

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2016
STURMER VILLAGE HALL 7:30PM

Present:

- Councillors:
 - Mrs. Diana Garrod
 - Mr. Alan Carter
 - Mrs. Kate McLeod-Jones
 - Mr. David Porth
- Acting Clerk
 - Mrs. G. E. Porth
- Three parishioners attended

1. Apologies

Cllr. Barbara Collar

2. Declaration of Interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Code of Conduct for members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting

Cllr. Porth declared an interest in item 15.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 September 2016.

Minutes approved Cllr. Carter

Seconded Cllr. Porth

Signed by Chairman

4. Highways

1. Report - Solagen replacement of 2 x double stick batteries to existing '30' speed signs on 2016/10/05. Batteries + call out + labour = £655.92
2. Discuss - Introduction to the Highways Practice Note to local flooded roads. Re: email, Olive Porter 27 September 2016
3. Report - 'Flood' signs to keep in village
Action: Cllr. Carter to store one sign at 2 Station Corner Cottages. Cllr. Carter to liaise with owners of 'Tinmar' Water Lane re: storage of second sign
4. Discuss - '30' roundels for use on 'wheelie' bins. Possible purchase by parish council. 'Smartwheelie' pack 100 x '30 please drive carefully' £70
Mixed pack 40 x '30 please drive carefully' 30 x 'speed kills please slow down' 30 x 'polite notice slow down' pack 100= £70

It has been shown in other areas that roundels have an impact on traffic speed (citation needed)

Decision: Article to be placed in next Sturmer Village News asking parishioners views

5. Noted – Information from Essex County Council website
“Grass verge cutting Cutting the grass of highway verges is undertaken to ensure the safety of road users and takes place during the late Spring and Summer months. Essex Highways is only responsible for cutting the grass verges in rural areas normally twice a year”

Noted - last cut - A1017 Sturmer 2016/10/24

6. Discuss - Employment of person to cut roadside verges within village – Cllr. Porth had information dated 2007 from Essex County Highways costed at £327.04 per day. Further information dated 2011 from Localism and Customer Highways Department regarding requesting Highway Rangers. Further information November 2016 ‘Clerk’s and Councils Direct’ referring to an Act of 1991.

Action: Cllr. Carter to speak with Cllr. Rouse Ridgewell Parish Council

Cllrs. attending Network Meeting at Helions Bumpstead to speak with other village Cllrs

7. Discuss - Community pay back scheme – Cllr. Garrod had more information on this scheme, tools, equipment and toilets are required

Decision: Cllrs. to make a list of possible tasks within the village before contacting, Jill Richardson, Community Payback Scheme for North Essex Rehabilitation Company Ltd.

8. Noted - Riverside bungalows – lay-by. Cllr. Collar has received no further information
9. Noted – the reported blocked drain – Water Lane above ‘Tinmar’. Cleared by Highways 2016/10/25. Cllr Carter reported another inspection cover had been found adjacent to Lion Meadow footpath at ‘Tinmar’.
10. For information - Vehicle Activated Signs. Re:- Matthew Valentine, Local Highways Panel. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) an email received from Matthew Valentine 2016/06/29 possible requirement to carry out 7 day speed survey

Action: Cllr Porth to re- send application and email received.

5. Open Spaces

1. Discuss - Night disturbances at Pocket Park and consider possible resolutions, Cllr. Carter reported drug use was still taking place and had contact details of Police Inspector Cooper, Haverhill and Sudbury police. Cllr. Carter to contact and discuss with Haverhill Town Cllr. Pat Hanlon as the users/dealers emanate largely from Haverhill. Cllr. Garrod suggested installing CCTV. Raise topic at Network meeting 2016/11/09

Action: Cllr. Carter and Acting Clerk to write to Essex Police Headquarters, Chelmsford and Police Inspector Cooper, Haverhill and Sudbury Police informing them of drug use.

2. Discuss - 'Keep Clear' notice on Pocket Park gate. Environment Agency complained that parked cars prevented access to gauging station on amenity walk. Metal gate installed by Environment Agency, Amenity Walk owned by Sturmer Parish Council, Lay-by part of Highways.

Action: Cllr. Carter and Acting Clerk to write to Environment Agency suggesting they place a 'Keep Clear' notice on gate

3. For information -Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project re: Scattered Orchard Project, funding for one person for course on fruit tree pruning, 28 January 2017, Great Waldingfield village hall

Decision: Proposed by Cllr. Garrod seconded by Cllr. McLeod-Jones and agreed that Cllr. Carter attend morning course at a cost of £15.

