

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – VIDEO CONFERENCING MINUTES
STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Ian Brown
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Email: sturmerpc@gmail.com

72 St. Edmunds Fields
Dunmow
Essex, CM6 2AN

Minutes of the **MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held via **VIDEO-CONFERENCE CALL** on **TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021** at **7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Garrod Cllr Porth Cllr Collar Cllr Carter Cllr Choat Cllr Jones
01 Member of the public

21/01 NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None provided

21/02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING
Non pecuniary interest declared for Item 21/09(i) Footpaths by Cllr Garrod

Cllr Garrod announcements –

Former Councillor Mrs Kate McLeod-Jones

It is with great sadness that I announce the unexpected death of Mrs Kate McLeod-Jones on Friday 2nd April 2021. Kate was a member of Sturmer Parish Council from 2004 to 2017. For much of this time she oversaw our Public Rights of Way and other footpaths. She was also an enthusiastic litter picker in the village and proactive in the removal of fly-posters; keeping a handy pair of secateurs in her car. She had many friends in Sturmer and will be greatly missed.

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

I would like to acknowledge with great sadness, the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 9th April 2021 at Windsor Castle, aged 99. Prince Philip was known for his devotion to duty, his steadfast support for the Queen and a continuous life of service to this country. We join with people around the world in mourning his loss.

As a mark of respect the flag at Sturmer Village Hall is flying at half-mast. His funeral is scheduled to take place on Saturday 17th April 2021. There is a national online book of condolence available for people to share a message in tribute to his memory at www.royal.uk.

21/03 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON 09 MARCH 2021
RESOLUTION – Minutes 09 March 2021 adopted as true record: Proposed Cllr Carter, Seconded Cllr Porth - Unanimous agreement.

21/04 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)
No members of the public present to speak

21/05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)
Full Report at **APPENDIX A**

21/06 RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE
We have received a generous donation towards the Defibrillator project from the Red Lion, which I have gratefully acknowledged.

There is a page on the Braintree District Council (BDC) website covering all matters S106 including a dedicated email address for that department – section106@braintree.gov.uk

Abbotts Hall – Appeal decision remains pending

The resident who's tree had fallen across the river has advised that his brother is to inspect to confirm what is needed to remove it and get it removed, awaiting that confirmation.

And finally you will be pleased to know I have now completed my final examination for the Certificate in Local Council Administration, it does bring an element of financial freedom to the council, my reward is a one point movement up the spinal column pay-scale or +24p per hour, please note that councils have yet to be informed by EALC as to the national agreement on pay awards for 2021-22.

All other matters are to be covered by the items on the Agenda

21/07

FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER

RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements: Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Choat – Cllr Carter to Authorise. Finance Statements at **APPENDIX B**

Noted Accounts have been forwarded to the Internal Auditor and that the council's income or expenditure below £25,000 renders it exempt from an external audit.

Recognise Clerk CilCa accreditation and one Spinal Column Point pay increment – an additional 24p per hour.

21/08

REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS

Application No: 21/ 00936/HHPA – Erection of single storey rear extension at 6 The Gables, Rowley Hill, Sturmer.

(No requirement for the PC to comment)

Ref. 21/00915/TPO

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 4/94 – T1 ON SKETCH PLAN – MAPLE, REMOVE 1 LOWER LIMB AS PER PICTURE TO GIVE SUITABLE CLEARANCE TO HOUSE ROOF BEFORE LEAVES SPROUT CAUSING LIMB TO DROP AND RUB ON EXISTING HOUSE TILES AS IMMEDIATE REPAIR IS IN NEED ALREADY. – Coupals Cottage, Coupals Road, Sturmer

Comment date – 05 May

Tree Warden visited site and confirmed works OK to proceed – CLERK to ACTION

Essex Minerals Local Plan Review consultation – document previously circulated to members – APPENDIX XYZ
Comment date – 29 April 2021

Cllr Porth commented that the plans posed no impact within 20 miles but noted the Suffolk plans may well prove to be within 5 miles.

