



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 31st January 2024

24.01.01

Present : Cllrs. R Barnes (Chairman), Pallett (Vice-Chairman), Ball, P. Barnes, Corlett, Slater and Spillett, SCC Cllr. Bennett, MSC Cllr. Pugh, three members of the public, the Locum Clerk and the newly-appointed Clerk

1. **Welcome** – the Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the new Clerk. He advised that the meeting would be privately recorded.

2. **Apologies for absence - NONE**

a. **Declarations of interest – NONE**

b. **Declarations of interest dispensations – NONE**

3. **APPROVED** – the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th November 2023 as a true and accurate record.

4. **Public Forum**

Martin Slater met Cathy Smith, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, re the Chapel graveyard clearance - a good job was done by local volunteers clearing/cutting hedges etc. A report is forthcoming.

A community event is being organised for 24th February by the Parish Council. The Village Hall and the Good Neighbour Scheme. This is a pilot to encourage residents to meet with each other and their representatives to find out and influence what is being organised in the village..

Other proposed events include celebrating the D Day 80th Anniversary in June, perhaps with medals to be given out - details to follow.

5. **County, District and Parish Councillor's Reports**

SCC Cllr Bobby Bennett began by paying tribute to the recently deceased Mary Evans, former County and District Councillor, who, she remarked, had been a valued and supportive colleague.

Bobby then touched on SCC's difficulty in achieving a balanced budget for the coming year - reserves will be used to cover the shortfall. She mentioned Highways progress on blocked drains, damaged manhole covers, and a local faulty signpost, noting that reporting of such matters can be performed by anyone accessing the SCC Highways tool on its website. The ANPR camera is due shortly. The faulty footpath bridge has been repaired

WSC Cllr Sarah Pugh spoke to her report, noting funds were still available from her Locality Budget, with a cut-off date for application of 21/3/24.

6. **Planning and Development** – no planning applications or decisions to report.

The WSC Local Plan Consultation is currently ongoing and further discussion is needed to establish the Parish Council's view prior to 12/3/24.

7. **Community**

a. **Good Neighbour Scheme**

There are currently 15 registered volunteers and it was reported that two more are in the offing.

The scheme is working well within budget for the year, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors. It has received half the Werst Suffolk grant via the PC, and the balance of £500 is due to be paid to the scheme shortly. The clerk will arrange this.



24.01.02

b. Footpath and Highways matters (including gritting).

It was advised that SCC Highways do not grit B roads as a matter of course but will fill approved grit bins. Self-help gritting was discussed with other parishes. Cllr Pat Barnes is awaiting some clarity from SCC.

8. Clerk’s Report

The Emergency Plan item was now complete / It was **AGREED** that SALC would be the Council’s Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 Financial Year / Speeding remains an ongoing problem and a working group has been set up to consider all options – Pat and Justin initially, welcoming others wishing to be involved / **APPROVED** - two safety warning signs for the Chapel Graveyard. Other items pending.

9. RFO Report

- a. **APPROVED** – the list of payments (below), the Bank Reconciliation and the Statement of Accounts
- b. **APPROVED** – A virement of £1,500 from the Salaries cost code to be spread across several other cost codes (as indicated) to regularise the year-to-date budget.
- c. **APPROVED** - the **2024 Budget** as proposed with a total precept of **£8,851**, resulting in an **unchanged Band D** household charge.

11 January 2024 (2023-2024)

Stansfield Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
67 Salaries	19/12/2023		Unity Trust		Clerk's salary	Annie Lines	X	259.13		259.13
68 Home Working Allowance	19/12/2023		Unity Trust		Home Working Allowance	Annie Lines	X	15.00		15.00
69 Bank fees	11/01/2024		Unity Trust		Bank fees	Unity Trust	X	9.20		9.20
70 Email monthly fees	11/01/2024		Unity Trust		Email - Microsoft Exchange Pla	Force36 IT Consultants	S	28.80	5.76	34.56
71 Other	11/01/2024		Unity Trust		Printing costs	Red Side Up	S	50.00	10.00	60.00
72 EE Mobile subscription	11/01/2024		Unity Trust		Phone costs	EE mobile	S	19.99	4.00	23.99
Total								382.12	19.76	401.88

10. Agenda Items for future meetings

- 11. **CONFIRMED** - the date of the next meeting as 13th March 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm.