Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Stow
Thursday 5th November 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, one member of the public

042 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Booth.

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

044 Minutes for Approval from previous meeting of Thursday 3rd September 2026
It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Waudby to accept the minutes of the September 2026 Parish Council meeting as a true copy of the meeting. Resolved all agreed in favour.

045 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising
a. The high interest building society identified as suitable for transferring ringfenced funds into has a temporary freeze on new account opening. **Action:** Clerk to monitor and progress opening of account once this service is available again
b. The council have requested information from local residents regarding proposals for the village playpark, which will require a grant application. This was shared in the most recent Bugle edition. No feedback has been received to date. A further discussion in the meeting was held regarding the potential benefits of the grant application, and the more inclusive use of the playpark for the whole village. It was agreed further discussions would be had at the next Council meeting as an agenda item. Residents would be actively invited to the meeting to seek their views.
c. Payment for the St Mary's church banner approved at September's meeting was still pending. The clerk has confirmed with the gentleman coordinating these that Stow PC wish to purchase one.
d. WLDC have been in touch to follow up communications with Cllr Eden back in May 2026 regarding the proposed closure of St Mary's churchyard. They have indicated their intention to take on responsibility for maintenance of the cemetery from April 2027 subject to the provision of additional information and completion of specific works prior to transfer. **Action:** Clerk to share correspondence with Cllr Eden for him to follow up with WLDC & PCC.

046 Accounts and Governance
a. The clerk shared a summary of income and expenditure for the period since the last meeting (1st September to 31st October 2026 – see Appendix 1). It was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Arden that the payments be accepted. Resolved all agreed in favour.
b. It was proposed by Cllr Eden and seconded by Cllr Waudby that a second church banner be funded for St Edith's church, also in Stow Parish, in addition to that being funded for St Mary's. It was agreed that this was a one-off purchase to support the churches festival. Resolved all agreed in favour. **Action:** Clerk to organise additional banner purchase.
c. The draft 2027/8 budget was reviewed to support preparation of the precept request for next year. It was acknowledged that additional funds may be required to support the following:

- Maintenance of St Mary's churchyard during the period prior to the MOJ formally approving closure and maintenance responsibility transferring to WLDC.
- Internal annual audit - a resident who has kindly supported internal audits at no cost for a number of years is stepping down. Costs for this service will only be incurred if a new volunteer cannot be secured.

Action: Clerk to update draft budget based on the discussions in the meeting and re circulate for review to support confirmation of precept request at the January 2027 meeting.

047 Council and Village Issues
a. Cllr Arden has been exploring grant options to support enhancements to the village playpark. The discussion was around the installation of outdoor gym equipment that would enhance the playpark, and

make this a space that would benefit all Stow residents. It was agreed that Cllr Arden would continue with the grant application
b. An update on the proposed closure of St Mary's churchyard was covered in item 045d above.

048 Highways
LCC have recently responded to two ongoing enquiries and confirmed that:
- Damage to the water drainage pipe at South Drive has been repaired
- LCC do not own the land at Stow cemetery entrance

049 Communication with Parish Residents
It was agreed the following content would be contributed for the next issue of Stow Bugle:
- A list of parish councillors
- Information on the new booking system for LCC waste recycling centres
- A further note to ask residents about the proposal for the playpark
- A note from Lincs Police on latest contact methods

Action: Clerk to prepare content and forward to Bugle team.

050 Planning
Application WL/2026/00869 (Plot 1, Land South of The Old Rectory, South Drive) was discussed and comments agreed.
Action: Clerk to respond to WLDC with PC comments

051 Correspondence
None received in addition to maters covered elsewhere in the meeting agenda.

052County and District Councillor Reports
None received.

028 AOB
There have been concerns raised by residents regarding excess mud along part of Fleets Road. Cllr Arden agreed to report this to LCC via the Fix My Street portal.

Chair closed the meeting at 20:23

Appendix 1.

Clerk's Report on Income and Expenditure for the Period 1st September – 31st October 2026.

EXPENDITURE & INCOME DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS (Net.)	ANNUAL BUDGET	SPEND TO DATE (Net.)
Clerk Salary & Tax	0	587.34	2700	1581.3
Annual Play Park Inspection	0	91	0	91
Grass Cutting/Hedge Maintenance	0	795.60	4250	2385.9
Speed Sign Parts/Repair*	0	369	0*	369*
Hardware	0	64.99	800	64.99
Stationery	0	56.63	150	56.63

** Spent from SRF pot*

PC Bank Balance as of 31/10/26	**14301.91**
Balance includes:	
Stow Recreation Fund	£4,507.33
Of which, ringfenced for accessible play park equipment	*£468.87*
CIL Allowance for items for village use	£2,118.16
Total	£6,625.49