

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023

PRESENT: Parish councillors Ian Hutchinson (Chairman), Jonathan Masefield, Robert Deeks, Ed Hollingsworth and Louise Latache.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), District Councillors Nick Clarke and Marion Rushbrook and three members of the public.

1. Apologies and reason for absence.

Apologies were received from parish councillors Adrian Lee and Debbie Gates and the reason for absence accepted. District Councillor Karen Richardson and County Councillor Bobby Bennett also sent their apologies.

2. Declaration of interest by Councillors in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda and no dispensation requests were received.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023.

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman signed them.

4. Public session.

The following issues were raised:

- a) The Stradishall Church Revitalisation Project community consultation from 11th – 17th September 2023.
- b) The bat talk in St Margaret's Church on Saturday 9th September and the harvest lunch on 1st October.
- c) Louise Latache presented the HERA report.
 - There is now a new notice board up on the estate and it looks great.
 - She has received an update on how vehicles for the prison expansion will affect the HERA Estate.
 - Road fill have ignored correspondence from HERA about repairs to the road on the estate, therefore HERA has told residents that this will no longer be going ahead. They have arranged a meeting for the 11th September at Cafe 33 to talk about next steps with the roads.
 - HERA had its first AGM meeting on 31st August which went well. The current elected members have stayed the same and the minutes will be up in the noticeboard.
 - Another rounders game is going to be organised on Stradishall playing field on Saturday 30th September at 2.30pm.
 - There will be a litter pick on the estate on Sunday 10th September at 9.30am. It was resolved that vouchers for refreshments would be funded by the Parish Council and the payment approved.
 - HERA have their next meeting at Café 33 on 30th October at 7pm.

5. County Councillor's Report.

A written report was received. The report is available on the Parish Council's website at <http://stradishall.onesuffolk.net/about-us/meetings/meetings-reports/4th-september-2023/>

6. District Councillor's report.

No report was received as very little information is coming out of West Suffolk Council at the moment.

7. Police issues.

a) Public meeting with Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

A public meeting will take place on Thursday September 21st 2023 at Bury Town Football Club and an online meeting on Tuesday November 7th 2023.

8. To receive an update on the list of actions agreed at the last meeting.

There was one outstanding councillor action.

9. To discuss the following financial issues:

a) Approval of any payments and signing of schedule of payments.

It was resolved the following payments would be approved:

- HMRC – PAYE- LGA 1972, s111 – **£155.60.**
- J P Kirk – expenses - LGA 1972, s111 - **£31.33.**
- Risby Parish Council – print cartridge 17.5% – LGA 1972, s111 - **£7.99**
- West Suffolk Council – election expenses - LGA 1972, s111 - **£81.91**
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- Starboard Systems – Scribe subscription - LGA 1972, s111 - **£165.60 (£138 last year).**
- Risby Parish Council – phone costs (15%) of cost of clerk's mobile phone) - LGA 1972, s111 - **£21.01**

Jonathan Masfield and Robert Deeks signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings.

No payments were authorised between meetings.

c) To receive a statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting.

Payments

Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	Total
07/08/2023	307/12a	New noticeboard	Earth Anchors Ltd	£1,554.00
11/07/2023	310/10a	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£36.48
01/07/2023	297/9f	Bank charges	HSBC	£8.00
11/07/2023	312/5a	Portable toilet	Loopee Loo Toilet Hire Ltd	£480.00
11/07/2023	310/10a	Grass cutting	Adrian Lee Contract Services	£756.00
11/07/2023	312/15a	Cleaning of portable toilet	Loopee Loo Toilet Hire Ltd	£30.00
11/07/2023	310/10a	Pest control	DS Pest Control	£150.00
Staff costs as per confidential cashbook				

d) Bank balances and confirmation of bank reconciliation as of 31st August 2023.

HSBC current account	£263.38
HSBC reserve account	£11,437.00
Lloyds bank current account	£1,000.00
Total in Banks	£12,700.38

Jonathon Masfield verified and signed the bank statements and bank reconciliations.

f) Six-month budget review.

Receipts		
Budgeted	£9,994.00	
Actual	£10,387.00	
Difference	£393.00	VAT refund higher than budgeted and bank interest of £30.58 received.
Payments		
Budgeted	£9,646.00	
Actual	£5,607.00	
Difference	£4,039.00	
Overspends as of 30th August 2023		
Insurance		
Budgeted	£550.00	
Actual	£559.91	
Difference	-£9.91	New noticeboard added.
Other payments		
Budgeted	£100.00	
Actual	£1,295.00	Purchase of noticeboard for Highpoint Estate (covered by locality funding of £1,500 received in 2022-23)
Difference	-£1,195.00	
Village events		
Budgeted	£200.00	
Actual	£425.00	

Difference	-£225.00	Purchase of portaloos £400 and £25 cleaning charge
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The budget is currently on track.

