

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – VIDEO CONFERENCING MINUTES

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held via **VIDEO-CONFERENCE CALL** on **TUESDAY 09 MARCH 2021** at **7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Garrod Cllr Porth Cllr Collar Cllr Carter Cllr Choat Cllr Jones
Cnty Cllr Finch

01 Member of the public

20/128 NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None to advise

20/129 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR MARCH MEETING

Cllr Garrod declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 20/137(a) regarding FP3

20/130 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON 12 JANUARY 2021

RESOLUTION – Minutes 12 January 2021 adopted as true record: Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Carter. - Unanimous agreement.

20/131 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment on items on the agenda or of import. Time for this session is limited to 15 minutes (03 minutes per person)

None provided

20/132 DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)

County Cllr Finch: -

- Essex is in top 10 of most effective councils in UK with a population of 1.5M people. Increased adult social care precept for 2021.
- 90% schools are good or outstanding, however, lowest spend per pupil in the UK.
- Educational recovery task force being established post lockdown.
- Laptop campaign – 5000 donated to Essex school children.
- 2019 – Established independent Climate action commission, diverse body of people.
- 120,000 street lights beign changed to LEDs.
- Schools undergoing refurbishment with carbon neutral materials.
- Cycle ways being expanded across the county.
- Electric car charging facilities are being expanded.

Q. Cllr Garrod – PC has own street lamp responsibility that need upgrading to LED, queried any funds available?

A. Cnty Cllr Finch – Construction Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds can be available from Essex via the county association - EALC plus the newly elected County Cllrs will have a fund to share amongst parishes which will be repeated for 2021-2022.

Q. Cllr Garrod – FP3 erosion, any update?

A. Cnty Cllr Finch – Agreed to email the Officer for a response and copy PC with that response.

Cllr Collar – Confirmed how most helpful and kind David has been and very grateful for all he has done for the parish.

Cllr Porth – Recalled some history, how David Finch had helped the community on numerous occasions on varied matters; intervened for instance over the access point to village hall, an example of how he had assisted the community and wished David a long and well earned retirement.

Dist Cllr Garrod shared highlights from her report – Full report at **APPENDIX A**

	<p>Q. Cllr Carter – Queried major road closure by Suffolk County that will impact severely on the Sturmer roads. A. Cllr Garrod – Not informed of the closure but will make enquiries.</p> <p>Cllr Porth shared local newspaper article which covered proposed road closures commencing month end.</p> <p>Cllr Collar queried boundary commission review and whether it might impact the parish boundary?</p> <p><i>Cnty Cllr Finch left the meeting – 19:50pm</i></p>
20/133	<p>RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cllr Garrod attended the EALC Climate Conference. ➤ Dog waste bin Hill Lane now installed. ➤ Street Cleaning contract renewal invite – Is this something the PC wish to take up? ➤ The receipt from Community Heartbeat has been forwarded to ECC to claim the £1,000 grant towards the Defibrillator. ➤ PC.Gov domain name is now fully ported onto the e-voice hosting service and the domain name related email accounts, as you are aware, are now in operation with one exception, Cllr Collar whom I have yet to organise access. ➤ There has been correspondence regarding the Bridge works, circulated to members, but I imagine these will be covered later in the Agenda under representatives reports. ➤ Various communications from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and the EALC have been circulated to members since our last meeting. All other matters are to be covered by the items on the Agenda.
20/134	<p>FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements: Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Choat – Cllr Carter to Authorise. Finance Statements at APPENDIX B</p>
20/135	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS</p> <p>Ref. 21/00211/HH Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension. - 2 The Gables, Rowley Hill, Sturmer Submission date – 15 March NO OBJECTION</p> <p>Ref. 21/00365/HH Retrospective planning application to retain Annex in the rear garden. Removal of the entrance canopy and open side lean-to store. Landscaping/tree planting. Provision of an extra car parking space at the front. - 5 Abbots Croft, The Street, Sturmer Submission date – 17 MARCH Too large, no formal inspection process, proposed use has changed</p> <p>Site Address: Abbots Hall Rowley Hill Sturmer Essex CB9 7XH Description of Development: Replacement of the existing conservatory with an orangery and the replacement of doors and surrounds, windows, skirting, flooring, a staircase, banisters to main staircase and the fitting of bathrooms and kitchen. Planning Application Ref: 20/00396/HH & 20/00397/LBC Appellant’s Name: Mr Darren Spencer Ahmet Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/20/3260894 & 3260899 Appeal Start Date: 1 March 2021 Cllr Porth – reiterate original comments and falling into disrepair affect on listing building,</p>
20/136	<p>AGREE ACTION TO PROMOTE CENSUS 2021 ACROSS THE COMMUNITY Included in December 2020 and February 2021 community newsletters</p>
20/137	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths</p>

