewitt. We need to go out for quotes asap to be ready to review at next meeting in March. We also need to consider hedge cutting and cemetery long grass cutting as part of the contract and be explicit re this when seeking quotes.

- Cllr Eden to contact Sturton PC regarding their spec for grass cutting services.
- It was agreed that Cllr. Waudby and Cllr. Hewitt would have delegated responsibility for assessing received grass and hedge cutting contract quotes and will confirm the decision on a selected contractor at the next parish meeting on 6th March
- Clerk to share with Cllr. Eden, Cllr Waudby and Cllr. Hewitt any relevant information from previous contract/previous clerk handover notes.
- Cllr Arden raised the consideration of a 3+2 yr contract when tendering.

- Cllr. Turner raised concerns over vehicle tracks across village green seen this morning (9th Jan). The vehicle was thought to be for bus shelter maintenance. Cllr Turner agreed to take some photos in daylight and send to Cllr Arden who will report concerns to relevant company.

103 Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Butroid provided updates via previous agenda items

- Cllr Mullally confirmed she has collected the names of residents affected by recent flooding and will be discussing further support for them with WLDC.

104. Creation of Forward Plan

Cllr Eden suggested it would be beneficial for the council to have a forward plan that is accessible to all Councillors and contains information on key activities and forthcoming actions across the year. It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Arden. **Resolved** all in favour.

- Clerk to draft and circulate a draft plan for comments.
- Clerk to circulate list of themes councillors have agreed to lead on.

105. Date of next meeting

Thursday 6th March 2025 at The Cross Keys Stow 7.00p.m.

Cllr Waudby thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting over.

Please be advised that these are notes of the meeting taken by the Clerk and cannot in any way be regarded as the official minutes of Council proceedings until they are approved and signed at the next meeting.

Signed Date