

**STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021** at **7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Diana Garrod Cllr David Porth Cllr Alan Carter Cllr Terrie Jones Cllr Keith Choat  
03 Member of the public

<b>21/68</b>	<b>NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies received from Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier – planning meeting commitment
<b>21/69</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING</b> Non Pecuniary Interests declared – Cllr Keith Choat Item 21/81 (b) and Cllr Diana Garrod Item 21/81 (a)
<b>21/70</b>	<b>APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2021</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Minutes 31 August 2021 adopted as true record: Proposed Cllr David Porth, Seconded Cllr Alan Carter - Unanimous agreement
<b>21/71</b>	<b>CO-OPTION – PRESENTATION FROM CANDIDATES FOLLOWED BY A VOTE</b> Council received presentations from two candidates, upon reflection and debate Eileen Raynes-White was duly selected and invited to sign the Acceptance of Office and complete their Register of Interests; due to prior commitments Eileen could not remain for the meeting.
<b>21/72</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b> <i>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)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Field run off and associated flooding issues at Maltings Cottages</li><li>➤ Blocked drains, investigation indicated roots causing the problem</li><li>➤ Gravel being washed onto the highway, danger for road users</li><li>➤ Suggestion of woody dams placed in adjacent field ditch(s) may help</li><li>➤ Sturmer Flood Action Group to meet with Glen Shaw of Essex Flood Team in November</li></ul>
<b>21/73</b>	<b>DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)</b> Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier – Essex major infrastructure funding report – <b>APPENDIX A</b>  Dist Cllr Diana Garrod – full report - <b>APPENDIX B</b>
<b>21/74</b>	<b>RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT &amp; NOTE CORRESPONDENCE</b> Cllr Terrie Jones wished to raise three important matters after the Agenda had been published, which are contained in the Clerk's full report; essentially – 1) Bus shelter cleaning, Cllr Porth to approach window cleaner in first instance. 2) Dropped kerb for disabled/wheelchair and pushchair access, more details to be supplied to Clerk to enable application to LHP. 3) Inconsiderate and dangerous parking by drivers dropping off school children. Full report – <b>APPENDIX C</b>
<b>21/75</b>	<b>FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve Finance statements as attached: Proposed Cllr Alan Carter, Seconded Cllr Keith Choat – unanimous approval - Cllr Carter to Authorise. Finance Statement at <b>APPENDIX D</b>

	<p><b>21/75(i) – RECEIVE HALF YEAR BUDGET REPORT</b> Council received explanation of position and invited to consider increases for budget 2022-23 in readiness for budget setting approval at December meeting. Half Year budget report at <b>APPENDIX E</b></p> <p><b>21/75(ii) – CONFIRM REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH PURCHASE</b> Confirmed at £35, Cllr Alan Carter to pay the local supplier by cheque and submit invoice to Clerk for reimbursement via online banking.</p>
<b>21/76</b>	<p><b>REVIEW &amp; COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</b></p> <p><i>Ref. 21/01054/FUL</i> <b><i>Demolition and replacement of 8A Abbotts Cottages with a three/four bedroom dwelling. - 8A Abbotts Cottages, The Street, Sturmer</i></b> <b><i>Comment date 21 October</i></b></p> <p>Council debated the proposals, comparing to previous application and were split in opinion as follows – 3 x NO OBJECTION 2 x Maintained the council position on the previous planning application and OBJECT to this revised application on the same grounds, expressing concerns for council’s seeming inconsistency</p>
<b>21/77</b>	<p><b>REVIEW AND ADOPT EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE AS COMPLETED BY CLLR DIANA GARROD RESOLUTION</b> – Approve Emergency Plan revisions: Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod, Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval. CLERK to update PC website and submit revised EP to District Council</p>
<b>21/78</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON COUNTY GRANT AWARD TOWARDS UPGRADING THE PARISH LAMP STOCK TO LED LIGHTING, DUE TO LIMITED FUNDING IDENTIFY AND AGREE THOSE LAMPS OUT OF THE TOTAL STOCK TO BE UPGRADED</b> Grant funding application for £1,500 approved by Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier and put forward for final approval and award.</p> <p>Report identified four lamps out of the total stock of ten proposed for LED upgrade. <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve lamp selection as identified in report: Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod, Seconded Cllr Alan Carter – unanimous approval See Cllr David Porth report at <b>APPENDIX F</b>. CLERK to confirm agreement with lighting contractor</p>
<b>21/79</b>	<p><b>PROGRESS DISCUSSION ON QUIET LANES TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE TARGET ROUTES AND IMPLICATIONS</b> Defer until a future date</p>
<b>21/80</b>	<p><b>COMMENT ON STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SAVE OUR SURGERY APPEAL</b> Council has no further comment to make</p>
<b>21/81</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</b></p> <p><b>a) Footpaths – Cllr Keith Choat</b> Footpath bridge by the weir has been repaired. Paths across cultivated field(s) not yet fully reinstated, an attempt has been made, review condition in a month.</p> <p><b>b) Flood Action Group – Cllr Alan Carter</b> ECC Flood Team member Mr Glen Shaw, site visit in November to review flooding issues. SFAG report and Log update at <b>APPENDIX G</b> Report from ECC Mr Froud reference proposed Bridge works for 2023/24 at <b>APPENDIX H</b></p>

	<p><b>c) Play Area – Cllrs Alan Carter &amp; David Porth</b> Bird droppings on equipment due to overhanging branches acting as suitable bird perches, council agreed to have such branches removed.</p> <p><b>d) Parish Maintenance – Cllr Alan Carter</b> Suggested grant application be made to the Essex Community Fund, up to £2,500, for benches to be sited along the Amenity Walk – CLERK to provide Cllr David Porth with contact details of a potential suitable supplier.</p> <p><b>e) War Memorial – Cllr David Porth</b> Awaiting start date for works to base area around the memorial. Correspondence from War Memorial Trust advising of the funds donor, which funds are enabling the work to proceed, along with an invitation for the PC to thank the company for their generosity – Cllr David Porth to draft a letter to the donor.</p> <p><b>f) Village Hall – Cllr Terrie Jones</b> Recent WI event a great success and recommended for repeat. Suggestion to run a Balloon Sale – a fund raising event whereby a map identifies which households are holding a garage sale who in turn identify their location by hanging out balloons.</p> <p><b>g) Highways – Cllr Keith Choat</b> Two potholes reported using the ECC portal some time ago but not marked on the carriageway. Cllr Keith Choat to provide the CLERK with the report references.</p>
<b>21/82</b>	<p><b>UPDATE TO FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AND REGISTER LAND OWNERSHIP, INDICATIONS ARE COST TO BE IN THE REGION OF £600 - £700 BUT COULD BE HIGHER</b> Council agreed to take no further action on this proposal and defer until a future date</p>
	<p><i>Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting for the next item, 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> All members of the public had left after the Co-option and Public Participation item</p>
<b>21/83</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</b> Clerk provided a brief update</p>
	<p><i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i></p>
<b>21/84</b>	<p><b>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA</b> Cleaning of Bus shelter Dropped kerb adjacent to bus stop Tree survey report and urgent works for completion</p>
<b>21/85</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 07 DECEMBER – CLOSE – 9:30pm</b></p>

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

## APPENDIX A

### **Essex set to build back bigger through major infrastructure funding**

*Major capital projects averaging £300m per annum included as part of the County Council's Autumn Budget Statement*

A new railway station for Chelmsford, along with new schools and roads are among infrastructure schemes averaging £300 million a year which will be initiated by the County Council over the next four years.

The announcement was made 12 October by Councillor Chris Whitbread, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs as part of the Council's first Autumn Budget Statement.

Cllr Whitbread said: "I am pleased to be presenting our Autumn Budget Statement and how this will facilitate the ambition and drive of the new vision.

"Annually we spend in the region of £1.4bn, and our focus is to make sure that this money has a real positive impact on the lives of Essex residents and the local economy."

Cllr Whitbread acknowledged the challenges posed to the local economy by Coronavirus over the past 18 months adding: "Despite these challenges, I am proud to say that since May 2021, we have been able to deliver over £30m directly through thousands of individual grants to support residents, businesses and community groups – helping them through the crisis. We provided over £10m of support for Essex businesses during the pandemic."

Cllr Whitbread also addressed the uncertainty facing the local authority's finances in the future: "The current inflation rate in the UK is 2.5%. It is expected to rise further - potentially up to 4% in the short term. This volatility impacts our financial planning, as we try to anticipate the effect on our day-to-day spending, from social care to waste disposal."

He added: "The growing and aging population of the UK continues to place considerable pressure on councils and demand for our services. Over the next four years the Essex population over the age of 65 is forecast to increase by over 9%, compared to an increase of 4% of the total population of Essex."

The capital projects planned for the next four years include major infrastructure schemes such as the work developing Beaulieu Park Train Station, Chelmsford North East Bypass, the A120-A133 Link Road as well as school expansion and maintenance programmes.

**Cllr Peter Schwier | Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader / Climate Csar**



Heddingham Division, Essex County Council

**Renewal, Equality and Ambition**

## APPENDIX B

### District Councillor's Report October 2021 to Parish Councils (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

01/10/21

#### Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closures:-

Camps Road, and Sages End Road, Steeple Bumpstead Road and Water Lane, Helions Bumpstead due to commence 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for 3 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes sensor installation.

Haverhill Road, Wiggens Green, Copy Hill due to commence 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for 19 days while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.

#### Covid-19 in Essex (as at 24/09/21)

From Cllr. John Spence CBE, ECC – Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care:-

- Covid rates in Essex have been steady although are likely to increase a little to around 250 in the coming days. This remains below both regional and national average. There is little variation between districts;
- The rate is driven by a large increase in secondary school-age children, where rates are approaching 800, followed by primary school-age children. Most positively the rates in older people are dropping slightly and are around 80;
- Additionally hospital admission rates for Covid remain low although other non-Covid challenges are being seen in the NHS;
- This evidences the impact of the vaccines in preventing severe illness. Studies however are showing the decline in vaccine efficacy over time especially in older people;
- Booster vaccination in older and vulnerable people is therefore a priority and is beginning, using Pfizer and Moderna vaccines;
- We remain focused on getting to the small numbers who have still not been vaccinated at all, and will be focusing on ensuring full booster take-up.
- The last week has seen a very pleasing increase in the percentage of social care workers who have been vaccinated, this now being estimated at around 94 – 95%.
- NHS have previously announced that they will be rationalising the number of vaccination centres to focus on sites enabling the greatest throughput and operational efficiency. All sites have to be assessed and we are expecting the final list to be provided in the next week to ten days.

#### Community Tree & Bulb Planting Scheme

BDC are offering free tree whips and bulbs to Parish and Town Councils, schools, colleges, charities and local community and voluntary groups within our district. Applicants can apply for a maximum of 4 x 100 mixed bulbs plus 2 x 50 mixed tree whips. Two of our priorities in the Climate Change Strategy are to improve biodiversity and green spaces and increase the planting of trees and bulbs to help protect the natural environment. In turn this will deliver benefits to tackle climate change as well as having a positive impact on the wellbeing of local residents. **The planting of tree whips will also support 'The Queen's Green Canopy' Initiative.** We have set aside 18,600 native trees and 73,000 bulbs to bundle up planting packages to encourage biodiversity and pollinators.

The tree whip packages will consist of 50 trees: Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Spindle, Hornbeam

The Bulb package will consist of 100 bulbs: Daffodils, Crocus, Autumn Crocus, English Bluebells, Snowdrops, Winter Aconite

**You can also add your Jubilee trees to The Queen's Green Canopy Map on the** Queens Green Canopy website. [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)

The closing date to apply for planting packages is no later than Friday, 29 October and packages will be available from November onwards. Groups will be expected to have planted the whips by this coming December and the bulbs by March 2022. [www.braintree.gov.uk/treesandbulbs2021](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/treesandbulbs2021)

#### Proposed New Prisons in Wethersfield: Public Consultation

The Ministry of Justice is seeking the views of residents and businesses on proposed plans for 2 new prisons in Wethersfield on land at the RAF site. If the proposals were to go ahead then they would hope to begin construction in around 2023. They would contribute over £70 million to the local economy and create over 1,200 new jobs, while providing safe, secure and decent prison places. In addition to providing construction apprenticeships and work placements; a minimum of 25% of the project spend would be within the local area, and a minimum of 30% would be spent with small and medium enterprises.

They are at the early stages of their proposals and, if they decide to proceed with an application, the two prisons would be built in the Braintree District at the Wethersfield Air Base site. The prison blocks will have 4 floors, with 60 prisoners on each. The prison will have 7 separate house blocks (or living accommodation). The overall capacity of each prison is 1,715. Each prison will also have support buildings. These will include a reception area, kitchens, workshops, a visits hall and offices. These buildings will range from 1 floor high to 4 floors high. Their plans also include dog kennels, which will only be used in the daytime when prison dogs are on site. The dogs go home with their handlers each night. There will also be some polytunnels for gardening, and an outdoor family area that can be used by visitors and prisoners during visiting times. Each prison will have about 500 parking spaces for staff and visitors. The whole prison site will be surrounded by secure fencing and a road for security patrols.