Reserves balance as of 24th August 2023:

Earmarked reserves: £7,776.26

General fund: £4,924.12

Total funds: £12,700.38

10. Planning issues.

a) DC/23/1316/HH - White Cottage, Water Lane, Denston - Detached garage.

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

11. Highways/Rights of Way issues/tree/transport issues.

a) To confirm the locations of the VAS posts.

It was resolved that posts would be requested for all three locations approved by Suffolk County Council and that a payment of £275 would be approved for the third post.

It was also resolved that the Parish Council would budget to purchase its own VAS in 2024-25.

b) Update on the 20's Plenty for Suffolk campaign and the possibility of writing to Suffolk County Council to ask them to review their speeding policy.

Stradishall Parish Council has received the following response from Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste:

Forgive me replying once to four Parish Councils which you clerk, but the points they raise, under your authorship, are essentially the same and are covered by my response below:

Many would disagree with the views expressed by Members of Risby, Ousden, Stradishall and Moulton Parish Councils concerning 20mph speed limits. The County Council has no plans to implement blanket 20mph speed limits, except on a detailed case-by-case basis through the well-established Traffic Regulation Orders, where special local circumstances apply, proven by data and surveys.

Some Parish Councils who have contacted me over 20mph limits have also asked me to write in their supporting these zones to the Secretary of State for Transport. I am not willing to do this, but this, of course, does not preclude any or all of your four Parish Councils from doing so.

I am sorry that this reply will disappoint the members of your four Parish Councils covered by this reply.

Yours sincerely

Richard Smith

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would challenge this response with the clerk and Ian Hutchinson preparing the response.

c) Email from Highways about Lancaster Way junction.

County Councillor Bobby Bennett forwarded on the following response from Suffolk County Council:

Dear Councillor Bennett.

I have received your report regarding Lancaster Way in Stradishall – and the concerns that the development works at Highpoint Prison will overwhelm this road and the junction with the A143.

I have looked into all the documentation connected with the planning application for this. There were concerns raised by Suffolk Highways (echoing those raised locally) about the suitability of Lancaster Way and the impact to the junction/A143 itself.

A full independent report was commissioned on behalf of the Developer/Department of Justice. I have attached a copy of this above. There is a dearth of information contained – but to summarise briefly; this report concluded that apart from a widening of Lancaster Way to the entrance for the new access, there

was no requirement to widen the section of Lancaster Way to the junction with the A143, nor improve the junction itself.

This report took in existing and potential traffic flow – along with a speed survey here, which confirmed that the majority of traffic was complying with the speed limit on the A143.

The most recent comment from our Development Management Department states:

“...Further to the Highway Authority's earlier objection response dated 1 April 22. We have reviewed the Transport Statement Addendum and are now satisfied that the applicant's assessment is robust and that no A143/Lancaster Way junction improvement works are required to mitigate the increased vehicle movements...”

There is a caveat in the planning permission from West Suffolk District Council regarding Lancaster Way – this refers to any damage caused by this development, rather than any specific safety issues caused.

“...No part of the development shall be commenced until a strategy for the scope and implementation of a photographic condition survey of the 'Lancaster Way' and 'Steeplechase' highway has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the survey shall be carried out fully in accordance with the approved strategy. The photographic survey shall include a method statement detailing how any damage to the highway caused by vehicles during the construction phase/s will be recorded, reported and repairs (or other mitigation) carried out (including a timetable). Thereafter development shall be carried out fully in accordance with the approved method statement...”

All documentation relating to this development is publicly available on WSDC's website – link below:

<https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications>

This contains details of the application, any objections or concerns that have been raised (from any party) along with mitigation measures and studies and final outcomes and decisions.

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would collate evidence to support their concerns about the junction of the A143 and Lancaster Way to submit to Suffolk County Council.

d) Email from Highways about the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the A43 near the Highpoint Estate to 30mph.

County Councillor Bobby Bennett forwarded on the following response from Suffolk County Council:

Dear Councillor Bennett

I have spoken to the Safety and Speed Team regarding the request to lower the speed limit on the A143 through Stradishall – in the vicinity of the café/shops and Highpoint Prison.

Unfortunately, the most recent speed survey data for this area shows that the majority of traffic is obeying the speed limit (85% at or under 40mph) – this was carried out as part of the consultation for the expansion of Highpoint Prison. I acknowledge that there have been several incidents here but the data shows that speeding traffic is the exception rather than the rule.

Suffolk Police have commented that although speed is a factor in some of these collisions, a speed reduction would not prevent these types of incidents (if a small percentage of drivers are speeding through a clearly posted 40mph zone, there is little reasonable expectation that they would obey a 30mph limit). The review of this section of the A143 shows that the existing speed limit is appropriate, and Suffolk Highways would not consider a need to lower it at this time.

The PC can fund an additional speed survey or speed limit report here but I must advise it is unlikely any change would be supported.