Cllr Porth prepared the following comment:-

Essex Minerals Local Plan Review Consultation

Sturmer Parish Council wish to object to these proposals, which locate the majority of Essex County Council's sand and gravel extraction within the Braintree district and close to Braintree town and nearby villages. It will have adverse impacts on residents, the countryside setting and road network for decades. We are disappointed that earlier objections made by Braintree Council were dismissed by the inspector and a number of sites, which have a high concentration within the Braintree district, have been given permission. We believe it can result in the harm to the living conditions and health of nearby residents. We hope that Essex County Council will not take any new sites into consideration within the Braintree district.

	<p>One site, adjacent to site A7 is proposed as flood alleviation area and is anticipated to receive large amounts of extraction of sand and gravel. We would ask that the sum of extraction is included in the overall extraction figures as a whole and is not taken as a separate or additional figure. New wording permits offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and includes consideration of site operations. With regards to Policy S3; Climate Change. Whilst we welcome the strengthened wording regarding infrastructure strategies and the benefits to wildlife/habitat creation, we are unable to see how this will be monitored and would ask that documented monitoring be included to support climate change mitigation. We would ask that features such as biodiversity and habitat improvements and public access be written into policy S6.</p> <p>With regards to Policy S4. We welcome the encouragement of a more widespread network of facilities for recycling building materials. However, we remain concerned that this will result in excessive noise, dust and pollution for neighbouring land and it does not consider the impacts on wildlife and habitat.</p> <p>CLERK to SUBMIT to Essex Planning</p>
21/09	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <p>a) Footpaths Cllr Choat - FP3 – Current notice out of date, Highways visited site to meet Cllr Garrod, located five areas needing repair, cost to be estimated and put forward for ECC support, noted access required across neighbouring private land. FP- Running from the Church to Hill Lane, way-posts sited with one way-post in the middle of the field, however, it is missing some way-marker discs. Noted - still require additional way-markers to improve signage on FPs in the parish.</p> <p>b) Flood Action Group Cllr Carter – Bridge, Water Lane, Highways provided with local plans showing location of water main confirming route of water main and thus bore holes can now be dug. Gullies cleared on main road 31/03; Additional woody dam installed using horses for heaving lifting; noted - no works in Hill Lane to date; Cllr Choat asked whether a woody dam could be sited behind the houses at Maltings to alleviate flooding?</p> <p>c) Play Area Cllr Porth – All OK, future costs of safety report will increase due to more equipment; CLERK to seek alternative quote from Wicksteed, if less council agrees to proceed.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance Cllr Carter – Amenity walk, rubbish overflowing, report of camping on 7th Hole on golf course. Rear of Crunch Croft cut back, recommendation to commence cutting earlier. Cllr Carter to instruct contractor for early start.</p> <p>e) War Memorial Cllr Porth – Estimates submitted to grant organisation; Grantor reply affirmed only cheapest quote to be considered but that is not the council’s preferred contractor or solution, however, council are advised they must use the alternative contractor but will be considered as a grant recipient to allow the PC to use their preferred contractor, leaving the council to find circa £450 to complete the project such as utilising the S106 funds.</p>
21/10	<p>RECEIVE ANNUAL LAMP INSPECTION Noted, no notice of deterioration of stock</p>
21/11	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE DEFIBRILLATOR AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS – Cllr Jones Volunteers confirmed their ability to contribute to supporting the Defibrillator; Folder being produced by Cllr Jones; Sign displaying at Nursery, another sign to be displayed at the Red Lion, notice for Park to be affixed, V-sign needs adapting or changing, Heartbeat to be approached for alternative sign; Training provision is now on a waiting list; contact details to be placed at Defibrillator unit; Doctor ABCD posters are available for display at the village hall; the Defib site has been registered with the Goodsam App by the First Responders; Unit site awareness posted elsewhere; Digital file on memory stick to be kept in the Office. Suggested place an advert in the parish magazine to update the residents of the work and the units existence.</p> <p>Cllr Carter suggested maybe a photograph of contributors could appear in the parish magazine?</p>
21/12	<p>CONSIDER INVITATION TO RENEW STREET CLEANING AGREEMENT WITH BDC Unanimous agreement – CLERK to ACTION</p>
21/13	<p>NOTE THE EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF POTHoles – AGREE ACTION</p>

