

MINUTES OF THE ONEHOUSE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 12 MAY 2025 AT 7.00 P.M. IN TRINITY HALL

Present – Mrs Copping – Chair Onehouse Parish Council
Mrs Swansborough – Clerk Onehouse Parish Council
10 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence.

These were received from Mr Crissell, Rev Jenkins and Mrs Pedge.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 13 May 2024

It was proposed, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

3. To receive the audited parish accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

During the year a precept of £18,600 was raised. Donations totaling £1595.44 were given to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Ipswich & East Suffolk Headway and The Mix Shoebox Appeal.

The balance of the Income and Expenditure Account as at 31 March 2024 is £127.57. Funds held in earmarked reserves total £27378.88.

4. Parish Council Report – Mrs J Copping

Onehouse Parish Council Chairperson's Report 2024/2025

Welcome to this year's Annual Parish Report. As Chairman of the Parish Council, I am proud to be able to reflect on the progress we've made over the past year and to share our vision for the year ahead. This report highlights the work we've undertaken on behalf of our community and the challenges we've faced.

Councillors: Cllr Roberts has been co-opted to the Council. As a long standing and active member of the community for many years, her experience as trustee and treasurer for the Community Centre Management Committee, along with her volunteer activities will ensure she is a valued and pro-active member of our team. We also bid farewell to Cllr Leek, who stepped down towards the end of last year. He was instrumental in gathering information on projects and issues within the Onehouse and particularly championed the issues with footpath 28.

We currently have one vacancy for Councillor and welcome people to get in touch that may be interested. Although not a pre-requisite we currently have Councillors local to the Northfield estate and Lower Road, so it may be of benefit to have representation on the Council from the Union Road area of the village.

I would like to remind our residents that all Parish Councillors, whether elected or co-opted, are all volunteers and are not salaried. Several Councillors work full time jobs alongside our Council role, and therefore show an enormous amount of commitment in helping to achieve good outcomes for our village and community.

Personnel: It has been a year of upheaval for the Council following the retirement of our long-standing Clerk Peggy Fuller. This position underwent several changes of personnel, before our current Clerk, Victoria Swansborough, joined us. We are happy to welcome Victoria to her new role and thank all of those that stepped

temporarily into the breach to assist us, including Peggy who came back out of retirement briefly and continues to offer support as mentor.

Achievements and Projects: Boundary review. Early in the year we had the boundary review awaiting a decision for the housing developments on Union Road. Fortunately, this was resolved in favour of the boundary remaining unchanged. I believe this was, in no small part, down to the community pulling together and challenging this proposal, in favour of Onehouse retaining its existing boundary. Thanks are due to all those that made their thoughts known and heard on this issue.

Pauper's Graves: Our thanks, as always, go to the willing volunteers of the Pauper's Graves working group. Their work over this year has stretched far beyond care and maintenance of this area. With the assistance of researcher Julie Johnson, the group were able to plan, raise funds and erect a memorial to those interred within the graves area. The Parish Council were pleased to be able to support this project along with the purchase of an additional bench for the area. The Council nominated this hardworking group for a Suffolk Heritage Champion award, which was successful. We're pleased that this gave the group some well-founded recognition of what they have and continue to achieve here.

Footpath 28: Following this footpath falling into disrepair and becoming dangerous for those using it, there was a concerted effort to have remediation work completed. With the help of extensive information provided by Cllr Leek during his tenure as both councillor and tree and footpath warden, a complaint on the stability of this path was upheld. Work has now been completed through the Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way and Access team, much improving access and stability for those using this footpath.

Little Owls Baby & Toddler Group: With the unfortunate closure of the Little Foresters group last year, we were aware that the village had lost a much-needed resource for those caring for young children. Children were missing an opportunity to gain early socialisation skills and carers the ability to build support networks. We were extremely thankful to Charlotte Smith who came forward with a proposal for a new baby and toddler group. The Council is supporting this new not-for-profit venture during its first year through providing funding for use of the Community Centre and equipment storage. We thank all of the volunteers that are making this group the success that it has become, and hope that it remains a long-standing resource for families and carers within the village.

