

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 05 March 2019 at 7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Garrod Cllr Porth Cllr Collar Cllr Carter Cllr Mcleod Jones

18/128	NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies offered from Cllr Taylor
18/129	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR MARCH MEETING None declared
18/130	APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING AT STURMER VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2019 RESOLUTION Minutes adopted as true record Proposed Cllr Mcleod-Jones, Seconded Cllr Collar
18/131	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION <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> No members of the public present
18/132	RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE STREET LIGHTING – Competitive deemed rates offer from HAVEN, circulated to members, council agreed to switch from Eon. POTENTIAL LAND PURCHASE – Awaiting formal valuation and purchase price from Vendor. ELECTRONIC VOTER ID Pilot – Information circulated to members, this District to be one of 12 to pilot Electronic Voter ID for the local elections in May. NOMINATION PACKS – Available online, to be delivered to BDC offices between 27 March until 04 April, 4pm close. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY EVENTS – Various District Council promoted events, flyers circulated to members.
18/133	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve payments, Proposed Cllr Garrod, Seconded Cllr Collar – Appointed authoriser – Cllr Carter. February Finance Statement at APPENDIX A
18/134	AGREE PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO STURMER PCC, STURMER VILLAGE HALL, STURMER HISTORY GROUP Grants to be awarded, History Group - £7, Sturmer Village Hall - £778.16, St Marys Sturmer PCC - £150 RESOLUTION – Approve payments, Proposed Cllr Porth, Seconded Cllr Mcleod-Jones CLERK to ACTION
18/135	REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS None to review
18/136	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths FP partly reinstated, remaining issues yet to be resolved by Highways FP14 an area of fencing in need of maintenance, neighbouring owner notified b) Flood Action Group Group has responded to the Flood Action consultation – see letter attached APPENDIX B Water Lane bridge, Highways Engineers carried out detailed inspection – full comment APPENDIX B c) Play Area No outstanding maintenance d) Speedwatch

	PC Craig Wheeler from the Braintree Police came to Sturmer yesterday to do speed checks. He issued a number of verbal warnings and recommended one driver for speed awareness training. After three years as co-ordinator Linda Bevan is stepping down, the council would like to take this opportunity to minute their grateful thanks for Linda's services to the community
18/137	RECEIVE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Full report at APPENDIX C and APPENDIX D
18/138	AGREE SPENDING OF GROUNDWORKS GRANT AWARD Pricing to be sought for "Swing" equipment – CLERK to ACTION
18/139	RECEIVE UPDATE ON ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT WOODLANDS SITE Council agreed they needed legal advice, Cllr Garrod to seek guidance from Lawyer, Nigel Gowling, prior to CLERK responding to correspondence from the Purchaser
18/140	RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ELECTION MATTERS Nomination Packs now available for download from BDC website or Clerk, completed Nominations to be delivered to BDC offices between 27 March until 04 April, nomination closes at 4pm
18/141	DISCUSS PLANNING FOR ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AND AGREE ACTION Clerk to invite County Cllr David Finch, MP James Cleverly and representation from the Police; council also suggested inviting representatives from local groups such as History, Speedwatch, Tree Warden, W.I., Bowls Club, Village Hall – CLERK to ACTION
18/142	RECEIVE UPDATE ON GRANT FUNDING FOR WAR MEMORIAL Awaiting response from organisations approached
18/143	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Clerk confirmed printed versions of the Minutes are available for download online from the council's website, they are physically stored at the "office" and could be considered for inclusion in any ultimate binding once volume dictates, suggested date for that binding may be 2033
18/144	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 09 APRIL (ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY) 2019 – CLOSE – 20:49

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

APPENDIX A

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement Feb/Mar 2019										
Expenditure										
DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE	BACS	ACCOUNT	GROSS	VAT	NET	Ccentre	Box
15-Feb-19	A&J Lighting	Monthly Maintenance	32614	DD	40527300	27.00	4.50	22.50	Parish	6
26-Feb-19	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO	40527300	341.00	0.00	341.00	Parish	4
26-Feb-19	Employee	Expenses	N/A	FPO	40527300	16.20	0.00	16.20	Parish	4
06-Mar-19	Sturmer Village Hall	Grant	N/A	FPO	40527300	778.16	0	778.16	Parish	6
06-Mar-19	L Bevan	History group grant	N/A	FPO	40527300	7.00	0.00	7.00	Parish	6
06-Mar-19	Sturmer PCC	Grant	N/A	FPO	40527300	150.00	0.00	150.00	Parish	6
TOTAL						£1,319.36	£4.50	£1,314.86		
Income										
DATE	PAYER	DESCRIPTION	REMITTANCE	Cq No	ACCOUNT	GROSS	VAT	NET	Ccentre	Box
18-Feb-19	Groundworks	Grant	N/A	BGC	40527300	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Parish	3
TOTAL						£1,000.00		£1,000.00		
Accounts			Balance							
Parish	40527300		£14,256.29							
				Signed _____		Date _____				
				Minute Item _____						

APPENDIX B

SFAG

Consultations:

We have responded to consultation from Braintree District Council and Central Government asking that flood groups be included in consultations on planning and flooding be recognised as very important for many people in the UK;

Water Lane bridge:

Essex Highways have been in the village this week carrying out a survey for the options study for the bridge i.e. removal of concrete blockage. Modelling has shown this removal would improve flooding for houses nearby without flooding other houses.