	Holes being marked by Highways but markings do disappear, some holes repaired but others not touched and yet in urgent need of repair. Council disappointed with increasing numbers, Cllr Garrod to approach County Cllr for support.
21/14	NOTE AND DISCUSS COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT CONCERNING DUMPING OF GREEN DEBRIS IN THE WOOD BEHIND THE RAILWAY WALK – AGREE ACTION Private property and not open for third party waste dumping, noted it is not PC land; suggested article in parish magazine advising the land is privately owned.
21/15	NOTE AND DISCUSS COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT ABOUT RECENT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT THE GAUGING STATION – AGREE ACTION Possibly a one off but to be monitored. Not PC property and noted a public footpath passes by the area, thus not easily fenced off. Acknowledgement sent to the resident who originally raised the concern.
21/16	<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>
21/17	RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS Clerk provided update to council <i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i>
21/18	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA None suggested at present.
21/19	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18 MAY - ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – CLOSE 8:47pm

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

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report April 2021 to Parish Councils

(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closure of Steeple Bumpstead Road, due to commence on 28th April 2021 for 2 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes pole replacement.

Intended road closure of Sages End Road, due to commence on 5th May 2021 for 3 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Anglian Water undertakes new connection.

Sturmer Gateway Improvements

The Braintree Local Highway Panel met 25th March and minutes state as follows: (5) That the following schemes be recommended for approval and included in the programme of work for 2021/22:- LBRA182025 - Gateway improvements at entrance and exit to village, A1017 Rowley Hill, Sturmer: Estimated Cost:- £3,500.

May Elections - Thursday 6th May 2021

On Thursday 6th May residents will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at Essex County Council and who the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex will be. Ahead of the elections, Braintree District Council is asking residents, should they want to vote by post, to register for their postal vote as soon as possible. Alternatively, residents can vote at a polling stations (voters are asked to bring their own pen or pencil), or

appoint someone to vote on their behalf (proxy vote). Any residents who have any questions can contact the local elections team at Braintree District Council. The deadline for BDC receiving postal vote applications is 5pm Tuesday 20th April 2021 and for receiving proxy applications to vote is 5pm Thursday 27th April 2021.

National Grid

National Grid are holding a series of public webinar events about the Bramford to Twinstead project in relation to their non-statutory consultation. The consultation ends on 6th May. They are also holding a specific event on Sections F and G: Leavenheath, Assington and Stour Valley (part of which is in the Braintree District) on Thursday 15th April 7pm – 8pm. Please find a link with further details:

<https://bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com/consultation/have-your-say/>

Essex Minerals Local Plan

The Essex Minerals Local Plan was launched in July 2014 and sets out policies for minerals development in Essex. It includes the strategy for the most effective use of mineral resources and allocating sites for future extraction.

Essex County Council is consulting on proposed amendments to the Essex Minerals Local Plan and members of the public are invited to have their say.

Proposed changes include:

- That the two 'Reserve Sites' in the Plan (located at Bradwell Quarry in Braintree) are re-allocated to 'Preferred Sites'
- That the policy seeking the safeguarding of mineral resources and infrastructure is amended to reflect current best practice
- Some restrictions are lifted to allow for a greater range of uses for former extraction sites

There are no new sites included in the proposals. The Minerals consultation runs from 18 March until 29

April 2021 and can be accessed online. For any queries regarding the consultation please email the County Planning Team at mandwpolicy@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council's Public Rights of Way Satisfaction Survey

This survey is still running and if you wish to convey your thoughts, it takes just a few minutes:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/473a6fb7/>

Essex Climate Action Commission Consultation – Online Survey

Essex residents are invited to convey their views on a selection of the recommendations the Commission will make to help Essex become better able to deal with increased climate risks such as flooding and overheating and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to become a net-zero county by 2050. Their online survey can be found at:

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-climate-action-commission/> The feedback received from the survey will be independently analysed and summarised in the Commission's Final Report, due to be published in the summer.

The Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum

The Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Forum 2021, *reflections on the past and opportunities for the future*, will take place via Zoom on Thursday 17 June from 9:20am to midday. Topics covered will include nature recovery, archaeology, young people on conservation and the environment and a series of optional topic based presentations. The programme includes plenty of breaks, opportunities to ask questions and engage in discussion. All the details you need (including link to booking process) at: <https://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/2021/03/25/dedham-vale-aonb-and-stour-valley-forum-2021/>

Restart Grants

The Restart Grant scheme supports eligible businesses with a one-off grant, to reopen safely as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Eligible businesses in the non-essential retail sector may be entitled to a one-off cash grant of up to £6,000. Eligible businesses in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym sectors may be entitled to a one-off cash grant of up to £18,000. Check if you are eligible for grant at the Braintree District Council website. BDC will start making these payments once the year-end processes are complete and the necessary software

adjustments are made. The aim is to start processing payments from Friday, 9 April. BDC will endeavour to get these grants out to eligible businesses as quickly as possible.

Keep Up To Date With Coronavirus Facts and Figures

The official UK Government website for data and insights on Coronavirus (Covid-19) is:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk> Here you can enter your postcode and find out what is happening in your area with an easy read document which explains the key statistics presented on the dashboard.

From Monday 12th April, we will see the next step in the easing of lockdown restrictions. The full government guidance can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictionswhat-you-can-and-cannot-do#how-the-rules-will-change-on-12-april>

If you have any questions regarding the latest COVID restrictions, you can email Braintree Council's team at: covidenquiries@braintree.gov.uk

Covid-19: Twice-weekly Lateral Flow Coronavirus Tests (FREE)

These tests will now be available free for everyone in England. It is hoped an increase in testing will identify more of the 'one in three' asymptomatic cases, allowing people to isolate, break the chain of transmission and help prevent further Covid-19 outbreaks due to asymptomatic cases. Health Secretary Matt Hancock is encouraging everyone to participate and said regular testing was "one of the simplest and easiest ways we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe". The tests will be available from locations such as pharmacies, workplaces and community spaces, and can also be ordered for home delivery. Lateral flow devices have the advantage of giving a result in under 30 minutes but aren't as accurate as "gold standard" PCR tests, which must be sent to the lab. If a positive result is identified on the Lateral Flow Test. You must then report your test result on gov.uk/report-covid19-result and if you test positive then you must start self-isolating immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

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	
09-Mar	EALC	Climate Crisis Conf	13529	FPO				60.00	10.00	50.00	Admin	
09-Mar	Electric Websites	Mail services	160221	FPO				36.00		36.00	Web	
16-Mar	Haven Power	Lighting Electricity	8284/8286	DD				43.48	2.07	41.41	Electricity	
15-Mar	A&J Lighting	Lighting	34981	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
09-Mar	Microsoft	O365	30961	FPO				20.00		20.00	Admin	
26-Mar	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				417.00		417.00	Clerk	
26-Mar	BDC	Dog waste bin	6938930	FPO				60.00	10.00	50.00	Parish	
26-Mar	A&J Lighting	Annual maintenance	35001	FPO				110.28			Lighting	
29-Mar-21	D Higham	Parish maintenance	Inv 8	FPO				145.00		145.00	Parish	
MARCH							0.00	918.76	16.57	781.91		
Balance £ 10,528.17												

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - April 2021 Pt1							BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE		
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt
12-Apr	R Ltd	Defib contribution	N/A	FT			200.00				Income
	EALC	Affiliation Fees	14041	FPO				174.45		174.45	Subs
	A&J Lighting	Lighting	35071	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
	Haven Power	Electricity	3045/3039	DD				48.04	2.29	45.75	Utility
28-Apr	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				417.00		417.00	Clerk
	Post Office - IB	Minutes postage	228114	FPO				3.68		3.68	Admin
APRIL							200.00	670.17	6.79	663.38	
Balance £10,058											