OHSMag: Under editor Laura Cross the OHSMag has continued to improve with new features being added aimed at making it of interest to more of our community. Laura has now stepped aside and has passed the editorial baton on to Emma Wilks. As a resident of Harleston, it is an excellent opportunity for the magazine to once again become a more equally shared responsibility and we're confident that Emma will grasp the mantle and help us to further develop the magazine.

It has been a fine balance between providing a magazine of interest whilst bringing in advertisers, whose funding should support the costs of the publication. It is fair to say that the magazine has been running at a loss until this year and has only survived up until now by the Parish Councils of Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland funding the annual deficits. However, during 2024/25 there has been a concerted effort by the OHSMag Working Group to fundraise in support of the magazine's

editorial and printing costs. The fundraising has proven to be very successful so far, and this will be an ongoing area of support for the magazine. We remain hopeful of both retaining and growing our advertiser base, and it would encourage any local businesses or organisations to support our tri-parish magazine in this endeavour.

Village asset updates: The Council has provided or maintained the following assets, New bench for the Pauper's Graves purchased through a charity organisation and made of recycled materials, funded through OPC.

Paupers Graves information board — funded through OPC.

Replacement noticeboard for Forest Road - purchased through a charity organisation and made of recycled materials. Funded through OPC and installation completed by Councillors and volunteers.

New noticeboard for Union Road - purchased through a charity organisation and made of recycled materials. Awaiting installation following request for quotes. Paid for through CIL funding. Replacement bench and picnic bench for playing field, plus replacement bench at the front of the Community Centre — all purchased through a charity organisation and made of recycled materials. Financed through grant funding from BMSDC and awaiting installation.

Repairs and maintenance of bench on Forest Road near village sign — costs attributed to OPC and work completed by Cllr Boulter.

Defibrillator at Community Centre — OPC funded replacement of consumables.

Replacement dog waste facilities — Replacement of broken bins, funded by OPC and installation completed by Councillor Boulter.

Replacement waste bin for playing field — Funded by OPC.

SIDS — Maintenance of speed signs completed by Cllr Boulter, parts required funded by OPC.

Flower barrels — There are additional barrels in place around the village, our hope is that all of these will be adopted by willing residents for upkeep.

Challenges: Seasonal flooding: This has remained a cause for concern over the last year and we remain vigilant as to the causes of flooding within the village.

There has been remedial work carried out upstream on the river Rat, which we shall be monitoring to ascertain any improvement as we have further heavy rainfall.

Flooding is only considered a high priority for BMSDC when there are five or more properties that become flooded during a single weather event. As the rainfall and subsequent closure of the sluice gate at Burford Bridge predominantly affects roads and fields, we are not considered a priority for more extensive assistance in managing the issue. We would urge any residents that do experience flooding of their properties to inform us, so that we can keep BMSDC informed.

Northfield Wood. This ancient woodland is a wonderful area for our residents to enjoy for recreational pursuits and exercise. However, there have been several instances of fly-tipping, vandalism, unauthorised den building and even fires. We have now been advised that the Woodland Trust, caretakers of this woodland, due to the sheer number of issues will be seeking prosecution of anyone found responsible for damage or misuse of Northfield Wood. This is a valuable resource to many both in Onehouse, but also the surrounding area, so we would urge those using it or living close by to treat it with respect.

Speeding: We continue to have issues with vehicles speeding through Onehouse, this includes Union Road, Finborough Road, Lower Road and Forest Road. The Parish Council sought to have the speed limit along Lower Road reduced to 40mph and Cllr Otton arranged for the road to be surveyed. Unfortunately, consultees such as Suffolk Police rejected the value in reducing the speed limit, as there is not a history of accidents in the area. We continue to maintain the electronic speed detector signs, but unfortunately these only act as a minimal deterrent.

Upcoming for 2025/26: We have several projects currently either underway or under proposal,

• Defibrillator at Lakeside. Proposed by resident Liam Cross, a member of the Stowmarket Community First Responder team. Liam did all of the work in securing a suitable position for the unit to be placed. OPC will be sharing the purchase and installation costs for this defib with BMSDC through the locality funding available to Cllr Matthiessen. Our thanks to the proprietor of Lakeside for the provision of a suitable space, Cllr Matthiessen for his offer of support with a grant and Liam for championing the need for this life saving resource.

• Neighbourhood Plan: The Parish Council is currently investigating the finance and work required in creating a neighbourhood plan for Onehouse. There are grants available to assist in the creation of a plan and should the Council opt to take this on, we shall be looking for organisations and residents for their input on hopes and aspirations for the future of our village. The provision of a neighbourhood plan not only acts as an aid during planning consultation processes, but can also be beneficial for grant applications on any future projects within Onehouse.

• Emergency Plan: The village has been offered assistance by BMSDC in the creation of an emergency plan for Onehouse. This would provide guidance and recognised contacts in emergency situations, in the hope of keeping residents safe and informed.

• Forest Road Footpath: This project was hindered enormously by Suffolk County Council's change of tendered contractor. We were led to believe the initial contractor was at the design stage and we had indeed seen a provisional plan for the footpath. However, once Milestone was onboarded by SCC, the project was taken completely back to the pre-design stage. Although frustrating we believe that Milestone are now almost back to the point that the original contractor had reached in regards design and we are looking forward to having plans available to share at some point soon. I appreciate that this footpath is a longstanding bone of contention for many in our village, but can assure residents that the funding has been made available for this project and once Milestone and Suffolk Highways have all their ducks in a row regarding design, safety etc. we will see spades in the ground so to speak.

• Land to the West of Pauper's Graves: The village quite some time ago had been in discussion with BMSDC and Taylor Wimpey regarding this piece of land becoming a community led space. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council, we have not had any communication relating to this land for a number of months. We believe this is due to negotiations that were ongoing between BMSDC and Taylor Wimpey regarding the positioning of the Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF). We shall continue to seek updates.

- **Events:** The Parish Council is joining with the Community Centre Management Committee and representatives from Harleston and Shetland to prepare for a summer fete on 5th July on the Community Centre playing field. The next Oktoberfest has also been arranged for 27th September at the Community Centre. The Council encourages residents to share what events they would like to see hosted in Onehouse. It just leaves me to share gratitude to my fellow Councillors and all those within our community that strive to make Onehouse the community that it is.

5. Matters arising from the previous items on the agenda.

There were none.

6. County Councillor's Report – Mrs P Otton.

Suffolk's Library Service At Cabinet on 18th March 2025, the council administration voted to bring Suffolk's libraries back in-house at the end of the current contract for the library on 31 May. Suffolk Libraries, who have held the contract since the service was divested in 2012, were the only bidder for the contract, but negotiations broke down. The proposal to do this was passionately opposed not just by Suffolk Libraries, but also Suffolk residents including Friends of Thurston library and myself and the many volunteers and Friends groups who work for and raise money for libraries in their communities. We then asked for the decision to be examined at the scrutiny meeting 29th April. Unfortunately, this was rejected by the monitoring officer.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganization. Since the publication of the government's White Paper in December, Suffolk councils have been scrambling to develop their proposals for reorganizing local government. Under the new system, Norfolk and Suffolk will have a joint mayor (with elections held in May 2026) leading a mayoral authority replaced by unitary councils –that undertake all local services like education, adult care, waste collection, housing and highways. Opposition councillors, like my group are less convinced that one massive council would bring decision-making closer to the communities, which is what devolution is supposed to enable. It is likely that councillors for the new council/s would be elected by Suffolk residents in May 2027.

FOREST ROAD FOOTPATH ; ONEHOUSE; more investigation work had to be done so this is STILL not in place.

FOOTPATH 28; this now dealt with.

FOOTPATH 51. Sustrans have funding for improvements which I was happy to support, although disappointed that SCC felt the one at the bridleway which is impassable did not need work!

FLOODING UNDER A14; again SCC are have not seen fit to have this repaired.

HGV SIGN AT WASH LANE; still waiting

SPEEDING ON LOWER ROAD; disappointed that the request for reduction from 60 to 40 mph was rejected by the cabinet member

SPEEDING ON COMBS LANE; I have asked for and paid for a speed check and survey of HGV use, will also include Finborough road.

Motions. My group passed three successful motions at council over the year:

1. In May 2024, we proposed that the council lobby the government for proper, long-term funding for local councils and support policies to address the long-term funding of adult social care.
2. In July 2024, my group tabled a motion that the council would do everything it could to avoid delays with local infrastructure funded by developer contributions. but our motion acknowledged that the design and programming of works by Suffolk County Council was also often delayed.
3. In December 2024, my group successfully proposed a policy for the council of 'Roofs before Rural' regarding solar panels.' and for the government to seek assurances Suffolk's best quality agricultural land would be protected.

A14 OVERNIGHT ROAD WORKS; I have made sure National Highways liaise with SCC about any local road closures, I'm sure drivers will not be using the correct diversion. Despite asking National Highways did not recompense SCC for the damage to our roads during the last lot of road works.

State of Suffolk's Roads. In July 2024, a report was brought to Scrutiny Committee which looked into the condition of Suffolk's roads, the amount spent by the council to repair them and how repair works were prioritised. Works are prioritised by the council's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan, which sets out the parameters for repair work and the order of priority repairs. Unsurprisingly, main roads and roads which have a lot of traffic are prioritised over quieter roads which do not. The result of the damage to the roads by work on the A14 didn't help and despite promising National Highways DID NOT recompense SCC.

Council Budget 2025-26. In February 2025, the council voted to adopt its proposed budget for the 2025-26 financial year. This included approving a maximum rise in council tax this year of 4.99%, including the 2% social care precept for adult care. Cost pressures for the council include care purchasing for adult social care, Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and placements for children in care. 26, the debt will cause a £6.8m cost pressure for the council.

Improving Services for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

(SEND). Following the poor Ofsted/CQC inspection report published in January last year, the council has been trying to improve SEND services. In May last year they produced and submitted a SEND Strategy, and in June they produced a Priority Action Plan for improvement, including extra funding of £4.4m to recruit more staff, including Educational Psychologists. **Update on Flooding.** Following the Storm Babet flooding in October 2023, the council announced it was investing an extra £1m in investigating the causes of flooding and taking action to prevent further floods. A year later, in November 2024, the council announced it would be allocating a further £1.5m from its reserves to deal with recommendations made in the 10 investigation reports published so far.

Warm Homes in Suffolk

- For the Suffolk Loft Insulation Offers, residents should visit <https://highloft.co.uk/pages/suffolk-council-200-loft-insulation-contribution> and fill in the form to receive a discount code
- For the interest free loan scheme, homeowners can check to see if their property has an existing Energy Certificate with an EPC band and record of their property size at gov.uk/find-energy-certificate. They can apply for the vouchers by visiting suffolkenergyassessment.co.uk. This scheme started in November and vouchers are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

7. District Councillor's Report – Mr J Matthissen.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation:

Government's large-scale proposals for reorganisation in recent months are basically bringing an end to our district and county councils in a couple of years, to be replaced with unitary councils covering all services, very probably with fewer councillors to do the work. There is some expectation that parish and town councils will fill the gaps in local community support, but there isn't any Government guidance on this currently. Alongside this, the establishment of an elected mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk combined, with their own offices and staff, may hopefully raise the profile of our county in terms of grants etc., so the character and priorities of that elected mayor will be crucial.

The priority of Mid Suffolk council is to ensure a seamless transfer of our services to the new Unitary system, whatever that may be, and a smooth continuation of those services into the future. Alongside this, we are advocating for retaining transparency and democratic process for residents and local communities.

