

STANHOE PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES 26TH August 2026

Clerk: Nicola Smith

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1. Welcome by the Chair – the Chair thanked those residents who had assisted with the wildlife on the pond during the period of extended drought. The Chair apologised for the short notice of the meeting. The Chair suspended Standing Orders for the meeting to allow the public to participate as necessary.
2. To receive declaration of interests on agenda items. None.
3. Present : Cllr M Wilson, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr Shearer, Cllr R Wilson, Cllr Chaplin
Cllr Sam Sandell – Borough Councillor

Apologies : Cllr Shaw

4. Public Session in accordance with the Public Participation Policy – 10 members of the public attended. The following issues were raised.

4.1 The resident supported the proposal for dredging but asked about the potential impact on households in the immediate vicinity, impact, hours of working and access points.

Action – Cllr M Wilson to discuss with contractors.

4.2 Traffic issues – the potential for traffic issues with work on the highway.

Action- The Council to approve the Risk Assessment for the project. Clerk to contact contractor re signage.

4.3 A resident raised concerns that the money being spent by the Council may not achieve the results and what consultation had been undertaken.

Discussion took place around appearance, the ability to undertake this work now, impact on wildlife and the opportunity available to support the ponds and wildlife for the future. Messages and emails had been received from residents requesting the Council look into desilting and supporting the project.

The long term aim is to improve the health and appearance of the ponds. Advice from Norfolk Ponds Project is to remove silt to allow greater depth and better oxygenation.

Many other villages and Parish Councils have undertaken similar projects this summer.

5. To maintain village appearance and amenities

5.1 – Long term resilience of The Pit (main pond), dredging and de silting – to discuss options and costings. To approve dredging and de silting.

Cllr M Wilson gave a presentation on the potential project –

Background to the issue – Due to the extended drought, the village has a unique opportunity to dredge the ponds and review the planting for the future. The three ponds under consideration are Common Land. Other village ponds are owned by local landowners. Update on the regulatory position. Local farmer will allow the silt to be spread on farmland.

Costs and Equipment – proposal to use Economy Plant Hire (Syderstone) and other local contractors. Total day costs £1230. Proposed start date 2end September. Potential timescale is 3 days – cost of £3690 and up to 5 days – cost of £6150.

Funding Sources –

Parish Council funds

Possible Local Authority Funding

GoFundMe appeal

Approval of dredging and desilting the three ponds – Proposed Cllr Shearer. Seconded Cllr R Wilson. Council approved.

5.2 – To approve contractor for dredging - discussion took place around the use of local contractors for dredging,diggers and desilting.

Proposed Cllr Shearer. Seconded Cllr Fitzjohn. Council approved.

5.3 – To discuss and approve insurance requirements and risk assessments required by contractor and Council.

Risk assessment for the project – Proposed Cllr Chaplin. Seconded Cllr R Wilson. Council approved.

Clerk to contact contractors for insurance and compliance details. Clerk to send copies of Council Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment to contractors.

Cllr M Wilson to send details of contractors to Clerk

6. To ensure Council meets governance requirements and is financially responsible

6.1 – To discuss and approve options for funding the dredging and desilting on the main pond. Cllr Sandell pledged £500 Community Fund money towards the project. She emphasised the small precept that Stanhoe has, no CIL funding. She offered to check the funding streams for local green space and wildlife projects. She updated on the Community Projects Fund from Borough. Applications close 2nd October 2026. Cllr Sandell to discuss with Borough and liaise with Clerk to take forward.

Cllr Chaplin presented details on GoFundMe which the Council could use for fundraising for the project. On line fundraising with a proposed target amount. Clerk updated that funds would be allocated as Restricted Funds within the budget.

Councillor Chaplin would establish and administer a GoFundMe fundraiser on behalf of Stanhoe Parish Council in order to raise funds for the village ponds restoration project. Councillor Chaplin is authorised as a signatory on the bank account to arrange for funds to be paid directly into Stanhoe Parish Council's bank account.

Communication would be through flyers, posters, Saints Alive, Stanhoe.org, PC website, Facebook etc

Proposal to set up a GoFundMe page run by Cllr Chaplin – Cllr M Wilson. Seconded Cllr Shearer. Council approved.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and their contribution to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Date of next Council Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 2026 6pm.