Pedestrian Crossing on A143:

With regards to the request for a potential pedestrian crossing on the A143 from the Highpoint Estate to the shop/café, a feasibility study would be required for this, much the same as the one you have funded for Cavendish Road in Clare. This is to show the need for a crossing versus the suitability for a particular location.

I must advise that it is unlikely a crossing would be considered here:

- *Lack of existing footway from the Highpoint Estate, on the A143 or Lancaster Way (with the exception of the short section fronting the shop. We cannot install a pedestrian crossing without proper footways leading to/from it.*
- *Volume of pedestrian traffic. It is likely that this will not meet the criteria for a crossing; When looking at a potential site for a pedestrian crossing, one of the elements assessed is the conflict between vehicles and pedestrians – (how many pedestrians cross, what frequency and the average time waiting to cross safely) versus vehicle speed/number. The works at Highpoint Prison are not expected to give rise to a particular increase in staff pedestrian traffic according to the most recent reports, so only existing residents would be the normal users for this.*
- *Existing speed limit. As mentioned above, the current 40mph limit is considered appropriate for this section of the A143. We generally do not permit controlled pedestrian crossings on roads with a 40mph limit unless for exceptional circumstances (this leads in turn to the next issue).*
- *High cost. Assuming an exception is made to our criteria and the speed limit were to be reduced to allow a crossing here, the cost of the Traffic Regulation Order for this, the footway construction required to site a crossing, plus the cost of the crossing itself would easily exceed £150,000.*

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would respond to County Councillor Bobby Bennett expressing their disappointment and frustration that Suffolk County Council will not support the Parish Council in making the A143 safer for residents on the Highpoint Estate. The clerk and chairman agreed to prepare a report challenging these decisions.

e) Email from West Suffolk Council about moving the bin on the A143.

Stradishall Parish Council has received the following response from West Suffolk Council about moving the bin on the A143:

We do not empty this bin as it is not in a safe location and I'm not sure how it got there or who owns/empties but it may have been damaged by a lorry I'm told?

Lancaster Way is maintainable highway along the road but the houses on the estate all have their own boundaries with land register parcels in red.

With regards to the bin unless it's the shop/cafe who use it, the residents could move it but we would not be able to empty it or any other new bins in the area so this would be something that they would need to do locally.

Stradishall Parish Council then asked about purchasing a lockdown wheelie bin which are normally emptied as part of the weekly bin collection and received the following response:

They are done by a separate vehicle with a side loader lift for the bin which collects other dog and litter bins on its rounds.

The normal collection rounds are also at breaking point with all the new housing developments that have and are taking place so they are under review as well.

Nick Clarke and Marion Rushbrook agreed to follow up with West Suffolk Council.

f) Email from a resident about speeding on Edmunds Hill and requesting a 30mph speed limit.

The clerk had responded that Stradishall Parish Council had tried to get a 40mph speed limit on Edmunds Hill in 2021 and paid for a survey to measure vehicle speeds. Even though a significant number of vehicles were travelling more than 45mph, Suffolk County Council bases its decisions on mean speeds and gave the following response:

The collision history and speed data, do not demonstrate that there is a need for a 40mph speed restriction to be introduced in the requested location.

When considering 40mph buffers these can only be implemented subject to verification of high entry speeds – 35mph or greater mean speed, measured at the start of the 30mph limit; in this case the figure was 31mph, and therefore the criteria is not met. It is also noted that the seven day average mean speed recorded within the national speed limit was 41mph, therefore introducing a 40mph speed limit

with associated signage would be unlikely to make a significant difference to the current speeds in this location.

The latest data within Suffolk County Council's accident database has been investigated and concludes that there have been no recorded personal injury collisions along this section of the B1063 within the past 5-year period (01/10/2016 – 30/09/2021). Therefore, at this time, there is no justification for changes to be made in this location.

12. Playing field issues:

a) Latest play inspection report.

The following issues were raised:

- Remove the graffiti from the log climber.

13. Village issues:

a) Stradishall church revitalisation project community consultation from 11th – 17th September 2023 – for information only.

14. Correspondence:

a) Email from West Suffolk Council about Green Suffolk's Thermal Imaging Camera's Loan project.

Councillors agreed that this was a good idea. The clerk agreed to enquire about loaning a thermal imaging camera.

b) Information from Suffolk County Council about the Multiply Suffolk project offering bespoke coaching, training, and mentoring to support people into learning and employment across Suffolk by improving maths skills.

This information will be included in the next newsletter.

c) Email from Headway Suffolk about their new brain injury rehab hub in Haverhill.

This information will be included in the next newsletter.

15. Any other business for noting or including on the agenda of the meeting on Monday 6th November 2023.

No issues were raised.

16. To resolve to exclude press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960: the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information

It was resolved that members of the public would be excluded as the Parish Council has confidential staffing matters to discuss.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed: Dated: