

STONHAM PARVA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN STONHAM BAPTIST CHURCH,
NORWICH ROAD ON MONDAY 18th MAY 2026

26.25 PRESENT: Cllrs M Sealby (Chair), I Richardson, K Dawson, L Courtenay, M Goodrum and E Thwaites

26.26 WELCOME: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26.27 ELECTION OF CHAIR: Cllr M Sealby was elected as Chair. Proposed by I Richardson, seconded by M Goodrum.

26.28 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR: Cllr I Richardson was elected as Vice-chair. Proposed by E Thwaites, seconded by L Courtenay.

26.29 APOLOGIES : There were no apologies for absence

26.30 APPROVAL OF ABSENCE: There were no absences to approve.

26.31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr I Richardson declared an interest in 26.45 as he is an allotment holder.

26.32 DISPENSATIONS – None

26.33 Public Forum: A member of public raised an issue with the allotments and the new rules; has concerns that the rules were not discussed with the plot holders beforehand. Cllr Sealby explained the situation regarding allotments.

26.34 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20th APRIL 2026- Minutes confirmed as correct. Proposed by I Richardson., seconded by L Courtenay.

26.35 REPORTS

26.36.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Report received from County Cllr Hicks for the last year. He was in attendance at the meeting. Key points include:

- Council budget protects frontline services amid rising costs and demand
- Council remain opposed to pylon project
- Library Services brought back in house

26.36.2 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: Report received from District Cllr Hardingham for this month. He was in attendance at the meeting. Key points include:

- Better Recycling starts on 1st June, more information and a collection schedule will arrive in the post.
- Small Waste Electrical Bins temporarily removed
- Annual Council meeting took place on 14th May 2026

26.36.3 Footpaths/Pavements – Footpaths were cut last week by Chris.

Gate leading to Earl Stonham Farms field (next to woodland) is broken again and very difficult to open. Also footpath along bottom of fields is long.

Action – W Brame to email Earl Stonham Farms

The garden fence at 1 Turnpike has been damaged and the broken fence is protruding which could be a safety issue

Action – W Brame to speak to owner about fence.

26.36.4 Cemetery/St Marys Churchyard – No update.

26.36.5 Play Area/Playing Field – Play Area report received. Need to purchase 8 bags of sand for the goals and put up a new sign.

Action – W Brame to purchase sand for goals and also put new sign up.

26.36.6 Neighbourhood Watch – No update.

26.37 SALC – M Sealby will attend SALC AGM.

26.38 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES: The following representatives were agreed. Proposed by M Sealby, seconded by K Dawson.

Footpaths – I Richardson
Cemetery/St Mary's Church – I Richardson
Play Area/Playing Field – M Goodrum
Website – L Courtenay
Tree Warden – E Thwaites
Safeguarding – K Dawson

26.39 COMMUNICATION – All emails sent round including a new website regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk.

26.40 PLANNING INCLUDING APPLICATIONS – Decision notices were received for DC/25/04776 – The Hall, Church Lane; DC/26/00956 – The Hall Church Lane and DC/26/01406 – Barn House, Norwich Road.

26.41 ROADS/ROAD SAFETY – No update

26.42 TRAINING/CONFERENCES – M Goodrum would like information on the play area course being offered by SALC.

26.43 GOVERNANCE – Asset Register 2026. Query re wooden seat from pre-2000.

Action – W Brame to check asset paperwork to locate wooden seat from before 2000.

26.44 FINANCE – Report for April sent ahead of meeting. No questions were asked.

26.45 ALLOTMENTS – Email to be sent to all plot holders (current and former) – old tenancy ended and NAS said a new tenancy was required. None of it is retrospective – standards expected from new tenants. Review in 6 months (separate meeting with plot holders to look at rules again)
Email received from Diocese regarding allotment lease, agreed to accept lease which has terms that rent will be reviewed regularly based on RPI. Agreed to respond to email confirming this and ask for invoice to cover previous years and the amount going forward.

26.46 EVENTS/FUNDRAISING – Car Club not available for fete on 1st August, would need a years notice at least. Discussed fete for 2027 – Saturday 31st July 2027.

26.47 MAGPIE SIGN – Happy with tender but need references. Awaiting contact from Heritage Lottery.

26.48 ST MARYS CHURCH – No contact from Jane Hatton re CCT re kitchen.

26.49 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 15th June 2026 (AGAR) – moving to Church, contact Jane re form (June – November)

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.42pm