

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024

Parish councillors present: Ian Hutchinson (Chairman), Adrian Lee, Ed Hollingsworth and Louise Latarche. Robert Deeks arrived at 7.45pm.

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

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from parish councillors Jonathan Masefield and Debbie Gates and the reason for absence accepted. District Councillor Nick Clarke also sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest 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 minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024.

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

4. Public session.

No issues were raised during the public session.

5. County Councillor's report.

Cllr Bobby Bennett spoke about the following Suffolk County Council issues:

- The official opening of the Haverhill Waste Recycling Centre on 6th November 2024.
- Suffolk County Council is in conversation with the new Government about a possible devolution deal.
- Suffolk Highways is working hard to tackle potholes.
- It is budget setting season. They are aiming for a balanced budget.
- She pledged £1,000 towards the cost of a new pavilion roof.
- She is still campaigning to get speed reductions along the A143.

6. District Councillors' report.

Fortnightly bin collections will continue. Cllrs Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook offered £400 of their locality budget towards the cost of a new pavilion roof.

7. Police issues.

Stradishall Parish Council asked the local Community Policing Team if they would be able to carry out speed checks in Stradishall. PC Cheryl Claydon confirmed that monthly checks are carried out by the SafeCam van. The number of people caught speeding was:

April 2024	9
June 2024	5
July 2024	8
August 2024	13
September 2024	18

PC Claydon also carried out a speed check but no one was caught.

8. HERA report.

Louise Latarche presented the HERA report. The AGM took place a couple of weeks ago. A new Chairman, Simon Farnell, was appointed. She asked about the possibility of replacing the bin opposite the shop.

9. Update on list of actions agreed at the last meeting.

There was one outstanding councillor action.

10. Finance

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

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved:

- J P Kirk – expenses – LGA 1972, 2111 – **£24.48**
 - Moulton Parish Council – one-off rental fee for clerk's new work printer - LGA 1972, s111 - **£30.00**
 - Adrian Lee Contracting Services – grass cutting – Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10 – **£630 + VAT**
- Adrian Lee Contracting Services – hedge cutting – Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10 Total

including VAT – **£120.00**, repairs and fitting bolt covers to play equipment £120.00, cleaning and replacing bolt covers on bench seat **£180.00**. Total: **£1,230** including VAT.

Ed Hollingsworth and Ian Hutchinson signed the Schedule of Payments. The Chairman also countersigned it.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings.

One payment was authorised between meetings – Loopee Loo Toilet Hire Ltd – cleaning of portable toilet - **£30.00**. The cost was refunded by the PCC.

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

Receipts

Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	
09/09/2024	Lloyds reserve account	Bank interest received	HSBC	£10.67
11/09/2024	Lloyds bank current account	Cleaning of portable toilet	Stradishall PCC- St Margaret's Church	£25.00

Payments

Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	
03/09/2024	343/9a	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£24.48
03/09/2024	343/9a	Scribe accounting software	Starboard Systems Ltd	£165.60
03/09/2024	343/9a	Padlock for VAS	David Standing	£29.09
11/09/2024		Toilet cleaning.	Loopee Loo Toilet Hire Ltd	£30.00
23/09/2024	126/10e	Hedge cutting	K Hutchinson & Son	£129.00
16/10/2024	326/10e	Website hosting fee	Community Action Suffolk	£60.00
Staff costs as per confidential cashbook				

It was resolved that the statement of receipts and payment would be approved.

d) Bank balances as of 31st October 2024.

Lloyds bank current account	£653.17
Lloyds reserve account	£11,572.20
Total in Banks	£12,225.37

Adrian Lee verified and signed the bank statements.

e) Update on registering for online banking.

This is ongoing.

f) Budget 2025/26, reserves balance and precept request.

The following larger amounts have been included in the budget:

- Tree works - £600
- VAS fund - £600
- Playing field maintenance - £1,500

With the budget allocations, the earmarked reserves balance in 2025/26 will be £12,013.

It was resolved that:

- The 2025/26 budget would be approved. The precept request would be £13,007. The parish council element for a band D household will be £74.79 per annum an increase from £71.02 which equates to £3.77 per annum per band D household, an increase of 5.31%.

11. To discuss the following planning issues.

Planning application DC/24//FUL (Stradishall Garage) has been refused by West Suffolk Council.

12. Highways/rights of way matters/tree or transport issues.

a) Applying for a Highways licence for a 'Pedestrians on road' and 'horses' warning sign.

Cllrs Ed Hollingsworth and Adrian Lee agreed to make a site visit to look at possible locations for signs.

b) Suffolk County Council's consultation on their Local Transport Plan to 2040.

Details of this consultation have been circulated to councillors for them to compete individually.

13. To discuss any playing field issues.**a) September inspection report.**

The following issues have been completed:

- The algae/moss on the bench has been removed and the bolt covers replaced.
- Missing bolt covers on the play equipment have been replaced.

There is one medium risk issue – the pavilion roof needs to be repaired. Stradishall Parish Council is awaiting confirmation of locality funding as detailed above.

14. To discuss any village issues.**a) Report from Friends of Stradishall Church and Community.**

Cllr Adrian Lee updated the Parish Council. The village survey asking residents' views about the possibility of raising money for a community room in the Church did not get many positive responses and the decision was made to wind up the Friends of Stradishall Church and Community. The PCC agreed to apply for grants for any work needed on the church. The Friends of Stradishall then had to decide what to do with the money raised up until that point. The hope was that some of the money would be given back to the community and could be used to repair the pavilion roof, but the decision was made to give all the money to the Church. Thanks to the generosity of Cllrs Bobby Bennett, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook this work can now go ahead.

15. Correspondence.**a) Email from SARS requesting a donation.**

It was resolved that a donation of £50 would be made.

b) Email from West Suffolk Citizen's Advice updating Stradishall Parish Council about the services they provide to support West Suffolk Residents and requesting a donation.

It was resolved that a donation of £50 would be made.

16. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda.

No issues were raised.

17. 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.**a) To discuss staffing matters.**

It was resolved that members of the press and public would be excluded to enable to the Parish Council to discuss confidential staffing matters.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Signed: Dated: