Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 7pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at Stonham Aspal Village Hall

Present: Cllr Emberson (Chair), Cllr Morley, Cllr Mullings, Cllr Mitson, Cllr Haugh, Cllr Wright
Attendance: Members of the public and Sam Pass (Clerk)

26.79	**Member Absences** There were no apologies for absence.
26.80	**Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests** No interests were declared.
26.81	**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 1st September 2026** The minutes, available online at Minutes » Stonham Aspal Parish Council (onesuffolk.net), were approved by Cllr Emberson.
26.82	**Reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor**
26.82.1	**County Councillor Matthew Hicks** read out his report which is available on the Parish Council website: www.stonhamaspal-pc.gov.uk/meetings.
26.82.2	**District Councillor Nick Hardingham** read out his report which is available on the Parish Council website: www.stonhamaspal-pc.gov.uk/meetings.
26.83	**Contributions by Members of the Public** Concerns were raised regarding matters at Homestead Park: **Footpath** – Cllr Emberson advised that hedging was expected to be installed in November to indicate the footpath route. The football club land is leased and therefore private; signage would be installed once the hedging was in place. **Communication** – A Facebook post from the Football club had asked residents not to walk on the pitch but it was suggested that better communication is needed to encourage considerate parking on match days. **Dog bin** – It was suggested that the new dog-waste bin be located near the start of the footpath. **Play area** – The proposed play area (as shown on the development plan) was understood to be a secure area for children; clarification is needed from Cllr Hardingham regarding future responsibility for it. **Recycling bins** – It was noted that the recycling bins had been removed. The Clerk would contact Mid Suffolk District Council to ask whether a textile recycling bin could be provided. **Action: Clerk** **Parking provision outside the football club** – Cllr Emberson agreed to investigate the reported provision of two spaces and would raise parking and related matters at his forthcoming meeting with the football club. Dalson's Meadow was noted as an unofficial overflow car park. **Action: Cllr Emberson**
26.84	**Planning**
26.84.1	**Consideration of planning applications** DC/26/04108 – Conversion of the former public house, shop and residential unit at The Ten Bells, The Street, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AF, into a shop, accommodation and an additional residential unit. DC/26/04109 – Listed Building Consent for the same proposal. Members agreed that the information supplied was insufficient to understand the proposed use and noted the absence of a planning statement. The Clerk would write to the planning authority to ask why sufficient information had not been provided for the Parish Council to reach a decision. **Action: Clerk**
26.84.2	**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/26/03589 | Application for Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/24/05394 - Changing from black timber vertical batten and board to black timber horizontal feather edge boarding. | Elm Farm Debenham Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket IP14 6AE – granted DC/26/03912 | Application for a Non-Material Amendment to permission DC/26/02379 (variation of DC/22/01513) to change to approved window material from black-stained timber to Timberlook Heritage

	Flush Sash uPVC windows in a black finish | Red House Farm Mickfield Road Stonham Aspal IP14 5LT – refused
26.84.3	**Other planning matters** No other planning matters were raised.
26.85	**Finance and Governance**
26.85.1	**Authorisation of payments** The payments were approved and signed by Cllr Mullings and Cllr Emberson. 1. Sam Pass – Clerk's salary for September and office expenses: £259.55 2. HMRC – P30 Qtr 2: £182.00 3. Alpha Rural Service – Recreation ground works: £168.00 4. Glasdon UK – New dog bin: £201.70 5. PKF Littlejohn – 2025/26 external audit fees: £252.00 6. SALC – 12 months payroll service: £122.40
26.85.2	**2025/26 External audit review** It was noted: 2025/26 AGAR, section 2 box 11, was incorrectly answered The Parish Council did not have a generic email address hosted on an gov.uk domain at the time of audit. However, the Parish Council has now adopted gov.uk email addresses and domain.
26.86	**To Receive Reports from Councillors**
26.86.1	**People and Place Plan – Cllr Morley** Confirmed that this work had been completed.
26.86.2	**Recreation ground – Cllr Mullings** Reported quotations for repairs to the horse and zip wire. The highest estimated zip-wire cost is £1,564 and the overall cost could approach £10,000. Members discussed the absence of complaints of partial closure, possible funding from Suffolk County Council or Mid Suffolk District Council, and the need to budget for ongoing maintenance. It was agreed that all cost information should be obtained before deciding whether to establish a working party.
26.86.3	**Village signs – Cllr Morley** Confirmed that the work had been completed. The Clerk would remove this item from future agendas. **Action: Clerk**
26.87	**Updates**
26.87.1	**20mph flashing sign – Cllr Emberson** It was suggested that responsibility for the speed indicator device needed to be allocated to another councillor. **Action:** Cllr Emberson to discuss this task with Gerald Brooks.
26.87.2	**Dog bins – Cllr Emberson** Confirmed that these had been ordered.
26.87.3	**Stonham Barns – Cllr Emberson** Reported that no response had yet been received.
26.87.4	**Parish Council website and domain – Cllr Morley and the Clerk** Confirmed that the new website was live. **Action:** All – Cease using the SAPC Yahoo email accounts Clerk – Unpublish pages on the old website and display a notice directing visitors to the new site. Contact Charles Brookson who runs the Stonham Aspal Village website to update details. Update policies and other documents with the new website address. Cllr Morley – to check that "HugoFox" did not appear in search-result addresses
26.88	**Resilience and Emergency Planning** Nikki Morgan from MSDC presented to the meeting the Community Emergency Preparedness and Resilience plan. Cllr Morley proposed the formation of a new working party. Cllr Morley and Cllr Mullings would establish the group, with additional members to be invited as the plan developed. The resulting plan would be presented to residents.
26.89	**Community Infrastructure Levy Funding**

	No applications for Community Infrastructure Levy funding had been submitted.
26.90	**Communications** To remind householders to cut back hedges encroaching onto footpaths New website and email arrangements Emergency plan Interest in the recreation ground
26.91	**Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting** Residents' concerns about overgrown hedges and narrow footpaths were discussed. It was suggested that hedge cutting should be arranged to maximise safety. The Clerk would contact Suffolk County Council to ask whether it contacts landowners requiring hedges to be cut back. **Action: Clerk**
26.92	**Date of Next Meeting** The next Parish Council meeting would be held at 7pm on 3rd November 2026. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Sam Pass, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk 11th October 2026