

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 **COUNCIL MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021** at **7:30 PM**

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

21/37 NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier

21/38 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

Cllr Diana Garrod expressed a non pecuniary interest in Item 21/45 a) Footpaths – FP3

21/39 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2021

RESOLUTION – Minutes 18 May 2021 adopted as true record: Proposed Cllr Alan Carter, Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones - Unanimous agreement

21/40 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)

A member of the public expressed their concerns over the speed of traffic, primarily am and pm during rush-hour periods and the associated noise created by the volume of traffic, especially HGVs as they drive over/through the large potholes in Rowley Hill.

Council acknowledged the concern, explained action taken to date in a attempt to ameliorate the situation, including installation of Vehicle Activated Signs, 30mph Roundels painted on the highway and 30mph bin stickers but this was fundamentally a Police issue; noted that active Speedwatch groups are effective in calming traffic and that Sturmer would benefit from such a group, resident expressed an interest in forming part of such a group.

21/41 DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)

Dist Cllr Diana Garrod – Report at **APPENDIX A**

Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier –

- Have your say on safer, greener, healthier travel in Braintree - Ambitious plans to introduce more walking and cycling routes in Braintree are going on show to the public – and Essex County Council wants to know what you think.
- Free advice and support for small and medium businesses is now available from Essex County Council.
- Essex Libraries launch popular Summer Reading Challenge for young people.
- Essex has taken the first step in a long-term strategy to transform its bus network by working with bus operators to enable them to provide more buses and better services, to help people make sustainable transport choices.
- The establishment of the Essex Education Task Force with funding of £1 Million to ensure every child leaves school able to read at their school age or better.
- A new Care Technology Service where a range of technologies will be made available to assist elderly and disabled people but not to replace existing care provision.

21/42 RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ The office received a copy of a Notice which has been placed on the associated Churches from the Church of England Commissioners, it reads as follows - The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft Scheme in respect of proposals sent to them by the Bishop for:

the union of the parish of Steeple Bumpstead and the parish of Sturmer, being two of the constituent parishes of the Two Rivers Benefice in the diocese of Chelmsford, for the parish church of the parish of Steeple Bumpstead to be the parish church of the new parish and for the parish church of the parish of Sturmer to be declared closed for regular public worship. Residents have until 16 August to comment/respond.

- ❖ Bridge works update from Highways reads as follows - We are due to receive a communication update out in the next week on the status of the job. Ahead of that, we have retendered and are about to award the work. We intend to undertake the work during the week commencing 16th August.
- ❖ The office has received complaints re potholes which I shall leave for the item on the Agenda along with other matters that are covered by the Agenda.

NOTE VACANCY CONFIRMATION FROM BDC

The District council have advised the PC can now proceed with the co-option process to appoint a councillor as a result of Barbara's retirement.

Barbara served the council and the community she loved since 1990, some 31 years; her history, knowledge and experience will be greatly missed as will her contributions at council meetings.

21/43

FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER

RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements as attached: Proposed Cllr Terrie Jones, Seconded Cllr Diana Garrod – unanimous approval - Cllr Carter to Authorise.

Finance Statements at **APPENDIX B**

21/44

REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS

21/00365/HH - Feedback on Planning meeting wherein consideration was being given to the application to retain the Annex at 5 Abbots Croft – ITEM REMOVED BY BDC PLANNING DUE TO FLOOD RISK INVESTIGATION

To be noted that Cllr Diana Garrod has telephoned the Planning Officer, Jack Street on numerous occasions to discuss this application.

Ref. 21/02058/HH

Single storey detached annexe. - Rowley Hill Cottage, Rowley Hill, Sturmer

Comment date – 03 August 2021

Council wish it noted as a NO COMMENT response.

Application No: ESS/145/20/BTE

Proposal: Construction and operation of a waste recycling facility comprising a standalone recycling building, static recycling plant, storage bays and associated plant and equipment, office and welfare building, weighbridge, parking, fencing, lighting, landscaping, overnight HGV parking and new vehicular access.