6. Planning

1. Discuss -**DC/15/1766/OUT West Suffolk** Standby Electricity Generator Facility Rowley Hill Haverhill Suffolk
Comments have been sent to West Suffolk Planning on this item. A complaint sent to West Suffolk as they had not informed Sturmer Parish or Braintree District Council regarding the planning application. Braintree District Council are still open to responses
2. Discuss – **16/01665/OUT** land west of Finchingfield Road Steeple Bumpstead resubmission, outline planning for 65 residential dwellings, and SUD's comments re: flooding
Information: Deadline for comments has closed, some Cllrs. have made individual comments
3. Discuss – Appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd. for 95 dwellings **APP/Z1510/W/16/3157939** – land west of Finchingfield Road Steeple Bumpstead

For information, Sturmer Local Flood Action Group have made comments to Peter Kozak, Temple Quay House, Bristol, Planning Inspectorate
ction: Cllr. Porth, on behalf of Sturmer Parish Council, to submit comment to Peter.Kozak@pins.gsi.gov.uk regarding flood attenuation measures and the detrimental effect on flooding of Bumpstead Brook, River Stour and Stour Brook

Note: Cllrs feel the need for planning sub-committee due to the limited time for making comments to be discussed in more detail January 2017

7. Finance

1. Report - Annual Return/Audit PKF Littlejohn received 29/09/2016 Cllrs. provided with copies
Notice of audit placed on Village Hall notice board, copy to view at Cllr. Carter, Station Corner Cottages. No fee incurred
2. Statement of accounts 20 September 2016 to 1 November 2016. Received from Braintree District Council 2nd half precept £2,760
3. Approved following payments:
 - Solagen Replacement batteries chq. 744655.92
 - Mr. S. Pledger Grass cutting to Pope Mill chq. 745140.00
 - Sturmer Village Hall Hire July – September chq. 746 44.00
 - EALC Training Cllr. Garrod Chair day 1 (£75)
 - EALC Training Cllr. Garrod Chair day 2 (£75)
 - EALC Training Cllr. Garrod Chair day 3 (£75) chq. 747225.00

8. Transparency Code

1. Update – photographs for website
Action: Cllr. Carter to make list of photographs required and liaise with Graeme Mayes
2. Grant re: Transparency Code = £1,795.60
For information: Cllr Garrod suggested purchase of detachable hard drive, printer and ink, lap top computer

9. Revised Register of Electors

Application form

Action: Acting Clerk to complete form and submit to Braintree District Council

10. Proposed Parish Precept Referendum re: capping

Note – Objections made to to Department for Communities and

Local Government both from individual Cllrs and Sturmer Parish Council

11. **Network Meeting Parish Councils**
Helions Bumpstead, Wednesday 9 November 2016 8:00pm
Decision – Cllrs. Carter, McLeod-Jones and Porth to attend.
12. **Result of election for District Councillor 20/10/2016**
Cllr. Garrod elected District Councillor on 20/10/2016. Cllr. Porth, on behalf of Sturmer Parish Council, congratulated her on the appointment.
13. **Update Sturmer Flood Action Group**
Discuss – Update sent 25/10/2016.
Noted content
Discuss – holding of monies for Sturmer Local Flood Group
Monies received from Sturmer Fayre Committee amount to £350
Decision: To hold in Parish Council account for SFAG, to be listed and c/fwd in separate column
Discuss – Water Lane Culvert and track project
First scheme proposed proved unviable, when laser levels taken
Decision – If second scheme proposed is feasible and viable, £500 may be made available.
14. **Appointment of Parish Clerk and R.F.O.**
 1. Applicant – Tracey Wigmore *e.mail 20/10/2016 declined position*
 2. Applicant – Patricia Hearn has been contacted re: consultation
Action: Cllr. Garrod to have informal meeting with Patricia Hearn to discuss appointment further
15. **Co-option. To consider co-option of candidate to fill vacant councillor position**
Mrs. E. Naylor
Mrs. G. E. Porth
Mrs. Porth withdrew her application
Decision – Mrs. Elizabeth Naylor co-opted to Sturmer Parish Council, and was duly invited to join the council at the table. Cllr. Naylor signed ‘Acceptance of Office’
16. **Public Open Forum – 15 minutes**
 1. Parishioner asked about the precept monies, would they keep pace with increasing expenses in future, regarding the low precept set in the past
 2. Parishioner stated that the village needed to be kept tidy, other parishes along the A1017 had grass cut, refer to those parish councils for advice
Note – St Edmundsbury undertook to cut those parts of

Essex in which Haverhill by-pass extends, therefore it is cut as far as the Sturmer sign. Essex Highways only undertake to cut twice a year see item 4.5

3. Report from Sturmer Village Hall Charity re: Superfast Essex Community Wi-Fi Scheme connection to village hall
Mrs Porth Secretary/Treasurer Sturmer Village Hall Charity stated that this had been extensively discussed at their meeting of 27 October 2016 and they had decided that the cost of internet connection was too high for the usage it might have. They also decided against the use of the Pat Allison Suite, Sturmer Village Hall be used as a dedicated Parish Council office

17. **To note any requests for future agenda items from Members**

1. Pocket Park re: drug use
2. Wi-Fi connection re: Sturmer Village Hall

18. **Future Meetings**

Tuesday 13 December 2016, Sturmer Village Hall, 7:30pm

Note – meetings for 2017 to be decided at next meeting when Cllr. Garrod will know commitment dates to District Council.

The meeting closed at 9:42pm