

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Stradishall Annual Parish Meeting
12th May 2025

PRESENT: Parish councillors Ian Hutchinson (Chairman) Adrian Lee, Robert Deeks, Debbie Gates and Louise Latarche.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), Peter Thompson (Stradishall PCC), County Councillor Bobby Bennett, District Councillors Marion Rushbrook and Karen Richardson, David Standing (VAS Management) and two members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chairman Ian Hutchinson.

The reports presented at the meeting are available on Stradishall Parish Council's website at

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from parish councillors Jonathan Masefield and Ed Hollingsworth.

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

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

3. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Bobby Bennett.

Bobby Bennett spoke about the following:

- Pothole repairs have increased by 34%.
- SCC has purchased a new gritting fleet.
- They have received 7.3 million funding for improving electric vehicle charging points.
- They are trying to improve air quality by encouraging vehicles not to idle especially outside schools.
- Adult and social care takes up a large amount of SCC funding; she thanked the voluntary groups that support this sector.
- SCC is supporting families through its Strong Families Partnership.
- Suffolk is one of the poorest funded counties for education.
- Local Government reorganisation will move to a unitary model. SCC has proposed one unitary council, district councils have put alternative proposals forward.
- Devolution will see the formation of a combined mayoral authority with Suffolk and Norfolk.
- She says the pavilion roof looks great. The PC thanked her for providing locality budget towards the pavilion roof.
- She was able to visit HMP Highpoint. She will pass on comments that there should be more community engagement with the parish. Councillors said that the prison had agreed to turn down the lights at the prison. This happened for a few months but they have now been turned up again.

4. Report from District Councillors Marion Rushbrook and Karen Richardson

Marion Rushbrook spoke about the following:

- Their Locality funding for 2024/25 was all spent. They are waiting to find out what the budget for 2025-26 will.
- They opposed increases in pavement licences, trading licences and parking charges but lost by 3 votes.

5. PCC report from

Church Warden Peter Thompson presented his report. The report is available on the Parish Council's website. He has been involved in a lot of work to improve St Margaret's Church.

6. The John Houlth Charity

The Chairman of the John Houlth Charity, Jonathan Masefield presented his report. The report is available on the Parish Council website.

7. HERA report.

Louise Latarche presented the HERA report which is available on the Parish Council's website. The committee is working hard to improve the roads on the estate.

8. VAS management.

David Standing presented his report. There are on average 1,000 vehicle movements a day through Stradishall village. Speeds of up to 60mph have been recorded but the feeling is that they signs have been effective on the whole.

9. Chairman’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 Latarche and HERA for their work on the Highpoint Estate. Peter Thompson and volunteers for their work at the church, Adrian Lee and volunteers for their work on the cricket pavilion and the VAS volunteers.

10. Financial Report

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

11. Village issues raised by members of the public.

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed

Dated.....