



# STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

6 Homefield  
Capel St Mary  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP9 2XE

E-mail: [parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@stratfordstmary.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stratfordstmary.onesuffolk.net/](http://www.stratfordstmary.onesuffolk.net/)

**Chairman**  
Roger Barrell

**Stratford St Mary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th  
November 2025, at the Village Institute at 1930hrs.**

## MINUTES

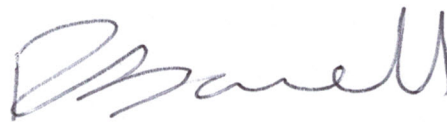
### PRESENT:

Cllr R Barrell – Chairman  
Cllr B Davies  
Cllr L Shead  
Cllr R Carvalho  
Cllr G Robinson  
Cllr N Wright  
Cllr M Pearce

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Faye Hall - Clerk  
Member of the public - 7

- 01.11.25 Present and apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr D Robinson, Cllr N Woodard and District Councillor John Ward.
- 02.11.25 To accept members declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's code of Conduct.** Cllr G Robinson – Village Institute Committee
- 03.11.25 To approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.**  
The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of October 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr Davies, all in favour.
- 04.11.25 Public Forum and receive reports from the District and County Councillor**  
Councillors had submitted their most recent reports which had been circulated by the Clerk and are also available to view on the Parish Councils website.  
Hayley Hearn from Constable Country Childcare was present at the meeting to give details of their planning application for the former site of the Abc nursery – planning application DC/25/03878. Suffolk County Council have advised that there are 12 children that can't get childcare places in the

  
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ward so there is a need for another nursery. The proposed nursery will also help the primary school provide wrap around care. Initially Hayley does not expect the nursery to be full, but volumes will build up over years. SCC have a bit more land that can be used to put 2-3 parking spaces on for staff so will maybe end up with 5 parking spaces but this is not on the plans that have been submitted. Members of the public voiced their concerns about the nursery adding to the current parking issues on Strickmere and the surrounding roads that is caused by parents dropping off/picking up their children from the primary school, concerns over where staff are going to park and the nursery adding to the volume of traffic in SSM.

**05.11.25 Weir Bridge**

Residents have reported there have been workmen measuring the bridge for installation of some fencing. It is not clear who instructed them so we should see who arrives and try and establish who sent them. Cllr Robinson has asked assistance for a local solicitor to further the idea of the Parish Council taking possession of this asset as being unclaimed. No update received from Savills – Clerk to chase. Clerk

**06.11.25 Double yellow line proposal on the B1029 from SSM to Dedham**

Dedham Road Suffolk side – progression of putting in full lines in the area, with no break. No update received – Clerk to chase. Clerk

**07.11.25 Parking on the pavement outside The Swan**

No update received for the extension of the double yellow lines - Clerk to chase. Clerk

**08.11.25 Planning Applications**

Discuss any planning applications that have been received.

**APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/03878**

**Proposal:** Full Planning Application - Demolition of existing unused single storey modular preschool building and construction of single storey pre-school facility with dual pitch and flat roofs.

**Location:** Abc Pre School, Country Primary School, Strickmere, Stratford St Mary Colchester Suffolk

**Extension to comments given to the 13.11.25**

The PC agreed to write a letter expressing that they are extremely concerned about parent/staff parking, there are already parking and traffic issues caused by parents dropping/picking up children at the primary school and the nursery will further add to this, the application does not provide any onsite parking, there are already concerns with the volume of traffic coming in and out for the primary school and the nursery would further add to this. There are also concerns for children walking to the school and the impact a greater number of moving vehicles will have on children on foot. Cllr Wright proposed, Cllr Carvalho seconded, all in favour. Clerk

**APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/04221**

**Proposal:** Householder Application - Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension and Pergola

**Location:** 11 Drum Field, Stratford St Mary, Colchester, Suffolk CO7 6NU

Comments by 20.11.25

Planning application was discussed, Cllr Wright proposed no comment, Cllr Davies seconded, all in favour.

**09.11.25 Chairman's comments**


The Chairman and Cllr Davies laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service.

Email received from James Cartlidge with regards to a meeting he is holding in Sproughton on the 21.11.25 to discuss National Grids plans. If people objected the first time, then they need to register and object again.

**10.11.25 Correspondence and Clerks Report**

Cllr Davies asked about the ownership issue of the tree behind 95 School Lane and 1 Veyses End – Cllr D Robinson did a land registry search which shows that the tree is on the property's boundary. This has been sent onto the homeowner.

**11.11.25 Finance**

  
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**(1) To approve the expenditure since the last meeting and to receive a financial report from the RFO including balances at bank.** The expenditure sheet, financial report, bank statements, accounts and reconciliations were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting – copy of expenditure sheet and financial report are attached to the minutes. Proposed by the Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr G Robinson, all in favour. Decision – expenditure of £2,838.24 from 21.10.25 to 10.11.25 and balance at the bank at 31.10.25 Barclays current account £7,245.69, Santander current account £0 and the Santander reserve account £14,066.66 were approved by all.

**(2) Monthly cashflow analysis against agreed Precept.** No comment

**(3) Monthly cashflow reserves.** No comment

**(4) Precept for 26-27 and budget** – a draft budget was circulated to the Cllrs before the meeting. PC in agreement that the precept will need to be increased for 26/27. Clerk to work on draft budget and finalise for agreement at January's meeting. **Clerk**

Transfer of PCs savings from Santander to Barclays Bank – The Chairman and Cllr Davies will arrange a date and time to call Santander to arrange.

Earmarked reserves – all in agreement to take off the earmarked reserve for the litter picker as this will be covered in the budget. **Clerk**

Donation request received from the Parish Room for help towards costs for refurbishment. Cllr Davies proposed to donate £250, Cllr Shead seconded, all in favour. **Clerk**

**12.11.25 Village Institute**

Village Institute Representative – no updates

**13.11.25 Field next to the Village Institute**

Compulsory purchase law change and loss of field to housing – update on the proposals towards making the field an open space or village green. The Chairman is to arrange a meeting with Richard Thomson to discuss. **RB**

**14.11.25 Neighbourhood plan**

Holton St Mary PC and Higham PC have expressed an interest in doing a joint Neighbourhood plan with SSM PC. No updates received.

**15.11.25 The River Garden**

Licence agreement – no update from Savills

Update on installation of a bollard – Blands have confirmed that the quote of £150 plus vat from 2023 is still valid. The Chairman advised that he will look for an alternative bollard as the one agreed at the November meeting 2023 is now out of stock – max expenditure £250. **RB/Clerk**

**16.11.25 Electric Pylons campaign – National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project**

National Grid have now made a formal submission, all in agreement to register with the Planning Inspectorate. The Chairman will review the original document and circulate to send in for the PCs objection. Residents are also urged to register and submit their comments. **RB/Clerk**

**17.11.25 Village Sign refurbishment**

The sign was taken away on the 06.11.25 and refurbishment will take about 4 weeks. Cllr Wright will arrange to replace the plaque on the sign. **NW**

**18.11.25 Millennium Avenue – tree pruning**

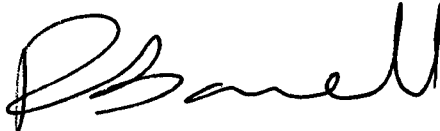
Quote received from Bland Landscapes of £350 plus vat for additional tree pruning – Cllr G Robinson proposed to accept, Cllr Carvalho seconded, all in favour. Additional pruning to be done before March. **Clerk**

**19.11.25 Scheduled Councillor walks / Village works action plan**

Cllr D Robinson has sent out a reminder to Cllrs to add any works required to the spreadsheet.

**20.11.25 Promotion of the Parish Council**

Update to be given on the resident's surveys – defer to January's meeting.

  
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**21.11.25 New residents' pack**

Update to be given – defer to January's meeting.

**22.11.25 Development of a 'Supergroup'**

Cllr G Robinson proposed the development of a 'supergroup' to meet once or twice a year - to brainstorm and outline community events, objective is for events to be co-ordinated and supported/promoted by all. The Church, Village Life, the Primary school, the Village Institute and the Community Trust have all confirmed that they would like to be involved for an initial meeting in January 2026. The PC are all in agreement to become involved – could become involved with assisting with donations and also this would be a good way to promote the PC.

**23.11.25 Confirm a date for the Annual Parish meeting 2026**

All in agreement for the Annual Parish meeting to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. Clerk

**24.11.25 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council**

None

**25.11.25 Confirm the date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 at 1930hrs at the Village Institute for the next meeting. The meeting date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 was confirmed**

Meeting closed at 2052hrs

*D Banell*  
12/1/26



FINANCIAL REPORT

to 31.10.2025

Balance at bank Current Acc Santander

£0.00

Balance at bank Current Acc Barclays

£7,245.69

Balance in Santander Reserve Acc

£14,066.66

Balance in Barclays Reserve Acc

£0.00

Interest Earnt Reserve Acc

£0.00

Receipts since last meeting

(£348.05 CIL, £2,260 earmarked for double yellow lines outside The Swan, £815 for village sign (£500 already in budget), £6,000 legal reserve and £135 Parish election reserve - £4,508.61 not earmarked)

		PLANNED EXP.	ACTUAL SPEND TO DATE	BUDGET LEFT
General Admin	Audit	502.00	502.00	0.00
	Chairman's Expenses	125.00	0.00	125.00
	Clerk's Salary	7,800.00	4,550.00	3,250.00
	Employer NI contributions	420.00	0.00	420.00
	Clerk's Expense and room use	400.00	221.82	178.18
	Internet Use	120.00	70.00	50.00
	Software\Computer equip Microsoft	80.00	104.99	-24.99
	S137 Donations	S.137 Allowances	2,000.00	1,855.00
Playground	Inspection	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Maintenance / repairs			
	Bark replacement			
Village Maintenance	Tree Maintenance	450.00	882.00	-432.00
	Institute Grass Cutting	1,076.00	545.30	530.70
	Millennium Garden Grass cutting	578.00	105.20	472.80
	Millennium Ave & River Garden Grass cutting/Maintenance	735.00	330.75	404.25
	Litter pick	1,617.20	493.90	1,123.30
	Village Sign Maintenance	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Interium village grass cutting	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Subscriptions/Training/Publications/Website	SALC Membership	380	348.45	31.55
	River Stour Trust	25.00	25.00	0.00
	Open spaces	45.00	0.00	45.00
	Community Action Suffolk	52.80	0.00	52.80
	Comm Action Suffolk Website	66.00	0.00	66.00
	Training	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Email app/ICO DataProt/Internet	84.00	151.58	-67.58
	Institute/Parish Room Hire	Institute Hire/Parish Room Hire	220.00	149.00
Village Lighting / maintenance contract	Lighting/Maintenance	785.00	695.38	89.62
Insurance	Insurance	607.00	654.91	-47.91
Misc	Misc.	500.00	2,236.61	-1,736.61
Admin	Admin	350.00	173.80	176.20

£29.99 replacement rubbish bags for A Reilly, £39.98 reimbursement for damaged trainers, £1.20 charge from Barclays to pay a cheque in to transfer funds from Santander, £120 emergency telephone system, £2,038.64 TRO amendment for Dedham Rd, SSM double yellow lines

*D. Small*  
10/11/25

Dog/litter bins emptying	Dog/Litter Bins Emptying	1,311.00	1,394.40	-83.40
Wreath	Wreath	20.00	20.00	0.00
Speed gun expenses	Speed Gun expenses	1,000.00	293.75	706.25
Speed signage	Speed signage			
Noticeboard/Cycle rack rent	Noticeboard/Cycle rack rent	25.00	25.00	0.00
Parish Election Costs	Parish Election Costs	135.00	0.00	135.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24,496.00</b>	<b>16,628.84</b>	<b>8,780.16</b>

*R. Smith*  
10/11/25