

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council

held on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 at Sturmer Village Hall 7:30pm

In Attendance

- Mr. D. Porth (Chair)
- Mrs B. Collar (Vice Chair)
- Mr G. Coles
- Mrs D. Garrod
- Mrs K Mcleod-Jones.

1 Parishioner

Apologies

Received from Rachel Mitson, Parish Clerk. The chair asked member's permission for Mrs. G. Porth to take the minutes. This was agreed.

Absent

Mr. R. Bolton, District Councillor.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2016, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

None

Matters arising.

(a) A1017, Hill Lane, Water Lane, Coupals Road. Sect. 106 agreement for Village Lay-By

Essex County Council Highways had collected most of security fencing and signage from bank opposite Woods Close.

Vice-Chair continues to monitor and measure width and depth of pot holes at the Crunch Croft entrance.

Mrs Garrod stated that there were large pot holes in Coupals Rad by the Woodlands Hotel on the Golf Club side,

Mrs. Collar reported that the footpath by “Churdles” at the junction with Hill Lane/ A1017 would be reviewed in March by Matthew Valentine.

Mrs. Collar reported that 3 additional holes needed to be excavated on the lay-by site contact is Simon Walker.

(b) Footpaths and Play Area

Play bark needs to be ordered before ROSPA May 2016 inspection.

(c) Flood Action Group Update

Re: item 6. b) Donation to fund Water Lane drainage scheme to be held in hand as the Flood Action Group have not yet accepted the grant from Essex County Council until they can confirm any liabilities remain the contractors . The Parish Council's preferred option would be for Essex County Council to undertake the work

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(d) Transparency Code

Chair stated that he had completed a grant application to NALC for a computer, scanner, website, training, set up cost and internet connection at a total cost of £2121.88.

Chair advised Mark Novels that there had been a unanimous decision to place Parish Council website at essexinfo.net

(e) Solagen Estimates

Reconnection costs £105 eachx 2£210

Call out fee £125

Labour costs per hour £55

Annual sub monitoring £195 eachx 2£390

Speed lights currently working.

It was noted that there will be a training meeting for speed watch at the village hall on Friday, 18th March 2016. Graham Coles had arranged training through Dunmow Police Station.

Finance

(a) Statement of accounts

Chair had worked accounts from previous statement.

Current account£6,880.65

Instant Savings account £4,111.69

No interest added

(b) Payments and receipts

No payments made

Receipts re: Council Tax Collection by taxpayers of the district which was in excess of £114,990 – Sturmer share £63 distributed by precept. £500 is on hold until further information is received from Sturmer Flood Action Group.

(c) Precept form 2016/17

Precept form has been completed and returned. Victoria Farquharson advised chair that the Localism Fund for Sturmer had been reduced by £18. This amount was subsequently added to the Precept.

(c) (1) Audit Change

Parishes select own external auditor, Sturmer audit by 30/6/16. Instruct S.B.A Team or continue with PKF Littlejohn. Sturmer decided to stay with PKF Littlejohn.

Correspondence

email. Debbie Hilliard re:- Network Meeting in Birdbrook date changed to 13/4/16

Planning

Great Wilsey Park, chair attended at Sturmer Flood Action Group meeting and heard from Will Akast, Environment Agency that investigations of water run off were ongoing.

Removal of weir River Stour/Stour Brook confluence being investigated by Environment Agency.

Braintree Local Plan comments acknowledged.

16/00024/TPO deviation, Spinning Wheel comments submitted by Sturmer Parish Council

16/00252/Var Spinning Wheel site, planning application, no objection.

Any Other Business

Community Governance Review, St. Edmundsbury BC advised Sturmer PC that they were consulting re:- Essex/Suffolk boundary changes. Parish Council to advise MP. James Cleverley, Essex County Council and Braintree District Councils regarding this matter.

Village Sign to be enhanced with polyanthus etc. by Barbara and Kate.

Date and time of next meetings

Next meeting Tuesday March 29th 2016, 7:30pm

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday May 10th 2016, 7:30pm

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday, May 17th 2016 or Thursday, May 19th 2016 subject to David Finch's availability, Diana to advise.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm