

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 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)

The meeting was opened and initially chaired by Cllr Arden

Prior to the first agenda item, Cllr Leach informed the group of her intention to stand down from Stow PC with immediate effect following this evening's meeting. The group thanked her for her contribution during the last twelve months.

### 057 Apologies for Absence

None – all councillors present

### 058 Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest

### 059 Minutes for Approval from the previous meeting of Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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

Cllr Waudby arrived and chaired the meeting from 19:12hrs

### 060 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 re request update from Cllr Wimhurst on these matters, including progress arising from LCC planned visit on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### 061 Accounts and Governance

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

#### Accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

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

EXPENDITURE & INCOME DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	ANNUAL BUDGET	TOTAL SPEND TO DATE
Clerk Salary & Tax		385.74	2000.00	1695.21
Contribution to Youth Club		100.00	100.00	100.00
Grass & Hedge Cutting		450.00	4000.00	3258
Misc.		110.58	0	112.60
<b>PC Bank Balance as of 31/12/2025</b>	<b>£15,236.83</b>			
<b>Balance includes:</b>				
Stow Recreation Fund		£5,206.33		
Of which, ringfenced for accessible play park equipment		£468.87		
CIL Allowance for items for village use		<u>£3,259.56</u>		
		£8,465.89		

- b. The clerk advised that the initial precept request for Stow has been submitted to WLDC and the request for final submission is expected before the end of January.

## 062 Council and Village Issues

- a. A resident in attendance shared several observations:
- Fallen leaves are gathering in the play park and require clearing. Cllr Martinson offered to clear these.
  - The village green bin is being periodically emptied by another resident during the season where WLDC do not collect. Information only (no action at present)
  - The hedge to right side of playpark has holes in it. Information only (no action at present)
  - Two large tree branches have blown off in the cemetery grounds. Cllr Waudby offered to clear these and use to block holes that exist in the playpark hedge.
  - The notice re cleaning up after pets at the side of the play park has come off its stand. Cllr Waudby offered to fix this and Cllr Mullally offered some adhesive notices as back up.
- b. Further to discussions at the PC meeting in November 2025, Cllr Eden has re contacted the local solicitor who provided initial advice on registration of village land known as the 'parish field.' He is now awaiting a response and has learnt that the solicitor in question has been away from his post but is due to return this month.
- c. The clerk has received a response from the organisation who provide the annual playpark inspection regarding advice and potential costs regarding the rockers that require maintenance. They do not undertake maintenance work so are unable to provide any further guidance.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to seek advice from Sturton by Stow clerk and Cllr Mullally's contact at Lincs. Coop who provide and maintain play park equipment for other parishes.
- d. The clerk recently circulated notes (taken by the clerk of Sturton by Stow) from the December 2025 LCC flood meeting attended by Cllr Turner on behalf of Stow PC. Cllr Turned reported back that those in attendance from LCC were sympathetic but unable to take immediate action due to prioritisation processes and available resource. The key message continues to be that residents should report all flooding incidents via the online Fix My Street process.
- e. Cllr Turner updated the meeting that fundraising efforts for repair of the village clock strike mechanism have continued, but currently there is a shortfall of up to £150 that may be requested from Stow PC unless further funds are raised.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Turner to provide a further update before the next meeting in March

**063 Highways** - There were no matters to report

## 064 Communications with Parish Residents

- a. The following items were agreed as PC content for the forthcoming edition of Stow Bugle:
- Note on using Fix My Street to report flooding and other general incidents to LCC
  - Information on Step Fusion power plant proposals and forthcoming meetings
  - Repeat of cold weather advice/emergency contact article
- ACTION:** Clerk to share agreed PC content with Bugle team

## 065 Ongoing Solar Projects

There were no matters to report

## 066 Planning

There were no new planning applications to discuss, nor updates on any live applications since the last meeting.

## 067 Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to discuss

## 068 County and District Councillor Reports

- a. Cllr Mullally updated the group on some ongoing anti-social behaviour incidents linked to residents at Willingham Care Centre. Cllr Mulally is engaged with their management team regarding this.

## 069 AOB

- a. Review of PC retention and storage protocol – the clerk suggested a review of current PC documentation and retention protocol to support introduction of a retention policy that could be implemented from April 2027. It was acknowledged that cemetery records are currently held in paper

form only and whilst they are stored in a fire proof bag, there is a small risk of loss/damage that should be mitigated where possible.

**ACTION** Clerk to circulate draft retention policy, including details of retention periods and formats for specific document types, prior to the March 2026 meeting

**ACTION** Clerk to seek advice from other parish councils and LALC on reducing risk associated with paper cemetery records

- b. With reference to the PC forward plan, Cllr Eden confirmed that green bin renewal is due prior to the next meeting in March and that meeting dates for the financial year 2026/7 will be agreed at this meeting

**ACTION** Clerk to renew green bin subscriptions

- c. Cllr Arden shared apologies in advance for the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March  
d. Cllr Waudby advised that an increase to the annual village field rent is being agreed with the current tenant

Meeting closed by chair at 19:48

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

*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

J Waudby

J Waudby

5 / 3 / 26