	<p>FP17 – Signpost broken, new sign now installed; dog bags still being thrown in hedges. FP3 bollards in place to warn walkers not to use pathway at present.</p> <p>b) Flood Action Group Full report APPENDIX C; Hill Lane blocked gulley now cleared. Highways bridge survey requires location of rising main which document the PC holds, Highways to arrange viewing of the documents to help locate the rising main.</p> <p>c) Play Area All in fine fettle, Covid sign in situ. Litter bin filling on a weekly basis.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance Tree removed on Amenity walk; work required at Crunch Croft, contractor needs instruction to attend, Cllr Carter to progress. Village entry roadside gate needs reinstating, Cllr Garrod suggested approach LHP for cost of reinstatement.</p> <p>20/137(i) – War Memorial grant update Cllr Porth – Response from grant committee, not prepared to fund slabs but will fund replacement concrete; two new quotes being sought for concrete surrounds to resubmit to grant funding commission before end of March.</p>
20/138	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION PROJECT</p> <p>Cllr Jones – Defibrillator now in and working. Four volunteers offered to help manage the device. Signs available for positioning to indicate unit location and direct users of its whereabouts in an emergency. Cllr Garrod offered to produce some copies for laminating including printing additional instructions for use.</p> <p>Text messaging service working well. Overhanging trees need trimming that obscure the location at the village hall, neighbour to be approached. Mentioned that unauthorised parking on the hall frontage also masks the unit’s location.</p> <p>Training still available.</p>
	<p><i>Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting for the next item, 20/79, Exclusion of Public and Press - Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the following item on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt and commercially sensitive information</i></p>
20/139	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</p> <p><i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i></p>
20/140	<p>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA</p> <p>Catesby development maintain watching brief.</p>
20/141	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 13 APRIL – CLOSE – 8:57pm</p>

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report March 2021 to Parish Councils
Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

01/03/21 **(Cllr.**

Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closure of Bower Hall Drive, Steeple Bumpstead, due to commence on 28th April 2021 for 8 days and The Endway, Steeple Bumpstead 10th to 12th March. Also Hill Lane, Sturmer from 10th -12th March. The closures are required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Council Tax

Braintree District Council has formally agreed to freeze its share of council tax.

Cllr Graham Butland, Council Leader, said: “We want to support our residents as much as we can. Providing help through the pandemic while also fulfilling a legal duty to set a balanced budget and provide essential services remains extremely challenging. Unfortunately, it isn’t something we can do every year, but it will mean that during this coming year residents will not have to find extra money for our services.”

Cllr David Bebb, Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, said: “Years of sound financial management has enabled us to do this. Residents may still see their overall bill increase depending on decisions taken by the other authorities, but the portion of your council tax that Braintree District Council requires will be frozen.”

Discretionary council tax discounts and exemptions for 2021/22 are:

- Discount applicable to empty dwellings undergoing major repairs is set at 0% for the twelve month period
- Discount applicable to vacant dwellings is set at 0% for the six month period
- Discount applicable to second homes is set at 0%
- Discretionary Council Tax Empty Homes Premiums charged on dwellings vacant for over two-years but less than five-years continue at 100%; on dwellings vacant for over five-years but less than tenyears continue at 200%; and on dwellings vacant for over ten-years be increased to 300%, with effect from 1st April 2021.

Occupational Therapist Extension

In 2019 approval was given to run a one year pilot scheme in conjunction with Chelmsford and Maldon to recruit a Senior Occupational Therapist to aid the discharge of patients from hospital, to help with Disabled Facilities Grants and improve connections with the Health Service. Over the last two years the pilot has developed into a much broader support scheme for the Council and patients alike, and has extended its remit to include the prevention of readmission to hospital. The Council’s Housing Team has also made use of the Occupational Therapist for the speedy assessment of void homes for suitability for a disabled client, or advising in relation to mutual exchanges and new builds. This pilot is due to complete in April 2021. The scheme will be extended for a further three years with funding from the Better Care Fund.

Domestic Abuse

The Council was part of a successful funding bid last year with a number of other councils to help enable the charity, Next Chapter to provide a range of services. Next Chapter have recently appointed a Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioner to provide advice and support to residents in the district who are experiencing domestic abuse. This service and a wide range of domestic abuse information, advice and support can be accessed via the Essex Compass website:-<https://www.essexcompass.org.uk/>

Legal Action

A couple from Castle Hedingham whose dog strayed and displayed aggression towards a woman and child and attacked their dog causing serious injuries. They failed to attend court but were subsequently arrested and released on bail. They have been summoned to attend court and enter pleas to the offence under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

A couple from Stambourne, whose dog was dangerously out of control and caused injuries to a person and a dog. They are also required to attend Court and enter pleas to the offence under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Rough Sleepers

There are currently 5 individuals accommodated in hotels under a discretionary power due to the public health crisis. All of those accommodated at the first lockdown have now moved on to other accommodation, either with the assistance of local housing projects or into the private rented sector with financial support. BDC will work with the current 5 (and any new rough sleepers identified) to help them resolve their longer-term housing needs but this very much requires a partnership approach to improve the chances of tenancy sustainment. Peabody Outreach are working with this group to ensure registration with a GP so as not to miss out on vaccination.

NHS Test and Trace Payments

As at 31st December, the Benefits Team had received 563 applications from residents, who had been told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate, for a payment of £500. 312 were rejected as they did not meet the eligibility criteria for either the standard or discretionary schemes. 93 applicants received payment under the standard scheme and 52 applicants received payment under the discretionary scheme. A further 106 applications are in progress and awaiting further information before a decision is made. The Council has received initial funding of £51,500 for the standard scheme and £31,109.32 for the discretionary scheme. From January, the Council has accepted additional funding of £308,000 from Essex County Council to expand the discretionary scheme with the aim that more people who have been told to self-isolate receive the payment and therefore help contain the spread of the virus.

Covid-19 Update

Braintree District average case rate has declined over recent weeks but the number of new cases remains very high. Hospitals are still experiencing pressures, as is the care sector. Very sadly, Covid-19 deaths in Essex continue to exceed 200 per week. We have seen a doubling in the cumulative number of Covid -19 deaths across the county since the start of December. Through BDC's communication channels, the Council continues to encourage everyone to adhere to the guidance and follow the rules of hand, face, space, to work from home where possible, and always socially distance.

More details and up to date information can be found here:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control-plan/data-cases-in-essex-by-district>

Below; data extracted 23rd February (data will be next updated 4th March)

<u>District</u>	<u>11th Feb. cases per 100,000 per week</u>	<u>23rd Feb. cases per 100,000 per week</u>
Braintree	144.8	80.6
Uttlesford	87.6	65.7
Colchester	104.3	102.7
Chelmsford	109.9	69.5
Harlow	156.1	107.9
Essex	114.2	91.7

Business Support

Over £3.6 million has been paid out in grants to businesses since the introduction of restrictions in October. The Council's team continues to work as hard as they can to get all the grants paid out to eligible businesses as soon as possible. Please go to BDC's website or social media pages for up to date business support information.

Local Plan Update

Braintree District Council's Full Council has unanimously agreed to adopt the Strategic Section 1 Local Plan which it shares with Tendring District and Colchester Borough council. At a meeting held Monday 22 February, members approved Section 1 of the plan, paving the way for work on Section 2 to continue. A Local Plan is a strategic blueprint for development, and the new one being adopted by Braintree District Council runs until 2033. In December 2020, a Planning Inspector ruled Section 1 of the plan to be legally compliant and could be adopted subject to including his modifications. The council will now continue with Section 2 which is its individual plan, which contains local policies and allocations, prior to adoption of the whole plan.

Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning at Braintree District Council, said: "All parties support the way forward. We will continue to press the Planning Inspector to bring forward the examination of the second part of our local plan from July 2021. "We hope we can adopt the whole plan this year and this will give us better protection from inappropriate development."

For Braintree, the Section 1 Plan includes Policy SP4 which requires a minimum housing requirement of 14,320 new homes over the period 2013 to 2033, an annual average of 716 new homes. This replaces the previous consideration of housing need based on the Standard Methodology.

The latest Housing Delivery Test (HDT) results were published in January 2021. Prior to the publication of this year's results, the Council was in the category of having to provide a 20% buffer to its Housing Land Supply. The new results (which include an allowance for the impact of the current pandemic) confirm that the Council no longer needs to apply a 20% buffer and can revert to the usual 5% buffer.

