

# Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 7 pm, The Cross Keys Stow

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

In attendance: Miss N Culliford (Clerk), Cllr Mullally (WLDC)

## 044 Apologies for Absence

None received – all councillors present

## 045 Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest

**046 Minutes for Approval from the previous meeting of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025.** It was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Eden to accept the minutes of the September 2025 Parish Council meeting as a true copy. Resolved all agreed in favour.

## 047 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising

- a. Open actions for LCC: Cllr Wimhurst was not present to provide an update on land ownership at cemetery entrance, visit to investigate flooding incidents from supply pipe running across village fields, and progress with South Drive pipe repair. **ACTION:** Clerk to request update from Cllr Wimhurst on these matters, including progress arising from LCC planned visit on 8<sup>th</sup> September
- b. Update on request for new dog bin (Church Road): Cllr Mullally is awaiting an update from WLDC after making this request
- c. Update on review of management trusts: Following further investigation into the status of the parish field and inherited stow recreation funds, Cllr Eden confirmed that there are no management trusts to declare at the present time
- d. Circulation of revised PC objectives 2025/6: Two priority objectives have been identified for the current year - pursuing registration of Stow parish field and managing local response to infrastructure projects. **ACTION:** Clerk to update objectives on the Stow PC website

## 048 Accounts and Governance

- a. The clerk shared a summary of income and expenditure for the period since the last meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. It was proposed by Cllr Arden and seconded by Cllr Eden that the payments be accepted. Resolved all agreed in favour.

### Accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

To review payment of invoices and receipt of income since previous meeting

EXPENDITURE & INCOME DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	ANNUAL BUDGET	TOTAL SPEND TO DATE
Cemetery	400.00			/
Clerk Salary		392.07	2000.00	1316.67
Misc.		7.20	0	112.60
Grass & Hedge Cutting		468.00	4000.00	2574
PC Bank Balance as of 31/10/2025		£16,283.15		
Balance <u>includes:</u>				
Stow Recreation Fund		£5,206.33		
Of which, ringfenced for accessible play park equipment		£468.87		
CIL Allowance for items for village use		£3,259.56		
		£8,465.89		

- b. The clerk advised that the process for updating account signatories is now underway
- c. The draft budget for 2026/2027 was reviewed. It was agreed that a 5% increase to the current year precept would be requested to cover forecast spend for next year. It was agreed that appropriate grants and funding should be explored for 2026/2027 to supplement PC income.

**ACTION:** Cllr Arden to review any grants and funding opportunities for current and next year identified via Cllr Mullally and/or other sources

**ACTION:** Clerk to explore options for transferring ringfenced funds to savings account

d. The frequency of village grass cutting was discussed. Cllr Waudby is in contact with the grass and hedge cutting contractor and receives notice of planned cuts, to advise if these are required.

#### 049 Council and Village Issues

- a. Cllr Eden has been in touch with local solicitors regarding registration of village land known as the 'parish field.' He advised of two approaches to progressing registration and suggested the second option secures full title and possession rights. It was proposed by Cllr Waudby and seconded by Cllr Leach that option two (full title) be further progressed with solicitors
- b. Two play park items that received an amber score in the recent annual inspection were discussed. It is likely these items could become unfit for use prior to next year's inspection. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek advice from play park inspector regarding options and potential cost for repair of items
- c. Members of Sturton by Stow PC are arranging a meeting with LCC highways and flood risk representatives to follow up the Anglian Water public flood meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August. This is due to take place towards the end of November and the clerk will provide an update once confirmed

#### 050 Highways - There were no matters to report

#### 051 Communications with Parish Residents

- a. The Winter edition of Stow Bugle is currently being prepared. **ACTION:** Clerk to share agreed PC content with Bugle team

#### 052 Ongoing Solar Projects

There were no matters to report

#### 053 Planning

There were no new planning applications to discuss. The clerk shared updates on live planning applications since the last meeting.

#### 054 Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to discuss

#### 055 County and District Councillor Reports

- a. Cllr Mullally shared information on the local community armed forces directory. This has previously been shared with residents recently via Stow Bugle and Stow PC Facebook page.

#### 056 AOB

- a. Village Christmas tree: Cllr Mullally will donate £50 towards the cost of decoration for this year's tree. **ACTION:** Cllr Waudby to speak with previous tree provider about this year's tree and to explore alternative options if required
- b. Village clock repair: Cllr Turner provided an update on fundraising to repair the strike mechanism of the village clock. Individual donations have contributed a generous amount to the fund, but a shortfall remains ahead of planned repairs in March 2026. The groups discussed potential contributions from ringfenced stow recreation funds and Cllr Eden suggested a maximum £200 be donated should the required amount not be reached through further fundraising. Councillors voted unanimously to accept this proposal. **ACTION:** Cllr Turner to provide updates on funds raised at the January 2026 meeting
- c. Fallen Tree, South Drive: A resident recently reported a fallen tree via 'Fix My Street' and LCC have visited and are investigating but have provided no further update despite requests from the resident and PC clerk. **ACTION:** Clerk to make additional request for update and escalate to Cllr Wimhurst if necessary.

Meeting closed by chair at 20:55

**Date of future meetings to be held at The Cross Keys, Stow**

*Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026*