

STANHOE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES 14th January 2026

Clerk: Nicola Smith

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1. Welcome by Chair – the Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year
2. Public Session in accordance with the Public Participation Policy – 3 members of the public and the new contractor for the Playing Field, Walpole Mowing.
3. Present and apologies - Cllr M Wilson, Cllr T Fitzjohn, Cllr R Wilson, Cllr S Shaw, Cllr. N Shearer and Cllr T Chaplin. Cllr Michael Chenery and Cllr Sam Sandell attended.
4. To receive declaration of interests on agenda items. None
5. Confirmation of the minutes Parish Council meeting 12th November 2025 – Cllr Shearer proposed. Cllr R Wilson seconded. Minutes approved and signed by the Chair.
6. Matters arising

To maintain village appearance and amenities

6.1 – Playground and maintenance – Cllr Shearer had completed an inspection which had been forwarded to Councillors. The area is now looking tired and worn. Discussion took place around the removal of the equipment that was rotten and identified as Moderate Risk in the annual inspection report. Councillors will arrange to remove this as soon as practicable. Discussion took place around funding for the Play Area and the concern on future liability. Council discussed making the Play Area smaller with less equipment but a focus on new and updated pieces. Replacement costs are significant so the Working Group will discuss with the MEHM Trust to liaise on a way forward.

6.2 – Contractor for cutting the Playing Field – Chris from Walpole Mowing updated that he would commence mowing in March through to the end of October/early November. He is contracted for 15 cuts but is flexible should the Council require any additional cuts. The Council thanked him for attending and looked forward to working with him.

To ensure safety of the community

6.3 – Highways and Trods – see item 6.5

6.4– SAM 2 and Speedwatch – no update on SAM figures. Discussion took place around safety issues and needs, speeding and the Safety Camera Team . Cllr Sandell to forward the Clerk a link to a Safer Neighbourhoods Zoom meeting for councillors to attend. Discussion took place to consider a Police representative to attend a meeting to discuss speeding matters. Clerk to liaise and arrange.

6.5– Speed limit strategy – Cllr Chenery updated that he has £2000 Members Fund available for Stanhoe. He has £11000 in total for all his Parishes. The Chair commented on this funding

and felt this should be “needs based” rather than spread across all Parishes. An email had been received from Highways about the proposed Speed Survey which councillors read. Discussion took place around the Speed Survey and how funding could be obtained for this. The Parish Council can use the £2000 towards funding for the survey.

Clerk to liaise with Cllr Chenery to obtain.

Discussion took place around questions to be asked as to how the Parish Council can progress the survey. Clerk to discuss with Councillors and email to Cllr Chenery.

It was noted that if there were to be any speed changes the Parish Council would be required to pay additional costs for the Traffic Regulation Order – approx. £5000 plus pay for any new signage.

Clerk to contact Highways to access the £2000 towards the Traffic Survey.

6.6 - Rural Crime Prevention talk – it was discussed that the best option would be to arrange for a talk at one of the village coffee mornings. Clerk to progress with Police and MEHM Trust.

To ensure Council meets governance requirements and is financially responsible

6.7 – Budget and Precept 2026/27 – Cllr M Wilson went through the budget proposals for each area of Council responsibilities. It was proposed that a precept of £11700 be approved in line with inflation and to ensure Council could meet increased costs plus legal responsibilities. Cllr Fitzjohn proposed. Cllr Shearer seconded. 5 councillors approved. Cllr Shaw objected. Budget and Precept approved.

6.8 – Signatories for Barclays and The Cambridge Building Society – Cllr Chaplin to complete Barclays Form. Clerk has completed verification of ID and sent forms to Cambridge Building Society.

7. Agenda Items

7.1 – Confirmation of March meeting date - Tuesday 24th March 2026

To maintain village appearance and amenities

7.2 – Removal of one Dog Bin - Proposed Cllr Shearer. Seconded Cllr Fitzjohn. Approved to remove the dog bin by the Pond. Councillors will remove at the end of March. Clerk to contact Borough to inform of removal.

To ensure safety of the community

7.3 – Complaint about accidents on Burnham Road - there have been a number of no injury accidents. Highways had been contacted by the Clerk. They had responded to say that the accident data was not sufficient to warrant any immediate intervention. The Safety Team suggested some improvement options but these would have to be funded by the Parish Council. With limited funding options the Council discussed correspondence to Highways to request the current measures be repainted/renewed to ensure they can be seen by motorists. Clerk to progress.

To ensure Council meets governance requirements and is financially responsible

7.4 – Purchase of new Parish Council laptop – Cllr R Wilson proposed. Cllr Fitzjohn seconded. Approval to purchase a new Parish Council laptop up to a maximum of £500.

8. Borough and County Councillor updates

8.1– Borough Councillor update – Cllr Sandell is now Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. The decision on the Local Government Reorganisation will be made mid- March. May elections cancelled for 2026. There will be an increase in all Council costs which could impact on Parish Councils. Cllr Sandell is a trustee for West Norfolk Girls School Trust which provides assistance for education, dance arts etc. Cllr Sandell has access to a Local Community Fund. Clerk to contact MEHM Trust who may wish to apply for this. Cllr Sandell update that the

8.2 – County Councillor update - see item 6.5

10.Finance

10.1 To approve accounts for payment. Cllr Shaw proposed. Cllr R Wilson seconded. Accounts approved for payment.

10.2– Income and expenditure accounts – Cllr M Wilson proposed. Cllr Shaw seconded. Approved.

10.3 – Cllr Shaw and Clerk to meet March 2026

11.Planning matters

11.1– Planning Applications received

Ref. No	Address	Planning details	Parish Council Decision

11.2 – Planning Applications received after agenda published - None

12. Delegated Decisions

12.1 Approval to appoint the Walpole Mowing Man as the contractor for the Playing Field for 2026
- APPROVED

13. Items to be added to the following months agenda – (NOT FOR DISCUSSION DURING THIS AGENDA ITEM) - None

14. CONFIDENTIAL SECTION (not for public) – no items

15. Proposed date of next meeting Tuesday 24th March 6pm. Meeting closed at 7.30pm.