Through Policy SP5, the Section 1 Plan also sets out employment land requirements for Braintree of 20.9 and 43.3 hectares for the Plan period. The formal adoption of the Section 1 Local Plan by Braintree District Council has the effect of replacing, in part, a number of the strategic policies contained within the Braintree District Core Strategy 2011 (Adopted September 2011). The Core Strategy (2011) and Local Plan Review (2005) will be replaced in full on the formal adoption of the Section 2 Local Plan which contains further specific local policies and proposals applicable to the Braintree District only.

The Section 1 Plan and its appendices, the adoption statement, the Sustainability Appraisal (and addendum) and the Planning Inspector's report are available to view online via the Council's website: www.braintree.gov.uk For further information please contact: Planning Policy Team at Email: planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk

Retiring Staff At BDC

Braintree Council loses 128 years of professional knowledge and skills.

Dave Jarvis left the Council on 20th December 2020 after 38 years working for the Building Control Service.

This month, Jon Goldsmith will be retiring after over 48 years' service for Braintree Council. John has worked both for Building Control and Environmental Health.

Dave Chaplin is taking early retirement from the Health Protection Team after working for the Council for 42 years as an Environmental Health Officer.

Leader of Essex County Council

The Leader of Essex County Council, Cllr David Finch, has announced he will not be seeking re-election to the authority at May's elections. Cllr Finch has been a member of Essex County Council for nearly 20 years, since being first elected in 2001, and has led the authority for the past eight years. Prior to becoming Leader, Cllr Finch was Deputy Leader from 2010 to 2013, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care from 2008 to

2010, and Cabinet Member for Finance and Property from 2003 to 2008. Making the announcement at the Full Council meeting, which also set the County Council's budget for 2021/22, Cllr Finch told members:

“I have been proud to serve as a member of Essex County Council since the very first day I was elected almost 20 years ago in June 2001, and even prouder to lead this great authority for the past eight years.

“I will leave with an immense sense of pride in what we have achieved in my time as Leader and as a Cabinet Member. “

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - February 2021										BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
										10,332.00		
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt	
14-Jan	HMRC	Q3 PAYE	PAYE	FPO		Y		8.80		8.80	HMRC	
14-Jan	Sturmer Village Hall	Grant	N/A	FPO		Y		1000.00		1000.00	S137	
14-Jan	Atlantic Vision	Domain Registration	136786	FPO		Y		142.80	23.80	119.00	Web	
26-Jan	A&J Lighting	Lamp 9005	34826	DD		Y		132.60	22.10	110.50	Lighting	
01-Feb-21	N Claydon	Defibrillator contribution	N/A	BGC		Y	500.00				Income	
15-Feb-21	A&J Lighting	Lighting	34892	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
16-Feb-21	Haven Power	Lighting Electricity	1751/1752	DD		Y		48.04	2.29	45.75	Electricity	
23-Feb-21	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO		Y		417.00		417.00	Clerk	
FEBRUARY							500.00	492.04	6.79	485.25		
Balance £ 11,446.93												

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - March 2021										BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
										10,332.00	11,156.88	-824.88
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt	
	EALC	Climate Crisis Conf	13529	FPO				60.00	10.00	50.00	Admin	
	Electric Websites	Mail services	160221	FPO				36.00		36.00	Web	
	Haven Power	Lighting Electricity	8284/8286	DD				43.48	2.07	41.41	Electricity	
	A&J Lighting	Lighting	34981	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
	Microsoft	O365	30961	FPO				20.00		20.00	Admin	
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				417.00		417.00	Clerk	
MARCH							0.00	603.48	16.57	586.91		
Balance £ 10,843.45												
Year Opening Balance £ 11,802.74												
Surplus/Loss - £959.29 (incl VAT)												

APPENDIX C

Sturmer Flood Action Group report – March 2021

We believe 7 surveys were carried out.

2 properties had FPP installed with grant aid;

At 2 properties the owners were keen to have FPP but the construction of their properties was not suitable i.e. flint and timber (clunch);

At 2 properties the owners declined to proceed;

We are not sure where the 7th property was or what the outcome was.

We had hoped more properties would have had FPP under the grant scheme. However, we are satisfied we have done all we can (with the help of the PC Chairman) to inform all owners of the eligible properties that it could be available to them.

We have kept the information on file for future residents.

Hill Lane - the blocked gully was cleared but seems to have silted up again and the condition of the road continues to deteriorate rapidly.

There was a flood warning on 14 January.

I hope to join the meeting and will look out for the zoom link on the website.

Thank you

Linda Bevan
Secretary
Sturmer Flood Action Group