They are also hosting a series of online and in-person events:-

- Virtual meeting via Zoom – 7pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October and 1pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Physical exhibition at Finchingfield Guild Hall 3pm-8pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October
- Physical exhibition at Wethersfield Village Hall 3pm-8pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-new-prisons-in-wethersfield-public-consultation>

The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 8 November 2021.

#### Community Transport

Some patients of the Steeple Bumpstead GP surgery have had difficulty accessing their healthcare provider in Haverhill. I would like to confirm that Braintree District Council will provide transport to Haverhill for healthcare reasons, e.g. visit to the GP surgery or to collect prescriptions or medicine. This is currently only organised via telephone. There is a cost involved and full details can be found at:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/community/social-car-scheme> or telephone: 01376 557883.

Unfortunately there are few volunteers in this part of the district and BDC would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining their Social Car Scheme. Please contact either myself or the BDC team on 01376 557883 for more information.

#### Grants for eCargo Bikes

The eCargo Bike Grant Fund 2021/22 via the Energy Saving Trust is open for applications. £400,000 has been made available by the Department for Transport for the purchase of eCargo bikes, to support businesses switching to a sustainable transport solution.

- Funding covers up to 40% of the total cost of an eCargo bike, up to a maximum of £2,500 for two-wheel models and £4,500 for three-wheel models.
- Applications will be capped at five bikes per organisation. Larger applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- ~~Applications may include more than one organisation. In these joint 'high-street' applications, a~~ lead applicant will be responsible for submitting the application.

**The application deadline is 14 December 2021. The claim deadline is 14 February 2022. eCargo bikes do not need to have been delivered for the grant to be paid.**

More information at: [https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bikefund/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bikefund/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**Cllr. Diana Garrod  
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward**

## APPENDIX C

- ❖ Essex Locality Fund application submitted for £1500 funding towards LED lamp replacement, council must advise which lamps will be included in this first phase project to upgrade to LED lamps.
- ❖ The Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group East have written to the council advising of a funding initiative for developing ponds within the parish.
- ❖ A resident's flooding complaint and various correspondence from Sturmer Flood Action Group (SFAG) will be covered under the Representatives report.
- ❖ Office invited a contractor to review works to pocket park railings, awaiting comparative indication of price; I understand the project may be put on hold pending bridge works. Current offer £2,685.
- ❖ Council has received an update from the Essex Engineers managing the Water Lane Bridge works planned for year 23/24 – attached to these minutes.
- ❖ The street lighting energy supplier has changed its name from Haven Power to DRAX.
- ❖ Council received the Agenda for the Braintree Association of Local Councils meeting on 07 October, would council consider appointing a representative(s) to interact with the Association and report to council?
- ❖ I attended the EALC AGM, primarily matters of business conducted.
- ❖ Council received an invitation from Community 360 for volunteers to become involved in walking groups.
- ❖ The Open Spaces Society (OSS) invited members to contribute to their services improvement survey.
- ❖ Council insurance has been renewed for period 09 September 2021 til September 2022. The current Longer Term Agreement ends 2024.
- ❖ Cllr Jones has been approached by a resident reference the Bus shelters...
- ❖ The council has completed a review of its Tree stock and a suggestion has been drafted as to action to be taken.

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

### ADDENDUM FROM CLLR TERRIE JONES

1, The bus shelters are both really dirty and the children do not wish to sit in them, I used to clean before I was on Covid hours, although I am now back on normal hours and I did wipe the seats with wipes and spray but they need more than that. ew a child asked me about this

2, I was asked by a lady in crouch croft to raise that when people from out of the village drop their children at the bus stop they are parking dangerously, I doubt there is a lot we can do but maybe a polite sign asking for people be aware of traffic wishing to pass. (this is the Hedingham bus not the Steeple bumpstead one) one time a car parked accross the entrance to the road. blocking cars coming in and going out.

3, Lastly I often have to take both my grandchildren to the bus shelter in the morning when my daughter's are both at work the buggy is very very heavy and it is not possible go up or down steps with it. to get to the bus stop I have to go up to the island in the road near the nursery, the only other drop curb is at the spinning wheel houses. they are both a good distance away from the bus shelters. I feel this is not very inclusive for both pram users and wheel chair users, as the bus stop on that side of the road is new I wondered if we could look at putting a drop curb nearer to help with acess for both prams and for people with mobility issues.