Location: Plot 7, Phoenix Road, Haverhill Business Park, Haverhill, CB9 7AE

With reference to the above, I write to inform you that the application has been Granted

21/45

RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

a) Footpaths – Cllr Keith Choat – FP3 remains closed due to dangerous riverbank erosion; Wier footbridge awaiting repair.

b) Flood Action Group – Cllr Alan Carter – Visitors inspected installed “flood-doors” prior to their own decision to install.

c) Play Area – Cllrs Alan Carter & David Porth – Favourable safety inspection report from Wicksteed; suggestion to add manufacturers ID plate where missing; Sign advising visitors how to report defects - text to be produced by the CLERK and forwarded to Cllr David Porth for sign production and installation at play area.

Rusted dog bin in layby at entrance to Pocket Park – CLERK to advise BDC

d) Parish Maintenance – Cllr Alan Carter – Additional grass cutting required due to weather conditions, council approved.

	<p>e) War Memorial – Cllr David Porth – Unanimous agreement that the grant contract document for the contribution towards the renewal of the war memorial base be submitted by Cllr David Porth.</p> <p>f) Village Hall & Defibrillator – Cllr Terrie Jones – Discussions with neighbours to agree access across their land for users of the Hall in the event of an emergency, in exchange for a peppercorn rent.</p> <p>September – free event under planning, “Reconnecting the Community”.</p> <p>Four Village Hall committee members at present, in need of more.</p> <p>Some areas of the Hall are to be painted plus certain external electrics to be renewed.</p> <p>Queens Jubilee 70th Anniversary 2022, suggested 1950’s theme tea dance, clothing and food.</p> <p>Defibrillator training free to everyone, scheduled for 05 August at 7pm in the village hall, no booking required.</p> <p>Defibrillator training unit available at £400 – Cllr Alan Carter to confirm whether original fund raising excess would in fact meet that cost.</p> <p>g) Highways – Cllr Keith Choat – Verges overgrowing where not cut in the Spring; Potholes reported to Highways; cats-eyes missing to be reported to Highways</p>
21/46	<p>UPDATE TO FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AND REGISTER LAND OWNERSHIP</p> <p>CLERK to submit application for Search of Index Map at a cost of £4 to identify whether the land in question has confirmed ownership, currently not showing as registered. Depending on the outcome of the search the council can consider the move to an adverse possession registration</p>
21/47	<p>CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AT £40 PER ANNUM</p> <p>Unanimous approval to proceed with membership of BALC – CLERK to ACTION</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>
21/48	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</p> <p>None to report</p> <p><i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i></p>
21/49	<p>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA</p> <p>Vacancy co-option</p> <p>Appeal for Speedwatch group membership</p> <p>Queens Platinum Jubilee (June 2022) tree planting suggestions</p>
21/50	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 31 AUGUST– CLOSE – 9:04pm</p>

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

Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closures:-

Mill Road, Church Hill, Helions Bumpstead, due to commence on 6th July 2021 for 15 days while County Broadband Ltd undertakes to allow safe working with the carriageway.
 Water Lane, Helions Bumpstead, due to commence on 20th July 2021 for 8 days while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.
 Sages End Road, Helions Bumpstead due to commence on 27th July 2021 for 14 days while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.
 Birdbrook Road, Birdbrook due to commence on 31st August 2021 for 3 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.
 Haverhill Road, Wiggins Green, Copy Hill due to commence on 9th September 2021 for 21 days while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.

Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme opens on Monday 5th July 2021

Braintree District Council has been allocated £1.15 million to help businesses impacted by the recent extension in the Covid-19 restrictions. This discretionary scheme seeks to help businesses in certain sectors who have had their trade severely impacted by the extension of COVID-19 restrictions, regardless of whether they pay business rates or not. Businesses must have relatively high on-going fixed costs and fall within the weddings, events and/or international travel sectors to be eligible. Grants up to £5,000 will be awarded based on the size of the business. Businesses will be able to check their eligibility on the BDC website when the scheme opens on Monday, 5 July. The window for applications will be open for a week. As funds are limited, applications will be assessed and prioritised according to the type of business and the level of on-going fixed costs. Once this allocation is spent, we will not be able to offer another round of grants unless additional funding is released by the Government.

