

**Minutes of Stanstead Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting
held at Stanstead Village Community Centre, Stanstead
on Monday 27th October 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Stanstead Parish Council (SPC): Cllr J Gaskell, Cllr D Harkness, Cllr K Peck, Cllr S Richards, Cllr D Wilson, G Claydon (Parish Clerk - Minutes)
15 members of the public or press were present

Absent: SPC: Cllr T Jeeves, Cllr A Green. Babergh District Council (BDC): Cllr M Holt, Cllr S Plumb. Suffolk County Council (SCC): Cllr R Kemp

01.10.25 Chair's welcome and to apologies for absence

Meeting opened at 7.30pm by Cllr D Harkness who thanked all those attending. Apologies for absence approved for Cllr T Jeeves and Cllr A Green. Apologies for absence also received from: Cllrs M Holt and R Kemp.

02.10.25 For members to declare any interests they may have on items on the agenda and agree any dispensations to stay

a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

b. Other Registrable Interests

c. Non-Registerable Interests

Cllr D Harkness advised the meeting that he is a member of Stanstead Village Community Centre & Social Club C.I.C (SVCC), a dispensation to stay and vote on matters relating to SVCC has already been granted for up to four years for this non-registerable interest, in that 'granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area'.

Cllr K Peck advised the meeting that she is a member of SVCC. At the meeting a dispensation to stay and vote on matters relating to SVCC was granted for up to 4 years for this non-registerable interest, in that 'granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area'. The form was signed by both the Cllr and the Clerk and will be retained for future reference.

03.10.25 Public Forum members of the public are invited to question Councillors and /or speak on any matters related to Stanstead Village Community Centre & Social Club Community Interest Company (SVCC)

The Chair gave some background information of the discussions which had been taking place in working group meetings of the Parish Council and SVCC regarding the terms of a new lease. The background included: the type of expenses SVCC would like the Parish Council to take responsibility for and the potential impact this would have on the Parish Council's budget and therefore increases to council tax for parishioners. Bearing this in mind the Chair advised that the Parish Council were interested to hear parishioner's views and the meeting was opened up for these views to be heard.

Members of the public present set out their views on what steps the Parish Council should take in order to conclude a new lease with SVCC. It was recognised that the issues were complicated and compromise was needed in order to get to a result that was the best one for the whole village. The majority of those present supported the concept that the Parish Council should take on the responsibility for maintenance of the Community Centre building. It was also recognised that SVCC should play a part in maintenance and repair. Although no

formal resolution was passed, the Parish Council would proceed by way of a further meeting of the working group which would hopefully reach a proposal that could be brought back to a Parish Council meeting for a formal decision. The Chair advised that others were welcome to join the working party should they wish to and thanked those members of the public who had attended, for their contributions, which were extremely helpful to the Parish Council.

04.10.25 To discuss and propose arrangements with SVCC

See 03.10.25 above.

05.10.25 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Councillors /items for the next meeting's agenda

Arrangements with SVCC

06.10.25 Date of next meeting – Monday 17th November 2025

Meeting Closed at 8.27pm

Name:Klaire Peck..... Position:Councillor.....

Date:17.11.2025..... Time:19:49.....

Signature: Hard copy retained on file signed and all pages initialled