

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – VIDEO CONFERENCING MINUTES
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 **MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held via **VIDEO-CONFERENCE CALL** on **TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021** at **7:30 PM**

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

1 Member of the public

20/110 NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None to note

20/111 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR JANUARY MEETING

Non pecuniary interests declared as follows - Item 20/121a) Footpaths - Cllr Garrod, Item 20/119 – Grants Applications - Cllr Collar and Cllr Jones.

20/112 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ONLINE ON 01 DECEMBER & EGM 21 DECEMBER 2020

RESOLUTION – Minutes 01 December and EGM 21 December adopted as true record, Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Choat. - Unanimous agreement.

20/113 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)

No items presented

20/114 DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)

Full report at **APPENDIX A**
 Intended closure Hill Lane - 27-29 January Hill Lane, pothole repairs.

20/115 RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

TREE in RIVER – No further feedback from land owner, Clerk informed it has been partly cut through and removed to improve river flow. Still in need of full removal.

CILCA – Clerk commenced studying for my qualification in local council administration, approximately half way through.

Various communications from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and the EALC have been circulated to members since our last meeting.

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

20/116 FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER

RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements: Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Choat – Cllr Carter to Authorise. Finance Statements at **APPENDIX B**

20/116(i) – AGREE 2021-2022 BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST

RESOLUTION – Approve Budget and Precept for 2021-2022 at £10,483: Proposed Cllr Carter, Seconded Cllr Porth.

20/117 REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS

None to consider.

20/118 RECEIVE UPDATE ON PURCHASE OF .GOV DOMAIN & ESTABLISHMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Purchase complete.

	Email format agreed as follows - Cllr.dgarrod@sturmer-pc.gov.uk CLERK to liaise with contractor to establish email accounts for all members and the Clerk.
20/119	REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AGREE AWARD APPROVAL(S) Application received from Sturmer Village Hall for £850 – Insurance contribution and £150 – contribution towards village newsletter. RESOLUTION – Approve Grant Award at £1,000: Proposed Cllr Choat, Seconded Cllr Carter – unanimous decision. CLERK to ACTION
20/120	AGREE ACTION TO PROMOTE CENSUS 2021 ACROSS THE COMMUNITY December newsletter carried an initial an item, suggested a second entry for next edition – Cllr Garrod to liaise with newsletter Editor.
20/121	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths Cllr Choat – all paths very muddy under foot, more people walking due to lockdown. Dog waste bags being thrown into hedges; proposed purchase additional 50L post mounted dog waste bin at £50 for Hill Lane installed by BDC free of charge. Cllr Garrod confirmed that Cllr Finch advises that FP3 is to be closed imminently by Highways for six months and they to liaise with Environment Agency to consider river-bank repairs. b) Flood Action Group Cllr Carter – 2 x flood warnings in December, blocked road-side gully’s reported, Highways now cleared. Flood Action Group formally objected to the West Suffolk development plan; flood action meetings continue via Zoom. Gratitude conveyed to L Bevan for her time and input to this valuable work. c) Play Area Parallel bars now repaired and as a result have improved strength; play areas not being closed during lockdown, Covid-19 related Notices remain in place to help advise and guide users of their responsibilities if using the area and equipment. d) Parish Maintenance Cllr Carter – Contractor completed final cut/clean of footways for 2020.
20/122	RECEIVE UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION PROJECT Cllr Jones – Forms completed and submitted, Defibrillator location marked on the village hall wall, now awaiting delivery and installation.
20/123	AGREE MEETING DATES FOR 2021 Dates agreed as follows: - 09/03 - 13/04 - 18/05 - 13/07 - 31/08 - 12/10- 07/12
20/124	REVIEW OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN AND CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS OSAP currently states - Railway line ownership unknown, Sturmer Common deeds not seen, ownership of Pocket Park deeds not seen – all need updating as ownership is known with documents in the parish council’s possession. