

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stradbroke Parish Council
held via Video Conference on Monday, 4th May 2021 @ 7.30pm**

Present: Mandy Allen, Antony Bush, Jeremy Fox, James Hargrave, Kamal Ivory, Maureen John, Susan Loxton, Toni Wisbey

In Attendance: Odile Wladon (Clerk), Cllr Flatman, Cllr McGregor and 8 members of the public

Item Ref	Description
21.05.1	Election of Chair Councillors voted to appoint James Hargrave as Chair for the Parish Council for the year to May 2022.
21.05.2	Chairman's welcome A reminder was given that the meeting was being held via video and live streamed and that anyone speaking at the meeting was deemed to have given consent to being recorded.
21.05.3	Apologies for Absence: (a) Councillors noted apologies for absence from Velda Lummis and Debbie Cotton-Soares. (b) Councillors voted to accept the apologies for absence.
21.05.4	Declarations of Interests: (a) There were no Councillors' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests (b) There were no Councillors' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in subsequent agenda items
21.05.5	Dispensations: No dispensations were requested.
21.05.6	Council Vacancies: (a) Councillors noted the resignation of Jamie Wright. Councillors were advised that a notice of vacancy has been posted and the period in which an election can be called ends on 5 th May, if no election is called the vacancy can be filled by co-option. (b) Councillors reviewed applications received and voted to co-opt Russell Ayling . Councillors agreed to carry forward the 2 nd application to be considered should an election not be called by 5 th May.
21.05.7	Appointment of Vice Chair Councillors agreed to defer this appointment to the next meeting.
21.05.8	Appointment to Committees/Working Parties/Representative Bodies (a) The following memberships were approved <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance Committee – TW/JH/MJ/AB 2. Personnel Committee – TW/KI/SL 3. Planning Committee – until further notice, this committee will operate as a Working Party. MA/AB agreed to join the working party. 4. Community Centre Representative Trustees: TW/KI 5. SALC Representative: Chair/Clerk (b) Councillors voted to defer further appointments to the next meeting. (c) Councillors noted that all Terms of Reference will be reviewed following the outcome of the Government consultation on remote meetings. (d) Councillors noted that the Clerk is the Council's Responsible Financial Officer.
21.05.9	Minutes: (a) Councillors reviewed and approved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 30 th March 2021 were a true record of the business conducted. (b) Councillors voted to suspend Standing Order 3t (viii) pending a full review of Standing Orders at the next full council meeting.

Item Ref	Description
21.05.10	<p>Public forum:</p> <p>A member of the public addressed the council to regarding - DC/21/02047</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal must be conditioned to Barley Brigg activities, • The red line plan excludes the barn with consent for 150 vehicles per day • A condition must restrict use to what the agent refers to in the planning statement for the 2019 application, where the agent stated (page 5 2.10) the development is an agricultural crop drying building etc. This section is noted in the current application on page 2 point 2.2 • Cllrs attention was drawn to the fact that the applicant references two previously granted permissions for a barn from 2017 and 2019. • Applicant's own statement says that the barn is not intended for 3rd party drying use. • Paragraph 4.15 in current planning statement notes – building adjacent to this one 2008 approved 150 vehicles load in, which would equate to 3000 tonnes in a day and is not feasible as the building is not big enough. • It was requested that the Mid Suffolk are asked that this new barn is conditioned.
21.05.11	<p>County Councillor McGregor</p> <p>Unable to attend due to purdah period for the County Council elections taking place on 6th May 2021.</p> <p>District Councillors Flatman</p> <p>Cllr Flatman submitted her apologies and requested that any questions for her be sent via email and she would respond as soon as possible.</p>
21.05.12	<p>Planning:</p> <p>(a) Councillors reviewed and approved the following responses to planning consultations as follows:</p> <p>DC/21/02175 – Erection of single storey side extension and front dormer extension. Three Corners Yard, Laxfield Road</p> <p>Barley Brigg Farm, Laxfield Road IP21 5NQ</p> <p>DC/21/02047 – Retention of extension to an agricultural building approved under DC/19/01673, including minor changes to eaves and ridge height and use of building for crop drying & storage. Councillors voted to OBJECT to this application and the Clerk will submit comments accordingly. Cllr Flatman will be asked to call-in the application to be determined at a MSDC Development Control meeting.</p> <p>Comments regarding statements made in the application form will be submitted for the following:</p> <p>DC/21/02045 – Discharge of conditions application for 1837/17 - condition 4 (landscaping scheme)</p> <p>DC/21/02046 – Discharge of condition application for DC/19/01673 – condition 6 (landscaping scheme)</p> <p>(b) Councillors noted the decisions issued by Mid Suffolk District Council:</p> <p>DC/21/00619 – Hubbards, Queens Street IP21 5HG GRANTED</p> <p>DC/20/05715 & 05716 – Barley Green Farm, Laxfield Road IP21 5JT GRANTED</p> <p>DC/20/05938 – Six Acres, Battlesea Green IP21 5NE GRANTED</p> <p>DC/21/01138 – Ebdens Farm, Pixey Green IP21 5NJ GRANTED</p> <p>DC/21/01542 – Fennings Farm, Pixey Green, IP21 REPORT ISSUED BY MSDC</p> <p>DC/20/01697 – Barley Brigg IP21 5NQ GRANTED AT CTTEE</p>