Budgets: Housing Revenue Account – funding is mainly spent on managing and improving our housing, including a backlog of repair work from previous years which we've now just about caught up with. We are actively challenging Government's requirement that the HRA is self-funding, as this means the housing budget for all councils is very tight and therefore building or buying more social housing is very difficult, although we're very aware of the urgent need for it.

Our **General Fund** is comparatively healthy. The council has reserves for ongoing costs such as standard grants, running elections, legal contingency funds, and public emergencies – standing at £28m at the end of the financial year. We are better off than a lot of councils and not raising our council tax for the coming year is a reflection of that. For 25/26, we are committed to a **capital programme** of £36m across the district. The principal items are the Innovation Centre and the Sports development in Stowmarket. A particular feature of this green-led Administration has been increasing grants to meet local community needs and initiatives across Mid Suffolk, and the application process for many grants has also been simplified so that they're more accessible.

Rural Transport: The new taxi bus scheme is now established, with journey fees recently reduced from £6 to £4.

Nature Recovery and Flood Alleviation: Our council has continued to take opportunities to buy and protect land of high biodiversity value, and to support

projects to encourage sustainable land management and lessen flooding. As Onehouse ward approximates to the catchment of the River Rat, it is especially good to report some practical progress locally.

Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability:

The Cosy Homes scheme helps with insulation and energy efficiency in private homes and has made quite a significant difference. Increasing council tax on long-term empty properties and making the process of gaining approval for energy efficiency measures for listed buildings more straightforward have also been welcomed.

8. To receive reports from Local Organisations

Jubilee Players

In February we put on our traditional pantomime with a bit of a twist "Snow White and the Several Dwarfs". We had a bigger cast than usual and were pleased to welcome some new members. Rehearsals started in September and after a great deal of hard work, commitment and dedication, directed by Bryan Jones who also took responsibility for the lighting and music, we put on four performances.

Audience feedback was very positive and encouraging.

Two more stage backdrops were purchased eliminating the need for scenery painting. These were very kindly bought with money from John Matthissen. Kate, our costume mistress, once again worked her magic by turning our spectacular costumes for all the cast.

At the last performance we presented a special Jubilee rose bush to Carole Hearn and Jan Taylor on their retirement. They were both founder members and we thanked them for all their wonderful service over the past 48 years. Another founder member, Mike Robinson, still keeps coming back for more!

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to the Committee for all the hard work they do and all the effort they make in keeping the Jubilee Players alive. Thank you also to Pauline Phoenix for taking over the role of Treasurer and organising the Box Office. Looking forward to the next show.

OHS Village Hall and Playing Field Trust:

Village Hall: Hall hires are down and subsequently revenue with the loss of the preschool.

Pilates continues twice a week on Monday and Thursday evenings.

We now have a trial Yoga session once a month which may become more regular if popular.

Jubilee Players continue with their productions.

Little Owls have expanded into the garden to create outside space and we continue to support them with low hall hire rates.

The outbuildings are completed, drainage is in and the parking area has been levelled off.

The project in the main has been completed with a grant from Mid-Suffolk and part funded from our own accounts/fundraising. We have a new floor, repaired and painted windows and internal glazing.

A working party has started decorating the entrance hall.

Plans are underway for the fete. The committee are happy to have Harleston and Shelland on board as well as help from the Parish Council. Hopefully this will be the start of more projects together. Help will be needed to man the stalls and setting up and packing away on the day.

A quiz night is planned for June. We hope to organise a garage sale this year.

Sports and Social Club

This continues to open on a Friday evening regularly with volunteer bar staff. darts team continues in the league which has meant revenue on a Thursday evening.

We will be supporting the fete with an outside bar and a darts tournament.

We hope to freshen the bar up and redecorate at some point.

Onehouse Church

Our benefice of seven parishes had a busy and fruitful year in 2024, and there is much to give thanks to God for throughout all our communities. For the first time in a few years we had no major Royal events to celebrate or commemorate but kept both the King and the Princess of Wales in our prayers as they undertook treatment for cancer.