Covid-19 Public Health Essex Briefing as at 01/07/21

Key points this week are:

- Covid case rates are now rising (in the words of the Director of Public Health) exponentially across the county. Having been 23 per 100,000 two weeks ago, they are now 67, and projected to pass 100 next week;
- The growth is overwhelmingly in age band 11-39;
- However, the rise in Covid hospital occupancy is very modest;
- There have again been no Covid hospital fatalities;
- First vaccinations across the county of Essex have now passed one million and the NHS have been asked to give us a plan to catch-up in the lower-performance districts.

Braintree District's Local Plan Section 2

Council's Full Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Strategic Section 1 Local Plan in February 2021. It shares Section 1 with Tendring District and Colchester Borough Council. **Section 2 is the council's individual plan**, which contains local policies and allocations. The Local Plan Section 2 hearing sessions will take place between Tuesday 6 July 2021 and Thursday 15 July 2021. The plan is being examined by Jameson Bridgwater and Anne Jordan. The hearings will be held virtually but residents will be able to watch online **via the council's YouTube channel**: www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube The Inspectors will consider the soundness of the plan which went through consultation in summer 2016, and in its modified form, between 16 June and 28 July 2017. In examining the plan, the Inspectors will take into account the representations submitted in response to both of these rounds of consultation. The Inspectors will hear from a number of consultees over the seven days of hearings. The draft timetable for the hearings along with other correspondence from the Inspectors can be found on **BDC's website**.

Specialist Developer Selected to Deliver the Hedingham Medical Centre

OneMedical Group, a company which specialises in the creation of health care properties, have won a bid to develop the centre after a tender process. A plot of land on Osier Way was safeguarded for the development of a health centre when Bloor Homes were granted planning permission to build homes on the old Premdor site. The Council, together with NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), identified this land as an opportunity for investment and have been looking at the best way of bringing a medical centre forward on the site to replace the three GP surgeries local to the area, all run by the Hedingham Medical Centre. After evaluating the options, the Council, Mid Essex CCG and the Hedingham Medical Centre, have agreed that OneMedical Group – a specialist in the development of health care properties – should take the project forward and on to the next stage. The Council is now looking to transfer the land to OneMedical Group for it to proceed with the scheme on behalf of Mid Essex CCG and the GP surgeries. OneMedical Group will invest in the build and development of the facility and will own and manage it once it is complete.

Once built, the medical centre will have the capacity to serve about 10,000 patients from Sible and Castle Hedingham and the surrounding villages. Subject to planning approval, work is expected to start at the site early next year.

Local Crime

Between 24th and 25th June. Theft from a motor vehicle in Steeple Bumpstead. Suspects unknown have removed front and rear number plates from the victims vehicle by unscrewing the back and forcing the front.

Between 2nd and 3rd June. Burglary; Business & Community; Steeple Bumpstead. Suspects unidentified have accessed the barn at the location and removed a new battery from a tractor by unknown means.

BDC Customer Service Excellence

Braintree District Council has been awarded the prestigious Customer Service Excellence Standard for the sixth year, a nationally recognised and designed to drive customer-focused change. The assessor applauded Braintree District Council for its approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and the work to ensure services continued to be delivered and meet the needs of its customers, with high customer satisfaction rates. The assessor found that the council is fully compliant with the Customer Service Excellence Standard and it can also demonstrate *compliance plus* in 7 areas, applauding strengths in partnership working, communication with residents and businesses, commercial and business areas and organisation culture.

Cllr John McKee, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, said: *"Our residents and businesses are at the heart of all we do so I am thrilled we have been recognised for this. Taking time to understand the needs of our residents helps us deliver better services that meet their needs. It is a testament to the hard work of our staff, management team and councillors during the pandemic that we have had such a positive assessment and have achieved the Customer Service Excellence Standard."*

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

