

Stow Maries Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 22nd September 2025

in The Smythe Hall, Church Lane, Stow Maries at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Matt Cooper the Chair welcomed all those present.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDEES & OTHER ATTENDEES

Councillors:- Matt Cooper, David Hopping, Debbie Driver & Adam Brown

District: Not in attendance apologies sent

Essex CC Jane Fleming

In attendance: Parish Clerk and two members of the public.

25-6/062 APOLOGIES

District Cllrs Sue White & Lisa Whiffen. Parish Cllr Neil Gilmore

25-6/063 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) None made at this point in the meeting.

25-6/064 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –

a) The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 21st July 2025 were approved. Prop: Cllr David Hopping Seconded: Cllr Debbie Driver.

25-6/065 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

a) An update has been received and placed on the website.

25-6/066 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

a) County Councillor Jane Fleming had provided a report which was placed on the website and details from which were discussed during the meeting.

The Member Led Highways Initiative is still running, so reports welcome (potholes, pavements, kerbs, railings, bollards, signs) with a W3W (What 3 words) reference.

Also, Cllr Fleming mentioned that she had £5k Locality Fund plus £5k Local Community Fund looking for deserving projects! Must show community benefit for the Maldon Division.

And finally, ECC Full Council meets this coming Thursday to vote on the 3 Unitary Proposal (Maldon in a Mid Essex Unitary with Chelmsford, Brentwood, Epping and Harlow) – the vote is advisory as the Leader and Cabinet have the authority to approve.

Central Government will make the final decision from a choice of four proposals: Southend and most District Councils proposing 5 Unitaries with Maldon in with Chelmsford and Brentwood, Thurrock proposing 4 Unitaries with Maldon in with Colchester and Tending, and Rochford District proposing 4 Unitaries with Maldon in with Rochford, Chelmsford and Brentwood. Central Government will most likely take two of the proposals out to consultation at the back end of this year.

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Fleming for her input at the meeting.

25-6/067 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

a) Two members of the public were present and a discussion took place relating to serious concerns about the speeding traffic through Stow Road and Woodham Road.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

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Members explained that this was an age old concern and much has been done to try and reduce the speeding. The fact that there is a 40mph is significant. It was also mentioned about the number of vehicles that drive around the wrong side of the island. Use of the Trucam was discussed in detail but it was decided that the was not the budget at the present time and although the previous sessions in 2021 did capture 121 vehicles speeding, it was not really effective. It was further discussed that a volunteer group using a speed camera on a regular basis might have the desired effect. Clerk to look into the possibility and willingness of residents to partake. Clerk also to write to Three Rivers requesting if it was possible for them to put up a notice on the exit politely asking if all visitors would drive carefully through the villages as it was stated that some of the people attending the weekend functions did drive through at high speeds (70/80/90 mph).

Several ideas were put forward - i.e. launching a Public Relations Campaign, more signs & more persistant enforcement.

25-6/068 PLANNING MATTERS

a) **Planning Applications:-**

No applications to review.

b) **Planning correspondence** received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:

- i) Planning application listings were noted.
- ii) Planning decisions and appeals listings were noted.
- iii) No decision/appeals to review for Stow Maries

c) **MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

i) No update available.

d) **BRADWELL B**

i) No update available.

e) **STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME**

i) No update available, but a meeting is coming up shortly.

f) **Chelmsford City Council** consultation that runs for four weeks until Thursday 9th October 2025, members decided that all had been said that could be said in this regard.

g) Draft Planning Enforcement Service Standars Documents - No comments.

25-6/069 HIGHWAY & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

a)An email had been circulated to memebbers and placed on the websiteby the Clerk stating that a progress meeting had taken place and the planning application is due to be submitted shortly (about two weeks from the date of the email which was 13/9/25) the planning application can be viewed on the Essex County Council planning portal once it has been submitted. Mr. Dore provided 3D sketches of what is intended before and after. Essentially they intend to fill the outer arches and create an embankment, the centre arch will be reinforced with a corrugated steel multiplate arch system which is commonly used in this scenario. This allows us to support full carriageway loading, and in doing so re-open the road, whilst

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maintaining the bridleway beneath the bridge. Mr. Dore reiterated that during the course of the February Parish Council meeting he attended that the aim was for construction to take place/finish during the financial year 2025/26.

b) Members were informed that the Trucam to hire was now £45.00 per hour and that the two spots that had been approved were still able to be utilised. However, members decided to put in a bit more research as detailed in the public forum for volunteers from Stow Maries and neighbouring villages and obtain a speed gun. Clerk looking into the possibilities.

c) Members discussed the dead lime tree and Clerk to contact Cllr Fleming to see if the Community Fund would supply funding for a replacement tree.

25-6/070 FINANCE

a) Members approved the payments and receipts for August and September 2025. The Bank reconciliation will be reviewed at the October meeting.

b) The external auditor has confirmed and accepted Stow Maries Claim of Exemption for the financial year ending 31st March 2025. Members noted.

25-6/071 WEBSITE

a) It was noted that all end of year financial documents had been uploaded to the website.

25-6/072 STOW MARIES PARISH VILLAGE SIGN

a) Clerk to speak to Cllr Cooper again concerning getting a quote for the refurbishment of the village sign.

25-6/073 A Better Connected Essex - Public Consultation in Essex Transport

a) Cllr Driver stated that she had been reviewing this item and would send a response.

25-6/074 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Sadly Cllr Matt Cooper gave notice that he was resigning. Cllr Driver thanked him on behalf of the Parish Council for all his hard work and guidance and wished him well in his future endeavours. Cllr Cooper will be sending an official resignation by email to the Clerk so the position can be advertised.

25-6/075 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

25-6/076 ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN TRANSACTED THE CHAIR
THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING & CLOSED THE
MEETING at 8.40 p.m.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

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