Likewise in our ministry team, throughout the year we welcomed back Revd Canon Pauline, and our Reader, Ray Taylor, both of whom had undergone major treatment during 2023. We were mightily assisted by Revd Canon Barbara Bilston during this time and offer her our thanks and prayers for her support to the benefice throughout 2024. Our other Reader, Rod Higham, and our Elders continued with their ministries - pastoral, prayer and the leading of services – enabling us to continue to offer two services every month to each church and also on zoom for those unable to get to church. Finally, we prayed for Andy Little as he attended a selection panel to go forward for ordained ministry and celebrated with him when he was accepted and began his training within the diocese in September. God willing, Andy will be ordained as a Deacon at the cathedral in June 2025.

Huge thanks go to our churchwardens, treasurers, PCC secretaries and PCC members, and our parish safeguarding officers for their time, support and energy as we continue to serve our communities and enable our church buildings and churchyards to be welcoming to everyone. And thanks also to all who volunteer whether doing the flowers, bell ringing, reading the lesson, assisting at Holy Communion, offering hospitality after services and at fundraising events, and a multitude of other tasks that regularly arise in our church communities. Without all of your help, support and prayers our benefice would not be in the place of strength

and stability that it is and we thank you for everything you do for our churches and church communities.

Throughout 2024 we continued to build on the progress made in previous years and here are a few high points from ministry across the benefice:

Our first full year of Messy Church took place 4 times throughout 2024 celebrating Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas - the number of families attending is growing with each session

Revd Canon Pauline and Rod, assisted by Nigel Brown, have been able to re-introduce ministry to the members of Finborough Court in Great Finborough with monthly Holy Communion services and prayer meetings

Our schools ministry to Trinity CEVAP School in Combs, Combs Ford Community Primary School in Combs and Great Finborough CEVCP School in Great

Finborough has continued to thrive. In September Bishop Martin visited Trinity Primary to celebrate their 10th birthday and led the first school Eucharist service

During the spring and early summer we held a short course looking at different types of prayer. Our benefice prayer group is well-established and receives regular requests for prayer and for names to be added to our confidential prayer list. We held our first benefice quiet day in September at the church hall in Stowupland when Archdeacon David Jenkins led a day on Celtic Christianity. The day was well attended and we hope to continue to have an annual quiet day with a different theme each year

A deanery confirmation service was held at Barham church in March and there were 2 candidates from Combs, one child and one adult

In July a special service was held at the site of the Onehouse Paupers' Graves to commemorate those who had been buried there with just a number to identify them. Ray Taylor worked with a researcher and over 200 names were discovered and included on a special memorial, our thanks go to the Paupers' Graves team who work tirelessly to maintain this important place for all to enjoy. Thanks also to the parish council and other supporters who worked together to provide the memorial and refreshments after the service

Also in July we held a well-attended benefice meeting to learn about Friends' Groups. Ian Angus, the diocesan reference point for Friends' Groups for churches, talked about how such groups can be very helpful in assisting with the maintenance of the fabric of our church buildings and the process for setting them up

All this is in addition to our regular pattern of services, many fundraising events, baptisms, weddings and funerals, and regular events such as Meet Up Monday in Combs, the village coffee morning in Onehouse and the continuing visits of the Rural Coffee Caravan to Combs, Buxhall and Harleston.

So you can see 2024 was another busy year of ministry in the life of our benefice. Of course I haven't been able to mention everything that happened but I do hope you'll be able to see how the importance of ministering together as a team, to both the people who attend our churches and everyone in the wider community, is key

to our roles as Christians. By living a Christian life and spreading the good news of the Gospel we become the light of Christ in our communities.

OHS Women's Guild

We have had a very good year. Our membership has risen to 35 plus 3 honorary members. The committee have been very busy planning our programme, now up to April 2026. Changing our meetings to afternoons is working very well. Our programme and insurance certificates are displayed on our lovely new noticeboard in Trinity Hall. We also report each month in the OHSMag. Our AGM will take place on the 15th May.

