

Stisted Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Meeting opened at: 19.30pm

Location: Montefiore Institute

Chair of the meeting: Cllr Alan Routledge.

In Attendance: Vice Chair Cllr Bob Powers, Cllr Richard White, Cllr Geoff Nurse. Clerk Grace Leete. Cllr Abram and Cllr Beavis joined the meeting at 19:35.

Parishioners Attendees: 6

26/79 Welcome and apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Eleanor Mc Millian, Cllr Mark Hughes Cllr P Thorogood (ECC) and Cllr N Robins (BDC).

26/80 Declarations of Interest

None

26/81 Public Participation

Parishioner 1: Raised concerns over the 13 wheelie bins that are currently located in the road being used by the residents of Flint Cottages. This was reported as causing restrictions to traffic flow, and visual obstructions when driving. Due to the lack of footpaths, it raises concerns over potential accidents around the junction of The Street/Water Lane in particular.

Actions: Cllrs agreed that the bins are an obstruction and that there is significant storage for bins at the rear of the cottages. BDC made an initial assessment on the bin requirements for housing. The Parish Council have advised residents to report this concern to BDC refuse services for assistance. Cllr Beavis confirmed that this will be reported, by herself on behalf of the Council.

Parishioner 2: Raise the concern over speeding issues within the Village. He referred to the '20 is Plenty' scheme and asked for updates on the progression of this. A big concern of the Parishioner is that the lanes are having a lot of traffic running at speeds of 40-60mph, and concerns were raised regarding the safety of pedestrians/walkers.

Action: Cllr Routledge confirmed that they had tried this a few years prior and Highways showed no interest in the issue, referring the issue to bad driving, rather than an issue with the speed limits. Cllr Powers deferred this to later in the meeting as it is a planned item on the agenda, and

confirmed the opportunity for the parishioners' contributions then, which was agreed.

Cllr Abram contributed that the Coggeshall Parish Council has had success with speeding issues and would be willing to share this information with the Clerk for future reference. Cllr Abram spoke of Coggeshall's experience with speed cameras and suggesting a community speed watch group.

26/82 To approve the minutes from the previous meeting (Dated: 8th July 2026).

Proposed by Cllr White, Second by Cllr Nurse. All other Cllrs in attendance agreed.

26/83 District and County Councillors Reports

Cllr Abram – Planning meeting attended 1st September- Although there was no further information to be shared at this time, he will keep the Clerk informed as necessary.

Cllr N Robins- Written report Shared by Chair.

Local Plan – This is moving towards its next stage, with the local plan sub-committee meeting on 17th of September 2026. Followed by full council on 21st September 2026. The plan will then be subject to the next stage of public consultation. Cllr Robins advises residents to take a look and to make their views known. If full council approves the plan for the next stage, there will be a further formal public consultation, giving further opportunity for resident's views.

New bins-Following continued emails from residents, about the waste collection system, the council has agreed to review arrangements.

Community Tree Planting Grant- A £75,000 grant has been launched by BDC, Grants are available in 3 categories/price bands. This project can range from individual tree planting to larger community schemes, Inclusive of planting bulbs. Applications are now open; deadline is 11th October 2026.

(This full report will be made available on the website).

Cllr P Thorogood- Written report Shared by Chair.

Rivenhall Airfield Incinerator- Water Supply. There had been concerns reported of low water pressure for some local households. Following some investigation, Anglian Water has advice that the operator will be required to contribute towards network improvement needs, because of site demands. Cllr Thorogood will continue to press ECC as the planning

authority for the site and Anglian Water, to ensure the impact on local water supplies and surrounding villages are properly considered.

ECC Draft Mineral Plan – No further updates yet from ECC, we await further communications.

BDC Draft Local Plan- Cllr Thorogood confirmed he attended the meeting, and reiterated the information shared on Cllr Robins report. He also confirmed that there were no new developments put forward for Stisted Parish.

(This full report will be made available on the website).

26/84 Clerks Report.

Due to the new Clerk starting on 1st September the Clerk report was written by The Chair.

Anglian Water- Water Recycling Centre, Water Lane works was completed in August. Returning in Feb 2027 to install new equipment.

Priors Green – There will be a road closure on Wednesday 16th September 2026. This will be situated between Baines Farmhouse, and Henhams Farmhouse, due to Anglian Water meter works.

There has been no response from the MP regarding the letter sent about local planning and A120.

Minute books have been scanned onto PDF and Memory sticks. Memory stick with PDF copies have been handed to Stisted archive. Currently we are liaising with Eyelid regarding uploads to website/Cloud.

The Community Tree Grant- as mentioned in Cllr Thorogood's report.

26/85 Finance (Lead RFO)

26/85/1 Reports shared for Bank reconciliation.

26/85/2 Payments and transfers approved as per the schedule. Approved by Cllr Powers and second by Cllr White.

26/85/3 Review of Fixed Asset Register- The council agreed 2-3 Cllrs will review this prior to the next meeting, and it will be revisited in October 2026 meeting.

