

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Stradishall Annual Parish Meeting
11th May 2026

PRESENT: Parish councillors Ian Hutchinson (Chair), Robert Deeks, Debbie Gates, Ed Hollingsworth and Louise Latache.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), Peter Thompson (Stradishall PCC), District Councillors Marion Rushbrook and Nick Clarke, a VAS volunteer, Simon Farnell (HERA) and two members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chair Ian Hutchinson.

The reports presented at the meeting are available on Stradishall Parish Council's website at <https://stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk/about-us/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2026/>

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from parish councillors Debbie Gates and Adrian Lee. District Councillor Karen Richardson also sent her apologies.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2025 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chair.

3. Report from District Councillors Marion Rushbrook and Nick Clarke.

Nick Clarke spoke about the following:

- West Suffolk Council has started work on a new Local Plan to accommodate the additional housing requirements passed down from central Government.
- All their locality budget has been spent. They are very keen that smaller parishes do not miss out on funding from this year's locality budget.
- Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk. There will be three unitary councils, West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Ipswich.
- Better Recycling is starting in June.
- The proposal for a new Forest City between Newmarket and Haverhill.

4. PCC report.

Church Warden Peter Thompson presented his report. The full report is available on the Parish Council's website. He has been involved in a lot of work to improve St Margaret's Church. They have applied for a Faculty to fix a leak in the church roof, but will need to raise the money first.

5. The John Houlth Charity.

The Chair of the John Houlth Charity, Jonathan Masefield spoke about the possibility of changing their charitable aims as they rarely receive applications for financial support. The full report is available on the Parish Council website.

6. HERA report.

Louise Latache presented the HERA report. They are working hard to improve the roads on the estate. They are planning to start taking up the loose surface tarmac in Chestnut Road to see what needs to be repaired underneath.

7. VAS management.

They have been using the VAS for two years now. Patterns are emerging showing when speeding is at its worst. Speeding is worse on the Street compared to Edmunds Hill. They will be interested to see the impact on speeding when the new post is installed on Edmunds Hill.

8. Chair's Report.

Ian Hutchinson thanked all the people who support Stradishall Parish Council, in particular his fellow councillors, the clerk, County Councillor Bobby Bennett and District Councillors Marion Rushbrook, Karen Richardson and Nick Clarke. He also thanked Louise Latache, Simon Farnell and HERA for their work on the Highpoint Estate and improving communication between the Parish Council and the Estate and Debbie Gates for allowing the Café to be used for meetings.

9. Financial Report.

The parish clerk presented the Council's financial report. The full report is available on the parish council website.

10. Village issues raised by members of the public.

Simon Farnell from HERA, the Parish Council Chair Ian Hutchinson and the clerk met Nick Timothy MP on 23rd April to discuss prison issues such as lighting and communication between the prison and the community. He is meeting the governor on 21st May and will update the Parish Council after that.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed

Dated.....

DRAFT