

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st July 2024.

Councillors present: Robert Deeks (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Lee, Ed Hollingsworth, Louise Latarche and Jonathan Masefield. Ian Hutchinson (Chairman) arrived at 7.15pm.

Cllr Robert Deeks chaired the meeting until the Chairman arrived.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk). County Councillor Bobby Bennett, District Councillors Marion Rushbrook, Karen Richardson and Nick Clarke and six members of the public.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.

Cllr Ed Hollingsworth declared in item 11a on the agenda, planning application DC/24/0700/FUL. No dispensation requests were received.

3. Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st May 2024.

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

4. Public session.

The following issues were raised during the public session:

- There is a missing footpath sign in Stradishall village. County Councillor Bobby Bennett gave the resident details of how to report it to Suffolk County Council.
- Planning application DC/24/0700/FUL. Will there be pedestrian access to the church and playing field without needing to use the main road? Ed Hollingsworth said there are no plans at the moment but he will look into it.
- How long will the work take? Ed Hollingsworth said that the estimated time for the work to take place is 14 months.
- Class Q rules for converting agricultural buildings up to 1,000 square feet. Ed Hollingsworth said that this is the least preferred option as the existing footprint and structure would need to be maintained.
- The biggest worry is the demolition of the existing cold stores because of the noise and the dust. Ed Hollingsworth confirmed that the asbestos will be removed by hand before the demolition takes place. People will be given notice of when the work will take place.

5. Planning. This item was moved up the agenda.

a) DC/24/0700/FUL - Eight dwellings, landscaping and ancillary works - Land West - off Edmunds Hill, Stradishall

Ed Hollingsworth left the meeting and did not take part in the discussions or the decision. It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would not object to this application. Although the site is outside the existing housing settlement boundary, the removal of the cold store and the provision of new homes would be an improvement. Councillors also supported the mix of housing including bungalows and semi-detached properties.

The only concern was that there is no safe pedestrian route connecting the new properties to village amenities such as the church, playing field and bus stops in Stradishall. The only pedestrian route is along the B1063 which is a busy road with no footway. Provision of a safe pedestrian route would make the proposal more sustainable.

DC/24/0786/TCA - Clare House, 4 Cricket Meadow, Stradishall – fell one Cherry.

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

6. County Councillor's Report.

There is very little report, due to the pre-election period. The Trading Standards Team has brought some successful prosecutions, including a rogue trader and a trader who has breached fire safety regulations.

She will speak to Suffolk County Council about a temporary VAS. She should be able to donate some money towards a new VAS but cannot confirm until after the election.

7. District Councillor's report.

There was nothing to report due to the pre-election period.

8. Police issues.

No issues were raised.

9. HERA update.

Louise Latarche gave a short update. She has organised a rounders match on 7th July on Stradishall Playing Field.

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

There is one outstanding councillor action.

11. Finance

a) Approval of any payments and signing of Schedule of Payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- HMRC – PAYE - LGA 1972, s111 - **£169.00**
- J P Kirk – expenses - LGA 1972, s111 – **£45.72**

Jonathan Masefield and Adrian Lee signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings

No payments were authorised between meetings.

c) Statement of receipts and payments made since the last meeting.

Receipts

Date		
09/05/2024	Bank interest received	£6.60

Payments

Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	Total
02/05/2024	306/10a	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£25.74
02/05/2024	306/10a	SALC subscription	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£248.24
02/05/2024	306/10a	Internal audit fee	Mrs C Whitaker	£75.00
02/05/2024	306/10a	Insurance	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£511.41
28/05/2024	326/10e	Grass cutting	Adrian Lee Contract Services	£756.00
28/05/2024	336/10a	Churchyard maintenance	Stradishall PCC- St Margaret's Church	£600.00
Staff costs as per confidential cashbook				

Transfers

Date	From	To	Amount
02/05/2024	Lloyds bank current account	Lloyds reserve account	£10,000.00

d) Bank balances and confirmation of bank reconciliation as of 20th June 2024.

Lloyds bank current account	£1,879.84
Lloyds reserve account	£13,518.88
Total in Banks	£15,398.72

Jonathan Masefield and Adrian Lee verified and signed the bank statements.

e) Email from One Suffolk offering a gov.uk domain name and email addresses.

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would not pursue this at this stage due to the cost of £168 per year for each councillor to have their own gov.uk email address.

12. To review the following policy documents**a) Updated Financial Regulations.**

It was resolved that the updated Financial Regulations would be approved. The amount the clerk and chairman can approve outside of meetings was set at £500 for the clerk alone if she is unable to get approval from the chairman and £1,000 for the clerk and chairman.

b) Standing Orders.

No changes were required.

c) Scheme of Delegation.

No changes were required.

13. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues**a) To discuss the quote from Elan City for a VAS.**

Stradishall Parish Council has received a quote of £2,250.00 + VAT for a new Vehicle Activated Sign. District councillors Marion Rushbrook, Nick Clarke and Karen Richardson have all offered £300 each from their locality budgets and County Councillor Bobby Bennett has also pledged some money but cannot confirm the amount until after the elections on 4th July. As Stradishall Parish Council budgeted some money for a VAS it was resolved that the quote would be accepted and the payment approved. The clerk agreed to check the cost of solar panels and that the volunteers in the village who expressed an interest in helping move the VAS between sites are still willing to help. She also agreed to look into the cost of signs warning people of pedestrians and horses on the road.

14. To discuss the following playing field issues:**a) Latest play inspection report.**

The following new issues were raised:

- The sign should have the location postcode on it for use in the event of an emergency.
- Clean and treat the benches which have moss and algae on them.
- Replace missing or damaged bolt covers on the bench.
- Clean and treat the algae around the perch bench.
- Remove weeds around the perch bench.
- There are parts of the timber on the shelter which are damaged and need replacing.
- The activity trail is loose in its foundations. Reinstall.
- Activity trail. Parts of the timber are rough or splintered. Remove rough or sharp edges.
- Springs on the activity trail are damaged or worn with the metal underneath exposed. Treat any rusting components and replace.
- Replace the shackles on the swinging steps.
- Repair the damaged surface around the swings.
- Fixings on the swing seats are damaged or have sharp edges. Repair or replace as required.
- Clean and treat the basketball court to remove algae, silt and moss.

The priority is the roof of the shelter which needs replacing as this has been classed as medium risk. Ian Hutchinson agreed to check the cost of wood, Ed Hollingsworth agreed to find out if any of the contractors he uses might be interested in the work.

Mortimer Contracts has quoted for some of the other work above. It was resolved that Ian Hutchinson and Adrian Lee would decide which work to prioritise and that the clerk and Ian Hutchinson would be authorised to agree the payment.

b) Update on the purchase of the access track.

The purchase has gone through and the transfer document has been received. Stradishall Parish Council is waiting for confirmation that the property has been registered with the Land Registry.

15. To discuss any village issues.

No issues were raised.

16. To discuss any correspondence.**a) Email from Ron Bailey, researcher for Lord Don Johnson about the safety of lithium batteries.**

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would support the Safety Bill which aims to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries.

17. Any other business for noting or including on the agenda.

No issues were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated