Stonham Aspal Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at Stonham Aspal Village Hall

Present: Cllr Emberson (Chair), Cllr Mullings, Cllr Mitson, Cllr Haugh, Cllr Wright
Attendance: Members of the public

26.93	**Member Absences** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Morley and Clerk.
26.94	**Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests** Cllr Wright declared a pecuniary interest for planning application DC/26/03501.
26.95	**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 6th October 2026** The minutes were approved as a true record by Cllr Emberson and are available online at www.stonhamaspal-pc.gov.uk.
26.96	**Reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor**
26.96.1	**County Councillor Matthew Hicks** did not attend. His report which is available on the Parish Council website: www.stonhamaspal-pc.gov.uk/meetings.
26.96.2	**District Councillor Nicholas Hardingham** read out his report which is available on the Parish Council website: www.stonhamaspal-pc.gov.uk/meetings.
26.97	**Contributions by Members of the Public** Members of the public were invited to comment on any agenda item or other matter concerning them or the parish. Further contributions during the remainder of the meeting were permitted only at the Chair's discretion. In 2019 planning permission was granted for 46 residential properties to be built on the old football club ground, and included in the permission was a new sports pavilion, football pitches for senior and youth teams and a dedicated public play area. The football club has operated on the land for over 60 years on a continuous basis. Building was due to commence in 2020 but disrupted by the covid pandemic and building subsequently commenced in 2022. In respect of the public right of way that crossed the land to be used for the football pitches, a temporary stopping up order was issued by MSDC on 12 December 2024 to close the footpath that cut across the football pitches and gardens in Delsons Meadow and redirected the PROW to follow the tarmac footpath in Delsons Meadow and around the edge of the football club land. The sports pavilion and senior football pitch were handed over to the football club in the summer of 2026 for the commencement of the 2026/27 season. Unfortunately, as soon as the football club took possession of the site and put sports equipment, goalposts and nets in place they found that equipment was being vandalised. In addition, dog walkers were using the ground to exercise their dogs and not clearing up after them. The football club's only sources of income are from taking match day fees from their players and from drinks and food the pavilion kitchen provides for players and spectators. Therefore, even a small amount of damage caused by vandals cannot easily be rectified. In respect of the dog mess being left on the pitches, if dog faeces get into an open wound, graze or small cut, the infection can develop into sepsis with life threatening consequences particularly to the younger players. Therefore, until the developers complete on their obligations to erect fencing around the ground, the football club took the decision to erect temporary fencing in an effort to stop the vandalism and dog mess. The heras fencing also prevents any unauthorised access by what is known locally as 'unsocialable traveller' groups. These groups have, in recent times, camped on the green spaces in the village of Stowupland and have caused untold damage to the grass surfaces, caused anti-social behaviour, left piles of rubbish and human waste on the areas for others to clear away as well as causing criminality in the immediate area. A small number of residents have complained to Suffolk Council about the temporary fencing obstructing the public footpath, and the council have instructed the football club to remove the fencing. At the same time Suffolk Council will not make the temporary footpath permanent as they claim a small section of grass is not currently suitable for walkers (in front of the pumping station). However, this same area of land is also part of the existing footpath, so Suffolk County council are now aware of this inconsistent approach. It must be noted that the reason this section of grassed area, along with the play area, could not be seeded or turfed earlier in the year was due to the lack of rainfall. Having checked both areas today, they are now growing well. In addition, the existing public footpath also cuts across 4 properties in Delsons Meadow and that two of the properties are also obstructing the public footpath, one with a brick wall, the other with a concrete and wooden fencing. The public footpath also cuts across the front gardens of nos 5 & 7 Delsons meadow. Should the

	existing public footpath remain in place these householders will have to accept the temporary removal of their fencing and the use of their gardens as part of the public footpath. Having spoken with the chair of the football club, he has advised me that if the existing PROW stays in place they will not be able to use the pitches, for either senior or youth games. This is something the club can simply not afford to do, as the cost will be prohibitive and, as the season has already commenced, there is very little likelihood the club will be able to find football pitches to rent. Both myself and the Chair of the football club believe that common sense should prevail in this case. We believe the temporary stopping up order can be extended or remade until such times as the sward passes whatever test is needed. And once the developers complete their obligations in terms of fencing and additional parking we all hope that normal service will be resumed. A meeting with the PROW officer and our ward Suffolk County councillor soon will hopefully resolve the issue.
26.98	**Planning**
26.98.1	**Consideration of planning applications** DC/26/03501 | Full Planning Application - Erection of 1no. self build dwelling attached annexe and double garage following demolition of existing bungalow | Lochcarron Mill Green Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6DA. Cllr Wright left the room while members considered the application. Members took a neutral position on the application. DC/26/04306 | Householder Application - Erection of a cartlodge. | Kiosk Cottage The Street Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AF. Members took a neutral position on the application.
26.98.2	**Decision notices** DC/26/02155 | Householder Application - Proposed first floor side extension, single storey rear extension and alterations. | 4 Birds Garden Cottages East End Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AS – granted DC/26/03058 | Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/01026 - Condition 4 (Construction Method Statement), Condition 5 (Scheme of hard, soft and boundary treatment landscaping works), Condition 6 (Approved details of landscaping), Condition 7 (Scheme for water, energy and resource efficiency measures), Condition 8 (Means of foul sewage treatment), Condition 9 New access onto the highway), Condition 10 (Storage and presentation for collection/emptying of waste and recycling bins) | High Elm Bungalow Crowfield Road Stonham Aspal Suffolk – granted DC/26/03697 | Discharge of Condition Application for DC/26/02758 - Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancement Measures). | The Waltz Stowmarket Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AA – granted
26.98.3	**Other planning matters** No other planning matters were raised.
26.99	**Finance and Governance**
26.99.1	**Authorisation of payments** The payments were approved and signed by Cllr Emberson and Cllr Haugh: 1. Sam Pass – Clerk's salary for October and office expenses: £244.61 2. CAS – Annual website hosting: £70.00 3. Heelis & Lodge – Internal audit for 2025/26: £245.00 4. Hugofox – DD for September & October subscriptions: £41.98 5. Stonham Aspal Village Hall – Hall hire: £120.00 The Clerk reported that the Heelis and Lodge internal audit invoice had been missed for payment. This had been identified during preparation of the accounts.
26.99.2	**Proposed budget for 2027/28** Members briefly discussed the precept and agreed to defer consideration of the proposed budget to the January 2027 meeting. **Action Clerk:** To check the 2024 precept rate and report to the January 2027 meeting.
26.100	**Reports from Councillors**
26.100.1	**People and Place Plan** – Cllr Morley was absent.
26.100.2	**Recreation ground, including sign** Cllr Mullings reported that the recreation ground was closed following a RoSPA report identifying three pieces of equipment requiring attention. The rocking horse was obsolete and would be removed, with the ground then

	restored. Repairs to the roundabout had been quoted at £4,171.96, and the zip wire was scheduled for repair. The recreation ground would reopen once the work had been completed.
26.100.3	**Resilience and Emergency Planning** Cllr Morley and Cllr Mullings. Cllr Mullings reported on behalf of Cllr Morley that further work was required to complete the initial Emergency Plan documents. Once completed, the plan would be submitted for Parish Council approval and published on the website for parishioners to view. Meetings with parishioners and interested parties would be held in early 2027.
26.101	**Updates**
26.101.1	**20mph flashing sign – Cllr Emberson** A delivery date still unknown. The Clerk had contacted Mallite, which confirmed that problems with parts were causing the delay. Cllr Haugh agreed to take responsibility for operating the speed indicator devices and reporting the associated information at Parish Council meetings. **Action:** Cllr Emberson and Cllr Haugh – Arrange a meeting to discuss these responsibilities.
26.101.2	**Dog bins – Cllr Emberson** The Clerk had ordered the new bin, which had been delivered to Cllr Emberson who will install it on an existing post at the Pound. The spare post supplied with the bin would be used for a dog bin at Homestead Park. **Action: Cllr Emberson** – Install the new bin at the Pound.
26.101.3	**Stonham Barns – Cllr Emberson** Cllr Emberson has emailed the Stonham Barns representative to request a meeting. No response had been received as yet.
26.101.4	**Parish Council website and domain – Cllr Morley and the Clerk** Problems had been experienced with uploaded documents disappearing and members had identified website forwarding issues. **Action: Clerk** – Follow up the document-upload problems with HugoFox.
26.102	**Community Infrastructure Levy Funding** No applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding had been received.
26.103	**Communications** Members agreed that communications would cover the initial work on the Emergency Plan An explanation of the delay to the flashing signs, which had been expected to be installed at the start of the autumn school term in September An update on the recreation ground An update on the public right of way at Homestead Park. Peter's update was to be checked
26.104	**Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting** No other matters were raised.
26.105	**Date of Next Meeting** The next Parish Council meeting would be held at 7pm on 5th January 2027. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Cllr Teresa Mullings on behalf of Sam Pass, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk 12th November 2026