Item Ref	Description
	<p>(c) Other Planning Matters: DC/20/05917 - Land To The South Of New Street Councillors reviewed the proposal for a LEAP and agreed that a fully accessible footpath across the land to be given to the Parish Council to connect the new development with the existing play park is required for this development in lieu of a LEAP.</p> <p>Councillors recommend that should a cash sum be provided instead of the fully installed footpath, this should reflect the cost of installing a LEAP and the full amount allocated to the Council to enable a safe and accessible path to be provided to the current LEAP on the Wilby Road site adjoining the land being given to the Parish Council as part of this development.</p> <p>Councillors considered the suggestion for a car park to serve the land to be given to the Parish Council. As the use of the land has not be decided by the Council, there is no final plan as to the best location for a car park at this time, Councillors considered a cash sum to allow the Council to create a car park when needed was the best way forward.</p> <p>Councillors recommend that a firm agreement is reached on the sum of money to be allocated for this project to ensure that sufficient funds are set aside for the project to be undertaken fully and professionally when the decision is made on the location of any car park requirement.</p>
21.05.13	<p>Monthly Finance reports:</p> <p>(a) No bank statements were available due to the May Day bank holiday, Councillors noted the account balances at the year-end were verified by the internal audit.</p> <p>(b) Councillors approved the salary/wages for 2021/22 in line with contractually agreed pay scale increase (SCP24 to SCP25) and the increase in living wage (as per budget approved in December 2020).</p> <p>(c) Councillors noted the payments made in April 2021 to fulfil contractual obligations.</p> <p>(d) Councillors approved Standing Orders and Direct Debits for recurring payments plus BACS payments for invoices received in month for online authorisation as per the schedule appended to the minutes.</p> <p>(e) Councillors noted the receipts received in the March & April 2021 including the 1st instalment of the precept.</p> <p>(f) Councillors approved that the VAT amount of £2,921.14 for 2020/21 be reclaimed during May.</p>
21.05.14	<p>2020/21 Year end Accounts</p> <p>(a) Councillors noted that the Finance Committee had reviewed the year end actual vs budget accounts and noted that all variances were fully explained and accepted.</p> <p>(b) Councillors approved the 4th quarter virements and establishment of new reserved funds for Health Centre & Training/Legal, as per the Reserves Schedule.</p> <p>(c) Councillors approved the year end accounts and explanation of variances.</p> <p>(d) Councillors agreed the revised Asset Register and noted the two in-year additions: safety signs at £275.25, plus Leisure Centre at £1.00 (not previously recorded).</p>
21.05.15	<p>AGAR 2020/21 – Annual Governance & Accountability Return</p> <p>(a) Councillors reviewed the report prepared by the Internal Auditor and noted that no audit points were raised. Thanks were expressed for the comprehensive report undertaken by the Internal Auditor and to the Clerk for her work. The Chair noted it was</p>

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	<p>good to receive external validation of the Clerk's work and to receive a report showing the Council's governance in a good light.</p> <p>(b) Councillors approved the responses to Schedule 1.</p> <p>(c) Councillors approved Section 2 - the Accounting Statement 2020/21</p>
21.05.16	<p>Parish Council Policies & Council Documents</p> <p>Councillors approved the Reserves Policy as proposed by the Finance Committee.</p>
21.05.17	<p>Budget 2021/22</p> <p>Councillors approved a revised budget as recommended by the Finance Committee – copy appended in the minute book.</p>
21.05.18	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>(a) Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre: An 'in-person' meeting will be able to take place once COVID restrictions are fully lifted.</p> <p>(b) Health Centre: legionella and asbestos assessments have taken place.</p> <p>(c) Public Works Loan: the following guidance has been received – <i>I cannot guarantee the success of an application before it has been submitted and assessed and ultimately it is at the council's discretion to decide when to borrow for capital expenditure and to satisfy themselves that the purpose of borrowing meets the definition of capital expenditure as laid out in the 2003 Local Government Act. The Code normally excludes day-to-day servicing such as repairs and maintenance from the definition if they do not add to the future economic benefit or service potential of the asset. I would encourage the council to submit an application to us so it can be assess in full with all the evidence required so a final decision can be established.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The works to refurbish the building and ensure it is energy efficient will fall into the category of capital expenditure as it will be for the future economic benefit of the building and its users. • Councillors noted an email received from Mr P Smith of the Stradbroke Trust regarding the Parish Council considering taking out a loan and the response received from the Practice Manager in response to the questions raised. Copy appended to the minutes. <p>(d) Chapel: the estimated cost for an electrical connection is £8.5k</p> <p>(e) Land Registration: The Community Centre Trustees will be discussing the matter of the ownership of the tennis courts at their next meeting in May. No update has been received from the solicitor regarding all other land registration.</p> <p>(f) Tree works: a quote was received and reviewed by Finance Cttee, the contractor was instructed to undertake work as one large bough was considered to be in a dangerous state.</p> <p>(g) Community shed: Shed users were reminded to contact the Parish Council before carrying out any work on the building.</p> <p>(h) Energy Audit : Update received from Mid Suffolk – We did try to get the community heating assessment done as part of the Low Carbon Skills Fund but I am afraid that under the terms of the scheme it was not possible to look at community heating for the leisure centre and adjacent buildings as they are already electrically (albeit inefficiently) heated. We are still planning to do a comprehensive heating audit aimed at determining if there is potential to install a community heat network to cover the three buildings on the site and I will keep you updated. As part of the bid there is the potential to install solar panels on the leisure centre roof and we will need to discuss this with the Parish Council as I believe you own the building. There is another opportunity for solar carports to be installed and further information is being gathered with regards to this.</p> <p>(i) Electric Charging Points: no update received since last meeting.</p>

