

**Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 7 pm, The Cross Keys Stow**

**Present:** Cllr Waudby, Cllr Arden, Cllr Eden, Cllr Hewitt, Cllr Martinson, Cllr Leach  
**In attendance:** Miss N Culliford (Clerk), Cllr Mullally, Cllr Wimhurst, one member of the public

Cllr Wimhurst (LCC) was welcomed to the meeting following his recent appointment

**017 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Turner (Cllr Mullally sent apologies in advance for an expected late arrival)

**018 Declarations of Interest** (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and any dispensations that may arise)

There were no additional declarations of interest.

**019 Minutes for Approval from previous (annual) meeting of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

It was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Waudby to accept the minutes of the July 2025 Parish Council meeting as a true copy of the meeting. Resolved all agreed in favour.

**020. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising**

a. The clerk and chair shared details of three ongoing matters that were previously being investigated by Cllr. Butroid and asked for Cllr Wimhurst's assistance in progressing these:

- Confirmation of land ownership at cemetery entrance to address uneven ground and resulting accessibility issues
- LCC visit to investigate flooding incidents from supply pipe running across village fields (Church Road). Stow PC are awaiting confirmation of whether a visit took place and what the outcome of this was.
- Progress with South Drive drainage pipe repair as a result of damage by gas pipe contractor. Pot hole repairs have been on hold in the meantime

**Action:** Cllr Wimhurst to investigate these issues and report back

b. Cllr Eden fed back on an action from May's annual PC meeting regarding use of CIL funds for land registry fees previously paid out to secure village land for playpark use. He believes this meets the requirement for CIL funding on the basis it is securing the play park for the future benefit of residents. It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Arden that monies from existing CIL funds be transferred to cover these costs. Resolved all agreed in favour.

**Action:** Clerk to update 2024/5 accounts to reflect this decision

c. The clerk shared a draft forward plan outlining key activities and actions required for the current year (by month) and discussed those pending for the period leading to the next PC meeting in September. This document will be used ongoing to inform meeting and interim priorities and activity.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate forward plan document for comment/additions

d. Cllr Eden shared details of a recent review of the Stow PC risk register and drew attention to some specific items that require consideration including:

- Online banking payment limit (currently £50k and more than total PC funds) and prior approval of payments (where appropriate) – both to be discussed further under agenda item 7 'Accounts'.
- Provision of risk assessment from grass and hedge cutting contractor.

**Action:** Cllr Waudby to contact contractor to request provision of a risk assessment

-Annual parish plan: It was suggested the current list of objectives on Stow PC s website (last updated 2021) are reviewed and updated to create three or more headline priorities/objectives for the current year to review against at the 2026 annual parish meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Arden to work with Cllr Waudby to review and update current objectives

**Action:** Clerk to re share minutes from May 2025 annual parish meeting, where additional objectives were captured, to support this activity

-Actively exploring sources of income: It was agreed that the group should consider available sources of funding to cover any activities identified in PC objectives for the coming year.

**Action:** Clerk to share any information received regarding potential funding sources ongoing



-Management of trusts: It was thought that ringfenced Stow Fun Raisers funds and monies from land rental were the only items potentially falling under this description.

**Action:** Cllr Eden to investigate both further.

-Sufficiency of funds to meet 3-6 months reserve and cover net expenses requirement for 2025/26: Cllr Eden shared figures that outlined a bank balance that slightly exceeds expected costs for the current year; meaning the PC does have sufficient reserves to cover 2025/6 forecast expenditure.

e. Cllr Turner is reviewing the current asset register and is due to provide an updated version on his return

f. The clerk shared an update on the collaborative work between Stow and Sturton by Stow PCs on investigating flood issues. Cllr Turner attended an initial meeting with Sturton by Stow PC in May and as a result Anglian Water have been contacted and agreed to attend a meeting to discuss issues.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate further information and meeting date once confirmed

## **021. Accounts and Governance**

a. The clerk shared a summary of income and expenditure for the period since the last meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June. It was proposed by Cllr Waudby and seconded by Cllr Arden that these be accepted. Resolved all agreed in favour.

b. Cllr Eden suggested a review of expenditure to identify payments requiring prior approval, on the basis all payments are now online and do not require input from signatories.

