

**Minutes of Stanstead Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting
held at Stanstead Village Community Centre, Stanstead
on Monday 23rd April 2025 at 8pm**

- Present:** Stanstead Parish Council (SPC): Cllr D Harkness, Cllr D Wilson, Cllr A Green, G Claydon (Parish Clerk - Minutes)
5 members of the public or press were present
- Absent:** Babergh District Council (BDC): Cllr M Holt, Cllr S Plumb Suffolk County Council (SCC): Cllr R Kemp.

Chairman's Welcome and apologies for absence

Meeting opened at 8.06pm by Cllr D Harkness who thanked all those attending. Apologies for absence received from District Councillors M Holt, S Plumb and County Councillor R Kemp.

02.04.25ex 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-Registrable Interests**

In the interest of ensuring the correct recording of previous declarations of interest (and for auditing purposes), in relation to matters concerning Stanstead Village Community Centre and Social Club, the clerk read out details from dispensations previously granted as follows:

On 16.9.2024 Cllr D Harkness and Cllr D Wilson declared a 'non-registerable interest' in relation to being members of Stanstead Village Community Centre and Social club. Full dispensation was granted for a period of 4 years from 16.9.24 in that under rule b). 'Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area'.

On 21.1.2025 Cllr A Green declared an 'other registerable interest' in relation to being a member of Stanstead Village Community Centre and Social Club. Full dispensation was granted for a period of 4 years from 21.1.2025 in that under rule b). 'Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area'.

**03.04.25ex &
04.04.25ex Public Forum members of the public are invited to question Councillors and /or speak on any matters related to the Stanstead Village Community Centre and /or Social Club (SVCC&SC) and**

To discuss correspondence received from Stanstead Village Community Centre and Social Club

There was a wide-ranging discussion involving the Parish Council, and the five members of the public present, about what steps could be taken by the Parish Council to help SVCC&SC. The Parish Council made it clear it wanted to assist SVCC&SC as best it could. The PC was keen to have further meetings of the "working group" (see minute ref 13.11.24) between

the Parish Council and SVCC&SC to progress what might be the appropriate terms for a new lease as soon as possible. It was noted that advice from Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) might mean that the Parish Council had to register its holding of the community centre site as a charity which might cause a delay.

Resolved unanimously that the Parish Council would in principle grant a new 25 year lease of the community centre to SVCC&SC subject to agreement of detailed terms.

05.04.25ex Date of next meetings:
Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 19th May 2025 at 7.00pm
Annual Parish Council Meeting 19th May 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed at 21:22

Name:David Harkness..... Position:Chair.....

Date:19th May 2025..... Time:19:50.....

Signature: Hard copy retained on file has been signed & pages initialled