STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026

PRESENT: Parish councillors Ian Hutchinson (Chair), Jonathan Masefield, Adrian Lee, Ed Hollingsworth, Robert Deeks and Louise Latarche.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), County Councillor Bobby Bennett, District Councillor Marion Rushbrook and three members of public.

1. **Apologies and reason for absence.**
   Apologies were received from parish councillor Debbie Gates and the reason for absence accepted. District Councillor Karen Richardson also sent her apologies.

2. **Declaration of interest by councillors in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.**
   No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda. No dispensation requests were received.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026.**
   It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The Chair signed them.

4. **Public Session.**
   The following issues were raised during the public session:
   - The proposal for a Forest City between Newmarket and Haverhill and what the Parish Council's position is.

5. **County Councillor's Report.**
   County Councillor Bobby Bennett spoke about the following
   - The proposal for a Forest City between Newmarket and Haverhill. We must not be complacent about it because it will have a huge impact on the area. Because the proposal is so large the decision would be made at national, not local level. She will speak to Nick Timothy about making sure people are made aware of it.
   - The Government has scrapped proposal for local government reform in Norfolk and Suffolk.
   - It has been a punishing summer for farmers and fire brigade.
   - She will raise the possibility of a 30mph speed limit on the A143 with Suffolk County Council.

6. **District Councillor's report.**
   District Councillor Marion Rushbrook spoke about the Local Government Review. The District Council elections will be carried out next year as planned.

   Councillors said that it can be difficult to get hold of Customer Services at West Suffolk Council. The Apex has been diverted to Customer Services as well and it can be very difficult to get through on the phone. She agreed to follow up with this.

   She has locality available. The clerk agreed to email her with a request for funding for replacement swings.

7. **Police issues.**
   One assault was reported in Stradishall in July.

8. **To receive an update on the list of actions agreed at the last meeting.**
   There were no outstanding councillor actions.

   Update on clerk's actions
   - The clerk has checked and updated the Parish Council website to ensure that it meets accessibility requirements.
   - The Street Furniture Licences for the Pedestrian Crossing signs have now come through. It was resolved that the clerk would order the signs from Road Signs Direct and arrange installation with D J Haill.

9. **To discuss the following financial issues:**
   a) **Approval of payments and signing of Schedule of Payments.**
      - HMRC – PAYE- LGA 1972, s111 – **££196.60**
      - J P Kirk – expenses **-** LGA 1972, s111 - **£29.92**
      - Starboard Systems **–** Scribe subscription - LGA 1972, s111 - **£231.94** (£165.60 last year).
      - K Hutchinson & Son – hedge cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 - **£162.00**

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- Risby Parish Council – phone costs (15%) of cost of clerk's mobile phone) - LGA 1972, s111 – **£31.36**
- Community Heartbeat Trust – replacement defibrillator pads – GPC – **£188.34**
- Stradishall Parish Council has also received notification of the latest NALC annual pay award for local government employees backdated to 1st April 2026. It was resolved that the clerk would be paid the new rate with immediate effect and that a payment of for 5 months back pay would be approved.

b) Approval of payments authorised between meetings.

No payments were authorised between meetings.

c) Approval of the record of receipts and payments made since the last meeting.

Receipts

Date	Description	Amount
09/07/2026	Bank interest received	£10.64
10/08/26	Bank interest received	£9.77

Payments

Date	Minute	Description	Supplier	Total
02/07/2026	353/10e	Grass cutting	J Barrett	£160.00
07/07/2026	397/11a	Clerk's expenses	J Kirk	£15.33
07/07/2026	397/11a	Use of Cafe 33 for meetings	Cafe 33	£200.00
07/07/2026	397/11a	Installation of new swing frame	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£4,014.00
20/07/2026	398/11g	Extended warranty VAS	Elan City Ltd	£102.06
20/07/2026	381/9e	Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	£4.25
22/07/2026	368/14b	Paint for cricket pavilion	Resident	£193.63
10/08/2026	399/13a	Street Furniture Licence	Suffolk County Council	£180.00
20/08/2026	381/9e	Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	£4.25
Staff costs as per confidential cashbook				

Transfers

Date	From	To	Amount
07/07/2026	Lloyds reserve account	Lloyds current account	£4,000.00

d) Bank balances and confirmation of bank reconciliation as of 31st August 2026.

Lloyds current account	£1,096.68
Lloyds reserve account	£22,295.18
Total in Banks	**£23,391.86**

e) Six-month budget review.

Overspends as of 30th August 2026

Room hire for meetings		
Budgeted	£0.00	
Actual	£200.00	
Difference	**-£200.00**	Use of Café 33 for meetings
Defibrillator maintenance		
Budgeted	£50.00	
Actual	£280.00	
Difference	**-£230.00**	Replacement battery
VAS		
Budgeted	£50.00	
Actual	£85.05	
Difference	**-£35.05**	Extended warranty

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Reserves as of 31st August 2026

Earmarked reserve	Opening Balance	Transfers	Spend	Receipts	Current Balance
Election costs	£1,858.09	£100.00			£1,958.09
Village events	£628.00				£628.00
Clerk and councillor training	£133.76	£20.00			£153.76
Playing field maintenance	-£750.50	£7,187.00	£3,538.63		£2,897.87
Playing field project	£200.00				£200.00
Playing field (moles)	£350.00	£50.00			£400.00
Inspection of play equipment	£612.00				£612.00
Traffic Regulation Order	£2,600.00	£100.00			£2,700.00
Defibrillator					£0.00
Verge cutting	£100.00				£100.00
Defibrillator maintenance	£456.00	£50.00	£280.00		£226.00
Village project	£815.00				£815.00
VAS fund	£606.91		£85.05		£521.86
Tree works	£1,100.00				£1,100.00
Highways work		£2,455.00	£180.00		£2,275.00
TOTAL RESERVE	**£8,709.26**	**£7,907.00**	**£4,083.68**		**£12,532.58**
GENERAL FUND					£8,814.05
TOTAL FUNDS					**£23,391.86**

f) Storage box for party tent.