Paupers Graves

We have had a very exciting and successful year. We had two more volunteers join the group and one decided to give up, so we are now a team of nine. Also, with the discovery of 302 names of people who died in the 'Hundred of Stow Workhouse' by Julie Johnson who used our Pauper's Graves for her MA dissertation on; Paupers graves in Victorian times and 'why paupers were not allowed to be buried in a consecrated village church graveyard.' This gave us the idea of putting up a memorial with all their names on so that they should be remembered as individuals and not just a cast iron number!! To this end we wrote to every county and district Councillor and every parish council within the old Stow Hundred area 14 villages in total. We had a fantastic response from about half of the councillors and Onehouse Parish Council who between them donated £6,700.00 which covered the cost of the memorial and a bit left over for the expense of a grand unveiling of the memorial and dedication service including refreshments on Friday the 19 of July. We erected a marquee and seventy two people attended the unveiling ceremony carried out by the Chair of Onehouse Parish Council, a short talk by our researcher Julie and a service for the dedication of the paupers' graves at Onehouse conducted by the Reverend Sarah Jenkins. It was a beautiful day and all who attended were amazed at what we have achieved in the graveyard to make it the special place it is and given the dignity and respect that those souls deserved but have been denied until now. Just before the memorial plaque was fitted in the base of the memorial we placed a Time Capsule containing an Order of service, a photograph of the Team, a July OHSmag and a booklet of the history of the Stow lodge Workhouse.

To our amazement we were awarded a Suffolk Preservation Society Heritage Champion Award 2024 for work in the community and we attended a presentation evening at Heveningham Hall in North Suffolk to receive our certificates on Thursday the 18th July and were presented with them by the Chair of Onehouse Parish Council during the Unveiling Service the next day.

We have had two new recycled plastic benches donated to us one by District Councillor John Matthissen and the other Onehouse Parish Council, although

these are rather expensive they are almost indestructible and completely maintenance free.

The Pauper's Care Team at the moment are: Grant Corrigan, John Robinson, Richard Cook, John Corker, John Emsden, Ian Fraser, David Nicholson, Phil James and Ray Taylor our total age is 710!! We are getting quite an ancient team, so; if there are any volunteers out there who would like to carry on to care for this very important and historic site please contact us on 01449 613343.

Little Owls Baby and Toddler Group

For those of you who don't know, Little Owls is a baby and Toddler Group that started in January this year. After having my second child I found it a lot harder to get to baby groups and noticed lots of young families in the village and there came the idea. Fast forward to a parish meeting that I went to where it was also brought up I stepped forward and along came Leanne and Helen who are my right hand women in the running of the toddler group.

We also have Susan, Judy, Kay and Martina from the village who offer their time to help the group run smoothly every Wednesday, they honestly are such an asset to the group.

Our group has a wide range of toys and we work on a two week rotation so that children don't get bored. We have a sectioned off baby area to keep them safe and some of the other areas where we include role play, craft/play dough, car and mats, building blocks, puzzles and reading area. We plan each term and try to do a few planned activities to fit in with events that may be happened in such as Mother's Day, Father's Day etc.

We recently applied and received some funding from Mid Suffolk for the last financial year and we used this to purchase and update our role play area, we have a better range of toy food and now have a shop called 'Owlds' which has been a great success. The children enjoy the tills and shopping trolleys.

We also used the funding for some black dolls so all children feel they are represented in their role play.

We purchased an additional table and chairs to use for the shop too.

We have been fund raising to open the garden area up for the children. Thanks to personal donations and the Onehouse bar along with a raffle we were able to create a fun filled garden area with sand, water table, ride on cars, slide etc which went down so well with the children and parents!

We have lots of ideas for the garden with planting flowers and a bug house too but these will take a bit of time.

Our biggest thing we are working on is to continue our numbers as we are saving to fund next year. This is a worry for us but it's something we continue to monitor.

I have had a few moments where I have taken a step back and watched the children playing and the parents chatting and getting involved and I have felt really proud of what we have achieved. It's so lovely to get to know parents and grandparents of the local community and beyond.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help or wants to just see what we do then please let me know.

9. Any other business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....