Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow
Thursday 3rd September 2026 7.00 pm, The Cross Keys Stow

Present: Cllr Waudby, Cllr Arden, Cllr Hewitt, Cllr Eden, Cllr Turner, Cllr Martinson
In attendance: Miss N Culliford (Clerk), Cllr Mullally, two members of the public

Open Public Session
A resident who supports maintenance of the village speed signs provided an update on repair of the broken speed sign located on Ingham Road. He clarified that the existing radar (the broken element that requires replacement) is capable of capturing data for download via connection of an external device via USB. This is identical to the replacement part quoted for by the third-party supplier so will be a like for like replacement until such time that the Parish Council wish to consider more automated data recording, which can be retrofitted.

029 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Booth.

030 Declarations of Interest (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and any dispensations that may arise)
There were no additional declarations of interest.

031 Minutes for Approval from previous meeting of Thursday 2nd July 2026
It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Turner to accept the minutes of the July 2026 Parish Council meeting as a true copy of the meeting, subject to the amendments discussed (addition of open public session summary and wording correction to item 19c). Resolved all agreed in favour.

032 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising
a. An email has been sent to LCC head of highways (copied to the portfolio holder for highways and transport) to escalate the two outstanding queries regarding ownership of land at Stow cemetery entrance and status of repair works to South Drive water pipe following contractor damage.
b. The out of action village lawnmower has been removed from the PC asset register as agreed.
c. The revised PC objectives for 2026-7 have been updated on the Stow PC website
d. The savings account discussed at the Jul26 meeting has been further investigated by the clerk for appropriateness to house ringfenced funds. It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Arden that the clerk progresses the opening of PC savings account with this provider. Resolved all agreed in favour. (CIL and SRF). **Action:** Clerk to progress account opening.
e. Cllr Arden has submitted an expression of interest (EOI) to WLDC for funding via the community grant. The EOI proposes use of funds to introduce gym equipment or specific accessibility play equipment, (which the council already holds ringfenced funds towards) into the village playpark to create a more inclusive space. A full application will be requested if the EOI is successful and a final decision is due to be made by WLDC before end November. **Action:** Clerk to share summary in next Bugle edition to invite feedback from residents.

033 Accounts and Governance
a. The clerk shared a summary of income and expenditure for the period since the last meeting (1st July to 31st August 2026 – see Appendix 1). It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Arden that the payments be accepted. Resolved all agreed in favour.
b. A brief review of the current year's budget was undertaken in preparation for 2027/8 precept planning. **Action:** Clerk to prepare draft budget for 2027/8 for further review at Nov26 meeting.

034 Council and Village Issues
a. Future grant exploration and management – *discussed as part of 'matters arising (see item 32e above)*
b. The clerk shared an update from the new church warden regarding recent thefts and vandalism at St Mary's church. There is a police investigation currently in progress and alongside this the church is reviewing security arrangements.

022 Highways
No updates to report

023 Communication with Parish Residents

a. Stow Bugle: It was agreed the following content would be contributed for the next issue:

- An introduction to Cllr Booth
- Note to residents regarding WLDC funding application to introduce gym equipment to playpark
- Note to residents requesting cutting back of hedges along key village footpaths
- Summary of recent police updates on spate of local burglaries

Action: Clerk to prepare content and forward to Bugle team

024 Planning

No new applications or updates to existing applications to report

025 Correspondence

a. Cllr Mullally (on behalf of the Church Festivals Committee) has requested PC funds of approximately £60 to purchase a banner for St Mary's church, to be displayed throughout future church festival periods. It was agreed by all councillors present to support this and authorise spend. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Mullally to progress this.

026 County and District Councillor Reports

None received.

027 Review of Open Actions

The clerk led a review of open actions logged. An action remains outstanding for the clerk to share information on key financial processes with Cllr Eden as contingency in the event of absence. It was agreed that in future meetings all open actions will be reviewed under the 'matters arising' agenda item.

028 AOB

No other business to report

Chair closed the meeting at 19:54pm

Appendix 1.

Clerk's Report on Income and Expenditure for the Period 1st July – 31st August 2026

EXPENDITURE & INCOME DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS (NET)	ANNUAL BUDGET	SPEND TO DATE (NET)	INCOME TO DATE
Clerk Salary & Tax		406.62	2700	993.96	17.97
Defib. Maintenance		114	0*	114	0
Grass Cutting/Hedge Maintenance		198	4250	1590.3	
Cemetery	160				

** Spent from CIL balance*

PC Bank Balance as of 31/08/26	**16541.91**
Balance includes:	
Stow Recreation Fund	£4,936.33
Of which, ringfenced for accessible play park equipment	*£468.87*
CIL Allowance for items for village use	£2,118.16
Total	£7,054.49