CSW

After three years as co-ordinator I have stepped down from the team. I hope another member will take on the organisation of it so that sessions can continue.

Hope this helps.

Linda Bevan

APPENDIX C

District Councillor's Report 05th March 2019 to Sturmer Parish Council (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

Braintree Street Market dates announced for 2019

Braintree's much-loved street markets will officially start again next month.

Due to the success of the street markets trial last year, shoppers can now look forward to the first market of 2019 taking place on Saturday 30th March. There will be a bigger line up of stalls for this return visit, with over 40 traders set to be there, offering a variety of street food options, artisan bakery, gifts, plants, flowers, clothing and more.

The markets will be running on the **last Saturday of the month**, with extra markets lined up over the festive period.

Nominations are now open for the Braintree District Volunteer Awards

The Awards celebrate the valuable contribution volunteers make to the district, whether it's through fundraising, running a sports club, looking after the environment, organising an event, or helping reduce loneliness. There are several awards up for grabs, and as a first for this year, to recognise the contribution made by young people in the district, you can now vote for a young person in each category. Award categories are: Inspirational Role Model, Volunteer Group Award, Going the Extra Mile Award and Long Service Award.

Residents can nominate now by filling out the form online at www.braintree.gov.uk/volunteerawards or by calling 01376 552525 to receive a paper version. The closing date for receiving nomination forms is 5pm on Thursday 2nd May. Nominations will be considered by a panel of judges. The winners will be invited to an award ceremony held at Braintree Arts Theatre on Thursday 6th June 2019.

North Essex Garden Communities Update

It was announced in February that North Essex Garden Communities (NEGC) is to receive £1million of Government funding.

The company, a collaboration between Braintree District, Tendring District, Colchester Borough and Essex County Councils to develop new purpose-built settlements over the coming 50+ years, has received the backing from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government – and has now received more than £3million of national funding since its inception.

Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said: "We welcome this money which will help us continue to explore the opportunities that garden communities could bring our residents and business. Enhanced infrastructure such as jobs, health facilities, schools, green space and roads are all just as important as homes and that is why we've been working with our neighbouring councils on larger sites that embrace Garden Community principles so that we do not solely have to rely on tacking houses on the edges of towns and villages to meet housing need."

Increased Fines for Litter Louts

People caught throwing litter out of their vehicle now face increased penalty fines from £75 to £100 in a bid to crackdown on the issue.

Braintree District Council is working in partnership with McDonalds and KFC to inform the public of the consequences of littering by displaying banners at the drive through restaurants, and stickers on take-away packaging asking, "Can you afford to throw £100 away?"

Key Messages: Budget 2019/20

1. Essex County Council is the most efficient/effective Council of its size in the country and ranks seventh overall

- Consultancy iMPower surveyed 150 upper-tier councils, with ECC 7th for spending money effectively and getting the best results for residents
- ECC has improved its productivity/effectiveness, moving up from 23rd place last year
- The results are drawn from an analysis of performance in six key areas: children's social care, older people, disability, health and social care, housing and homelessness, waste and recycling

2. Reports of potholes decreased by 45% in Essex between 2015-2017

- National figures released by the RAC in December 2018 showed Essex bucking national trends, where reports have been increasing
- The figure reflects our hard work in tackling potholes, with extra funding/resources deployed to clear the backlog particularly following the "Beast from the East" cold snap at the beginning of 2018

3. ECC is the best social work employer

- ECC places great emphasis on training and career progression for social workers through the Essex Social Care Academy
- The Council has created a stable workforce with limited use of agency staff, which has been in part due to the introduction of a high-quality programme of support in employment
- We are committed to making our social workers feel valued and positive and achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable children, families and adults

4. Broadband rollout (£1.4m investment)

- As of November 2018, 115,000 properties have been enabled (phase 2 of the rollout continues)
- Delivery will reach its peak over the next nine months
- Just 3% of Essex (26,000 properties) has no existing or planned superfast coverage

5. Devolved funding to Parish Councils

- Parishes have been invited to take part in a pilot where they would undertake devolved highways functions, including grass cutting and special verge maintenance, weed control, tree and hedge cutting, minor footway repairs, installing/maintaining signs, winter salt bags, maintaining bus stops/shelters and maintaining Public Rights of Way
- 15 Parish Councils have expressed an interest in taking part in the pilot

Update from Cllr David Finch

Budget 19/20 headlines

Despite our efforts, inflation, price increases, population growth and greater demand for services means we need to increase Council Tax by 2.99% and use the 1% Social Care precept. Taking these increases into account, the Council tax for a band D property will be £1270.44: this is an increase of £0.94 per week

There are major road improvements planned in conjunction with the development of housing across the County and the County's Capital programme is £249m – major elements are £117m on highways, £87m on schools and £14m on Broadband

The Council's organisational strategy is focused on the following key areas for 18/19 and 19/20:

- a. Enable inclusive economic growth**
- b. Help people get the best start and age well**
- c. Help create great places to grow up, live and work**
- d. Transform the Council to achieve more with less**

Should Councillors want a copy of the 173-page strategy I will be happy to provide an electronic copy!

As always, I'm happy to deal with any issues or problems discussed at your meeting

Best wishes

David Finch – County Councillor