

# STOKE HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL

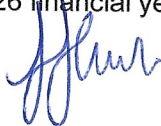
## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at The Community Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs S Collins (Chair), G Iaccarino (Vice-chair), D Cooper\*  
D Mouncer, R Mouncer, P Russell, A Staton and P Strange.  
Parish Clerk/RFO: D Wickham.  
District Councillor: J Webber.  
2 members of the public.

Minute Ref No:

1. **To consider approving any apologies for absence.** 26/011  
There were none.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest, and requests for dispensation, on any items to be discussed.** 26/012  
Cllrs Collins, Russell and Strange declared an interest in item 5.1. Cllr Strange declared an interest in item 5.3.
3. **To suspend the meeting for questions from members of the public and to receive reports from District and County Councillors.** 26/013  
A representative of Shotesham's Solar Action Group highlighted the risks to Stoke Holy Cross of the very large vehicular loads due to travel through the village. Cllr Russell confirmed that he had met with Ben Goldsborough MP to discuss this issue.  
A local resident raised concerns regarding the disruption to bus services caused by road closures initiated by Anglian Water. Cllr Collins suggested the Council wrote to the company to escalate the matter.  
Another resident had noted the number of works vehicles parked along the pavement on the bend in the road outside 133 Norwich Road while construction work was ongoing. The matter was raised with the local beat officer, PC Goodrum, and the Council would monitor the situation.  
A report from District Cllr Webber had been circulated prior to the meeting. A grant fund of £500,000 was now available to Parish Councils. An additional match-funded 'In Bloom' grant was also available for planting etc.  
A report from County Cllr Thomson was circulated to the Council following the meeting.
4. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.** 26/014  
Having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, it was **AGREED** unanimously that the minutes were approved as a correct record.
5. **Finance:** 26/015
  - 5.1 Approval of the bank reconciliation and Payment of Accounts List (see below) was **AGREED** unanimously.
  - 5.2 The Council ratified its earlier decision to accept the EDF Smart Export Guarantee 12 month Fixed Rate Tariff.
  - 5.3 The Council **AGREED** to appoint R Goreham as its Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 financial year.

Signed:



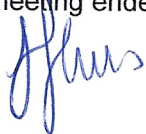
Date: 16.4.26

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6. **To receive any update from the Community Hall Working Group (CHWG).** 26/016  
 The next CHWG meeting would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
 Cllr Collins suggested an independent review of the sewer/drains at the hall following a number of recent blockages. Cllr Iaccarino suggested a remote camera exploration of the area in the first instance.  
 A review of the fire extinguishers was due to take place next week – Cllr Iaccarino would install the new extinguishers. He was also awaiting a date for the fire alarm and burglar alarm to be serviced. Cllr Collins would obtain a quote to service the moving wall. The disabled and EV bays in the car park had now been marked out. **ACTION: SC/CI**
7. **Planning:** 26/017  
 7.1 The Council **AGREED** to elect Cllr Staton as Planning Committee Chairperson.  
 7.2 The Council had no objections to the following planning applications:
  - **2025/2812** - Drainage Pond, Norwich Main Substation, Mangreen Hall Lane, Dunston: Installation of pre-construction field drainage to support the operation of the Hornsea Project Three onshore export cable route (EIA Development).
  - **2025/2931** - Land South Of Mangreen, Swardeston: Installation of pre-construction field drainage to support the operation of the Hornsea Project Three onshore export cable route (EIA Development).
  - **2026/0135** - 73 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross: Demolition of existing conservatory with replacement single storey extension, dormer loft conversion, front porch, replacement windows and doors and associated external works.
  - **2026/0230** - 59 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross: Rear extension and facade modifications.
8. **To receive an update in relation to the Community Speed Watch Scheme.** 26/018  
 There was nothing new to report.
9. **To receive an update from the Wildflower Meadow and Playing Field Working Groups.** 26/019  
 Cllr Russell reported that routine maintenance had been carried out at the meadow, but that mechanical mowing would be required soon. The Brownies group would be getting involved with the meadow in the near future. Cllr Russell was trying to establish a local residents' group to assist with biodiversity in the village. The Clerk reported that the Council had been awarded a grant of £20,000 by the National Lottery Community Fund to be spent on play equipment.
10. **\*To co-opt two Parish Councillors.** 26/020  
 The Council unanimously **AGREED** to co-opt D Cooper. One position remained unfilled and the Council would continue to advertise the vacancy.
11. **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.** 26/021  
 This was **AGREED** unanimously.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Signed:



Date:

16/4/26

Payments Approved at the Meeting Held on 5th March 2026

Date	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
17/02/26	EDF (DD)	Electricity	£446.69	£89.34	£536.03
27/02/26	On Point Markings	Car Park Markings	£750.48	£150.10	£900.58
06/03/26	D Wickham	Jan & Feb Expenses	£253.88	£40.37	£294.25
06/03/26	S Collins	Expenses	£69.96	£14.00	£83.96
06/03/26	P Strange	Expenses	£79.00	£15.80	£94.80
06/03/26	P Russell	Expenses	£124.60	£19.80	£144.40
06/03/26	Sotham Engineering	Air Con Service	£1,230.00	£246.00	£1,476.00
06/03/26	Pozitive Water	Water Rates	£654.42	£69.42	£723.84
06/03/26	NPTS	Training	£52.00	£10.40	£62.40
06/03/26	Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds Maintenance	£450.00		£450.00
06/06/26	Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds Maintenance	£550.00		£550.00
06/03/26	Flawless Cleaning	Contract Cleaning Feb	£370.60	£74.12	£444.72
06/03/26	Draper & Nichols	Construction Costs	£13,444.44	£2,688.89	£16,133.33
06/03/26	Flawless Cleaning	Contract Cleaning Mar	£370.60	£74.12	£444.72
27/03/26	S Himpleman	March Cleaning	£149.50		£149.50
27/03/26	A Wenn	March Caretaker	£169.44		£169.44
27/03/26	D Wickham	March Salary	£919.27		£919.27
27/03/26	Nest (DD)	March Pension	£92.82		£92.82
01/04/26	South Norfolk Council	Garden Waste Bins	£146.00		£146.00
01/04/26	Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance	£3,386.42		£3,386.42
01/04/26	NPTS	Annual Subscription	£575.00	£115.00	£690.00
17/04/26	HMRC	February PAYE & NI	£394.67		£394.67
Total			£24,679.79	£3,607.36	£28,287.15

Signed:



Date:

16.4.26