**Action:** Clerk and Cllr Eden to review expenditure and identify items for prior approval

c. Cllr Eden suggested future accounting updates should show spend against budget for wider context.

**Action:** Clerk to update reporting format ahead of next meeting to reflect spend against budget

d. To address financial risks identified in PC risk register it was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Waudby that the current online payment limit be reduced from £50k to £1k and that Cllr Eden is given delegated authority (including access to the online bank account) for financial monitoring and back up payment processing in absence of the clerk. Resolved all agreed in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Leach that Cllr Eden replaces Cllr Hewitt as account signatory on the basis banking is now done online. Resolved all agreed in favour

**Action:** Clerk to organise reduction of payment limit with bank, online account access for Cllr. Eden, and amendment to account signatories.

## **022. Council and Village Issues**

a. It was reported by a resident that the waste bin within Stow play park had not been emptied regularly and was overflowing at times. This has since been reported to WLDC by the clerk and the matter appears to be resolved.

## **023. Highways - No matters to report**

## **024. Communications with Parish Residents**

a. Content for next Bugle edition (deadline 18<sup>th</sup> July). It was agreed that information about the planned meeting with Anglian Water regarding flooding and notice of the recent theft of a solar panel from one of the village speed signs would be shared for this edition.

**Action:** Cllr Eden to provide words for solar panel theft content

**Action:** Clerk to prepare words for flood meeting information and pass all content to Bugle asap

b. The clerk has agreed to post meeting agendas and minutes direct to Facebook from this point on. Ideally this should be managed via dedicated PC profile rather than a personal account, but without creating a business page that requires regular updates.

**Action:** Clerk to investigate dedicated PC Facebook profile for future updates

## **025. Ongoing Solar Projects**

a. The examination of the application for Tillbridge Solar Park has been completed and outcomes/recommendations will be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025

b. Cllr Waudby advised that a buyer has been confirmed for Gate Burton energy park and work will commence in 2027

c. The group discussed concerns about the management of solar farm applications and the proportion of these being seen in Lincolnshire. It was felt that the majority objections seen in consultation is not being reflected in central government decisions.



#### 026. Training

The clerk shared information on several PC training sessions being advertised by WLDC throughout July-Sept included a session on updating neighbourhood plans. Stow and Sturton by Stow plan was updated in 2024 so this is not currently relevant for the group.

#### 027. Planning

New and live/pending applications were discussed, but no further action is required at this time as comments have been submitted where appropriate.

Cllr Martinson raised some concerns about receipt of emails regarding planning applications and access to planning information on the WLDC website.

**Action:** Clerk to check Cllr Martinson has been copied into recent planning emails and to provide link to application info on WLDC site in future correspondence

#### 028. County and District Councillors Reports

a. LCC – Nothing further to add from Cllr. Wimhurst but he thanked the group for the invitation to attend this meeting and will also try to attend future meetings where available

b. WLDC – Cllr. Mullally:

-Enquired about armed forces representation on the parish council as she is receiving a lot of interesting information about government support initiatives.

-Provided further update re the pending flood meeting with Anglian Water. This will hopefully also include Severn Trent. Suggestions have been made to manage resident input to this meeting to ensure people get chance to speak.

-Updated the group on some anti-social behaviour issues that have recently escalated in the village. These appear to now be under control again and we will be updated should anything change.

#### 029. AOB

a. Cllr Waudby mentioned a tree that appears to be dead on the village green. The group agreed that this can be disposed of if no objections are raised from residents.

b. Cllr Arden shared an update on recent reports of dead fish in stow Till. Causes may be lack of oxygen or in some cases chemicals going into the water. On this basis the Environment Agency no longer monitor this water but are encouraging residents to report all incidents.

c. Cllr Eden reported some gravestones in the cemetery that are in disrepair and lying flat in some instances. It was thought that uneven ground is contributing to this. Cllr Waudby suggested a volume of top soil may help to address the uneven ground if applied under correct conditions. No further action for now. If residents report issues with the gravestones in disrepair this matter will be reviewed.

Chair closed the meeting at 20:45pm



J Waudby