Item Ref	Description
	<p>(j) Asset of Community Value: Confirmation has been received that the Ivy House has been registered as an Asset of Community Value.</p> <p>(k) 'Horse' warning signs: an email received from Highways on the matter and requesting a map showing locations for signs was forwarded to the resident who requested they be installed. A response is awaited.</p> <p>(l) Matters for information: No matters have been submitted for this meeting.</p>
21.05.19	<p>Risk Assessments: Councillors to note any issues raised concerning:</p> <p>(a) Westhall play park – goal nets need to be secured</p> <p>(b) Community Centre play park</p> <p>(c) Fitness Track – there is evidence of moles on the playing field</p> <p>(d) Permissive Path</p> <p>(e) Cemetery</p>
21.05.20	<p>Updates and reports from Committees, Representatives and Working Parties:</p> <p>(a) Committees: Finance Committee met on 7th April, the recommendations from this meeting are included in minute references 21.05.14, 16, 17 & 24.</p> <p>(b) Community Centre representatives- a verbal report was presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the absence of a response from the Charity Commission about title to the tennis courts, a discussion will take place at the next SSCC meeting.</i> • <i>A list of current trustees and who they represent was circulated.</i> • <i>Public consultation on the new extension to be organised in July.</i> • <i>A draft constitution for a change to CIO will be presented at the next meeting.</i> • <i>The Community Centre will have a restricted reopening on May 18th, followed by full reopening on June 21st.</i> • <i>Discussions are to take place by the Social subcommittee about a post-lockdown event proposed for the afternoon of 26/27 June.</i> • <i>AGM is to be arranged.</i> • <i>Next meeting Tuesday 18th May in the main hall of the Community Centre.</i> <p>(c) Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways – Councillors noted the minutes of meeting from Eye Town Council and letter from Stradbroke Parish Council. • Broadband – County Broadband are continuing their engagement within the parish and the Council has provided them with all the contact details of developers who are currently looking to build in the parish. • Youth Council – this project will move forward once COVID restrictions are eased. • Climate Change – Councillors approved the statement submitted from the working group as appended to the minutes.
21.05.21	<p>Delegation to the Clerk</p> <p>Following a decision in the high court that determined that remote meetings were not permitted under current legislation after midnight on 6th May, the Councillors approved the following motion:</p> <p>In accordance with S101 of the Local Government Act 1972, authority is delegated to the Clerk as the Council's proper officer to make decisions on behalf of the council as and when appropriate in accordance with the Terms of Reference included in the Scheme of Delegation Policy.</p>

Item Ref	Description
21.05.22	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>(a) Tabled: there was no tabled correspondence.</p> <p>(b) Emails: Councillors noted correspondence previously circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALC weekly bulletins • COVID 19 & ICS Briefings • Mid Suffolk Area Forum – meeting notes
21.05.23	<p>Grit Bins</p> <p>The Clerk will produce a report the request for Grit Bins to be installed in the village centre.</p>
21.05.24	<p>Action Plan & Guide</p> <p>This item was deferred to the next meeting.</p>
21.05.25	<p>Date of the next meeting: 12th July 2021</p>

Meeting closed at: 21.27pm

Signed: _____

Date:

Surgery

Thu 15/04/2021 10:03

Dear Parish Council,

Ref. your works on the Surgery, I was Chairman of the Trust for 23 years which maintained the Surgery and was forced to hand it over to the P.C. I believe I am qualified to comment on your proposals to take out a loan to pay for changes.