26/86 Planning

26/86/1 Applications for Discussions and resolution at the meeting – None.

26/86/2 Planning applications:

26/01641/TPO CON – Braintree Golf Club.

Removal of Dead and deceased trees has been agreed by BDC.

26/01659/HH Glebe House, Rectory Rd.

Site visit was made. No Objections.

26/00034/REF The Onley, The Street.

A written submission will be made so there will be no hearing. A short comment has been sent to the Inspector, in support of the thorough report from the BDC (Which was in line with the new national policy framework).

26/01329/LBC 29 The Street.

Rendering permitted by BDC.

26/87 Application for registering The Onley as an Asset of Community Value.

The Parish Council discussed the potential registration of The Onley as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), with the intention of supporting its continued use as a public house. It was proposed by Cllr Nurse and seconded by Cllr Powers that an ACV application be made. The matter will be referred to Cllr Hughes, who will take the initial lead on the application.

26/88 BDC Local Plan -See previous reports.

26/89 Playing fields and Open Spaces

(Exit of Cllr Abram and Cllr Beavis)

The new play equipment has been well received and is being well used.

The Pavilion has been thoroughly cleaned and tidied. It has been made more suitable for use for other events.

Grass cutting contract due for review in October 2026. This contract needs reviewing before it is put out to tender. This will be reviewed by the playing field working group.

A grant of £250 from Cllr Robins has been received, for the repair café. Cllr Nurse shared a break down of equipment required and prices. This was agreed by all Cllrs. Cllr Nurse would like to get the Repair café started by the end of September.

The Pavilion needs new front fascia boards. The estimated cost to replace and paint these is £100. This is essential to get this work carried out prior to the winter weather.

Following a meeting with the ground keepers of the Golf Club there is one tree (which is on their ground) behind the pavilion which needs

addressing, including a small area of fencing. The grounds men at the golf club, will dismantle the fence and tidy this area up. This will need written confirmation from Golf Club management.

A supply of rock salt on the ground next to The Pavilion (approx. 7 pallets) needs to be moved, as the packaging is becoming UV damaged, and could become an environmental hazard if left. 1 pallet will be kept, for one year's supply to refill the village salt bins. Cllr Nurse recommended donating some to the Golf Club for their car park. The salt that we keep, will need appropriate storage, this remains undecided. This item will be revisited.

Football Juniors and Seniors are using The Pavilion and are not leaving the facility tidy and clean. It has been requested for the Clerk to write to both clubs, and request that they are returned to the standard expected.

Cllr Nurse also suggested that the Parish Council consider a composting toilet for The Pavilion. He will investigate the costs and requirements.

26/90 To confirm the dates and action for Parish Litter Pick and BDC community dust cart.

This will be dependent on when Cllr Hughes can confirm the availability of the Dust Cart. We will look at the end of October/Early Nov TBC. The Parish Council will also need to liaise with the Church before this. Proposed by Cllr Routledge, Second by Cllr Nurse.

26/91 20 is Plenty

The councillors attended BALC when this was initially raised, and the response/feedback was varied. A letter has been sent to MP P. Patel; we have not received a response yet. Also, a letter has been written to Essex County Highways- no response has been given.

We wrote to Saffron Walden Town Council following advice at BALC, as Saffron Walden has been successful in this project. The feedback was very helpful, but we have also been advised that no further '20 is Plenty' projects are being actioned at this time.

To progress with this concern raised by the Parishioner earlier in the meeting, it was suggested that a parishioner-led working group or committee could take the lead on this project, with the support of the Parish Council. This potentially could incite further attention to the speeding concerns.

26/92 Training/Events

26/92/1 Reports from events attended.

BALC 22 July meeting- no further information.

26/92/2 Nominations for new events

HR Conference – 28th September 2026- EALC- Cllr Nurse expressed an interest to attend.

Parish Clerk- to investigate available CILCA training with a view to start in October 26.

Cllr White- 17th November- Funding for Town Parish and Council through Councilwise.

26/93 Information exchange and items for next agenda.

Footpaths

Footpath 15- has been raised by a member of the public. This footpath is from Whitehouse Lane leading up to the Golf Course. Where this junctions with footpath 27- it is currently inoperative. An alternative footpath has been created. A report has been started with Essex Highways, for an inspection on this.

CANS

The Parish Council had an email about the bulbs that had been planted. Unfortunately, these have been cut down whilst still green. CANS would like reassurance that if they replant, they won't be cut down again. The Cllrs agree that this needs to be reflected within the grass cutting contract revision as mentioned in item 26/89.

The cherry tree in the middle of village green has died. Cllr Powers has had the offer of a donation; this donation is a native Cherry tree replacement.

Requested items on the next agenda:

1. 20 is Plenty.
2. Review of the grass cutting contract.
3. Asset register.
4. The removal and storage of the rock salt at The Pavillion.

26/94 To confirm the date of the next meeting

Wednesday 7th October 2026 19.30pm, at the Montefiore Institute.

Meeting Closed by the Chair at 21.01pm