Adrian Lee agreed to organise a storage box for the party tent and liaise with Ed Hollingsworth about collecting it. It was that a payment of up to £100 would be approved.

10. Planning issues.

a) Proposal for a Forest City between Haverhill and Newmarket.

It was resolved that Stradishall Parish Council would support Nick Timothy MP's campaign.

b) Planning applications received between meetings or after the agenda was published.

04/07/2026	DC/26/1003/TCA	8 Cricket Meadow, Stradishall	Group of field maples (1 on plan) overall crown reduction by two metres
20/07/2026	DC/26/1089/TCA	4 St Margaret's Place, Stradishall	15 Leylandii (G1 on plan) fell to ground level

c) Local Plan Call for Sites update from West Suffolk Council.

West Suffolk is at an early stage in preparing a new local plan for the area. A 'call for sites' consultation has also been undertaken to inform preparation of the new local plan. In total 328 sites submitted by developers and landowners, some of whom have decided to carry out their own public engagement about their sites.

Each site is now being assessed by West Suffolk Council in accordance with government guidance to understand if it is potentially suitable, available, and deliverable.

The outcomes of the scoping consultation and site assessments will inform the next stage of consultation on the local plan in 2027 which will seek the views of local communities on how new housing growth is to be distributed across the district over the plan period. There will also be a further public consultation scheduled for 2028 on a draft Local Plan for West Suffolk.

The key messages at this stage is that no decisions have been made on the sites submitted to West Suffolk Council.

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4 Highways/Rights of Way issues/tree/transport issues.

a) To approve the draft 20mph Speed Survey.

It was resolved that the policy would be approved. Completed surveys can be dropped at Stradishall Café, 11 St Margaret's Place or a photo sent via email or WhatsApp.

b) Speeding along Hawbush Road.

Changing speed limits is not easy as there is a process that has to be followed and specific criteria need to be met. Hawbush Road does not currently meet the criteria detailed in Suffolk County Council's Speed Limit Policy. Any costs would also have to be met by Stradishall Parish Council, including a speed survey and Traffic Regulation Order.

5 Playing field issues:

a) Latest play inspection report and annual inspection report.

All the issues raised were low risk. Adrian Lee has tightened the fixings on the equipment.

13. To discuss an updated Unauthorised Encampment Policy.

It was resolved that the policy would be approved.

14. Village issues:

a) Request by a resident for the Parish Council to reconsider its decision not to adopt the phone box in the Street.

The Chair explained the background to the phone box and the previous decision not to adopt it. Stradishall Parish Council looked into adopting the phone box in 2021 and carried out a survey in Stradishall village to gauge the views of residents. Six responses were received (8.7%) supporting the idea and one offer of help

The Parish Council got in touch with BT to look into the possibility of adopting but were told by BT in November 2022 that this was not possible as the kiosk was not available for adoption because at the time there was insufficient mobile coverage for the telephony to be removed.

There was also the added complication that the phone box is listed and listed building consent might be required for future work.

In January 2025 the telephony was removed from the phone box by BT with BT remaining responsible for maintaining it.

A request was made in May 2025 to reconsider adopting the phone box, but councillors decided against it because of the ongoing financial commitment and the limitations of the phone box being listed.

It was resolved that this decision would stand. Like all organisations, Stradishall Parish Council has limited funds and their income is from the precept which is part of the Council Tax. It has to prioritise which projects it funds and consider who will benefit most. The Council's current priorities are updating the play equipment and tackling speeding.

Should the resident who asked for the decision to be reviewed wish to pursue adoption independently and take on responsibility for the phone box, councillors said they would support this.

b) Update from Anglian Water about the regular burst water main along the B1063.

An application to upgrade the water main has been submitted to Anglian Water's Mains Renewal Team. There is no date as yet for when the mains renewal scheme will take place.

c) Update on the presentation by Waites at the Highpoint Estate on 28th July.

A number of parish councillors attended the meeting on 28th July. Cllr Adrian Lee spoke to the person who ran community projects who confirmed that they might be willing to contribute towards the cost of new swings. Waites will only contribute to land owned or leased by the Parish Council. They will not fund local infrastructure such as road. Others issues raised included lighting around the prison and speeding which representatives were going to look into. There have been no updates since.

15. Correspondence:

a) Letter from the domestic abuse charity Lighthouse asking for Stradishall Parish Council's support in promoting their services and requesting a donation.

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It was resolved that no donation would be made but the Parish Council would be happy to promote their services.

b) Email from CouncilWise about their new Training and Support service for parish councils.
It was resolved that the clerk would investigate how much membership would cost.

c) Email from West Suffolk Council about their updated Register of Members' Interests form where the home address of councillors has been removed – for information only.

d) Email from Ormiston Families requesting a donation.
It was resolved that no donation would be made.

e) Email from Well Being Suffolk giving details of the mental health services they provide – for information only.
People aged 16 or over and living in Suffolk, can **self-refer directly** to the service without needing to see a GP or have a formal mental health diagnosis.
Visit: wellbeingsuffolk.co.uk
Call: 0300 123 1503
This information was posted on the Stradishall Facebook page.

16. Any other business for noting or including on the agenda of the meeting on Monday 2nd November 2026.
No issues were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.11pm

Signed: …… Dated: ……

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