## **APPENDIX F**

Dear All,

I would suggest the following footway lights for conversion to L.E.D.'s

### Lamp reference

9006 o/s Riverside Bungalows

9007 Junction A1017/Linnetts Lane

9009 o/s 15 Abbott's Cottages

These three lights are standard 5m lamposts and will not require brackets since the new lamp can be fitted directly to the head of the post. Cost £329 x 3 = £987

### Lamp reference

9005 opposite Abbott's Farm

This lamp has had a new bracket fitted approximately 6 years ago and should not need replacing.  
Cost £329

Total cost £927 + £329 = £1316

Ian has suggested that there may be additional cost for labour and sundries such as cutting back of tree growth.

£1500 - £1316 = £182

This difference should help to cover additional costs.

Cllr David Porth

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Sturmer Flood Action Group – report October 2021**

Sturmer Station Bridge - SFAG and PC have had an update from Stuart Froud. Work on bridge expected 23/24

Hill Lane and r/o Maltings Cottages - Meeting to be held with Glenn Shaw of ECC flood and water team

National Flood Forum - I am continuing to attend zoom meetings - recent topics have been Ofwat and EA scheme

SFAG log - This has been updated and a summary of the main items sent to the flood group and PC

Thanks

Linda Bevan  
Secretary  
Sturmer Flood Action Group

Dear All

I am writing to let you know the SFAG log has been updated for 2021.

Here is a summary as no paper copies are available this year. I have one on file you can view if you wish or I can send it by email.

Summary of updates:

Gullies - on the main road were cleared in November 2020 and March 2021

Gullies - Water Lane - cleared of grass by SFAG August 2021

Highbank along the brook (by Sturmer Station Bridge) - Sept 21 - removal being considered by Highways for new bridge

Ditch opposite Red Lion (The Baulk) - woody dams installed April 2021

Ditch behind The Maltings (and Hill Lane) - SFAG and Keith Choat to meet Flood and Water Team re solutions in November 2021 -TBC

Hill Lane - Gully cleared by Highways Nov 2020 - part cleared by SFAG Sept 2021

Rear of Spinning Wheel site - residents have purchased land and are tidying site

West Suffolk Local Plan 2021 - Comments made - particularly on proposal for 5000 houses between Haverhill and Sturmer

Please let me know if you want any more information.

Linda

## **APPENDIX H**

Dear Ian, Linda,

I trust this finds you well.

Linda recently emailed me requesting an update on the scheme to replace the Sturmer Bridge. This was timely and has prompted me to draft this update on recent developments with the bridge scheme.

As you are aware we recently successfully undertook the Ground Investigation at the bridge, we have also recently completed a further study through a supply chain partner to determine the improvement in flow by replacing the current bridge with a 6m span bridge.

**Ground Investigation** – it takes a little time to get the recovered samples tested in a laboratory. However, this is well on the way and we will shortly have the information necessary to design the replacement structures foundations. Initial feedback on the results is not poor and we are optimistic that a structure with relatively shallow foundations can be constructed at the site. However, this will be confirmed in the weeks ahead by specialist engineers who will be interpreting the factual data recorded during the investigation and laboratory work. This element of the work is running to the project programme.

**New structure river modelling** – our supply chain partner has completed the second phase of river modelling. This has seen a reduction in predicted river flows of up to 310mm at the 1 in 100 year storm event with +38% climate change, slightly lower improvement at the +72% climate change. However, disappointingly this has not significantly reduced the number of properties flooded at this event. To this end we are about to undertake another round of river modelling, still with a 6m span opening at the bridge, but now with the removal of a natural river bank on one side. We anticipate this additional modelling to be undertaken within the next eight to 10 weeks.

**Programme** - This financial year we are intending on completing the initial stage of the replacement structure design, this will see the agreement of the technical approval of the new bridge. Next year we will undertake the detail design of the replacement bridge and tender the work with a view to building the replacement structure in the financial year 23/24.

We will shortly arrange for an update to be placed on the webpage for the scheme, I will write again once this has been undertaken. In the meantime please feel free to share the content of this email with your members and parish.

Kind regards  
Stuart

**Stuart Froud | Technical Director**

**Structures**