The Trust had great difficulty persuading the N.H.S. that we needed a Surgery, they felt that the Fressingfield Surgery was adequate. They agreed to the Trust financing it explaining that there might be a change of policy in the N.H.S. to discontinue branch Surgeries, the Trust would be left with no Doctors and only the building.

This makes taking out a loan very dangerous, my advice for what is worth is,

1- Consult the Practice,

2- Consult the N.H.S. and only take out the loan if you receive written confirmation that they will continue to provide Doctors for the Stradbroke Branch Surgery.

The Trust had a very good relationship with the N.H.S. and the Doctors, this has now gone, so please proceed with care.

Please forward this letter to the whole Parish Council. Yours faithfully P. D. Smith

Stradbroke Health Centre

CIVIL, Katie (FRESSINGFIELD MEDICAL CENTRE)

Thu 22/04/2021 14:21

Hi Odile,

Thanks for your e-mail.

In answer to the comments from Peter Smith I enclose below an e-mail previously sent and this remains our stance as we just don’t know what the future holds for general practice and therefore cannot make any commitments about the future of Stradbroke Medical Centre.

..... the statement below which was provided to the Parish Council in May 2017 and remains relevant:

We are not aware of any immediate concerns for the future of Stradbroke Medical Centre. We know that on a National level the current Governments plans for General Practice are to work at scale we do not yet know what implications this will have for rural practices like ourselves. We know that this is a very challenging time for General Practice as many Practices struggle to recruit clinical resources and are having to make decisions on their future and how best to maintain safe services for their patients with a backdrop of increasing demand.

Other scenarios that affect a Practices ability to maintain an additional surgery are Pharmacy applications. Practices do not receive any additional reimbursements other than rent to cover the higher running costs of an additional surgery so rely on income from dispensing to enable them to maintain services. Hopefully we will not face this scenario.

As things develop on a National and Local level we will keep all interested parties informed and consult to ensure we continue to maintain the level of service to our Patient that we currently provide, but to reassure you that we are not aware of any immediate concerns for the future of the Medical Centre. Many of the developments within General Practice are outside the control of Practices, so it is a wait and see game I am afraid.



Climate Change Working Party—Promoting and sustaining biodiversity in Stradbroke Swifts and other small birds.

Swifts are glorious birds that spend 10 months on the wing for feeding, sleeping, mating and gathering nesting materials. They mate for life and travel from Africa to Britain every year to breed, a dangerous journey that makes them vulnerable to climate change. Swifts are part of spring and summer in Stradbroke, with their vibrant call and dramatic sweeps across the sky. But their numbers are seriously in decline, as is happening over the UK. (1) This is due to changes in building practices and materials, such as steel, plastics and cladding. Renovation of old buildings, such as barns, has caused traditional nests, holes, cracks and other nesting opportunities to disappear. We are in imminent danger of losing our Stradbroke swifts.

However, if the SPC recommends that all new builds be fitted with swift/universal bird bricks (at least 2), this could make a big difference and help boost the numbers of swifts here. Additionally, sparrows, house martins, blue tits, great tits, starlings and nuthatches have all been recorded nesting in swift bricks. The RSPB and the Swift Conservation recommends all new builds use swift bricks as universal bricks for birds.(2) This creates ecological enhancement, which buyers will appreciate and which is cost-effective. All birds are threatened by climate change, so installing breeding places this way makes sense. Swift boxes are always fitted at least 5m high on a building and have specific requirements, so are more difficult to install for a householder.(3)

I hope the SPC agrees that a recommendation to developers is a way to enhance new buildings in the village as recommended by the publications below. (4) It could be added to our Neighbourhood Plan. We will support and sustain avian diversity in Stradbroke, which is part of our climate change adaptability action for wildlife.

(1) *British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) surveys has shown a dramatic fall in swift numbers. The reported figures are now 60% fewer over the last 20 years. (Amber listed, but probably will be red-listed on the endangered list at next review: www.swiftconservation.org).*

(2) *www.swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf*

(3) *The Climate Change Working Party will be putting an article in Stradbroke Monthly and our Facebook page in Stradbroke Community Website and making a short leaflet for villagers who might be interested in putting up swift bird boxes.*

(4) *Biodiversity: <https://www.government/publications-planning-policy-framework>
Benefits to wildlife: www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment
Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's report, "Bricks for bees and birds in new build homes": www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-with-beauty-report-of-the-building-better-building-beautiful-commission.
National Planning Policy Framework, 2019 Section 170d): ".....providing net gains in biodiversity"
National Planning | Policy Guidance, 2019: "important benefits for wildlife, such as incorporating swift boxes....."
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government press release 21/07/19: "...how developers can protect specific species, including ...hollow...swift bricks".*

Toni Wisbey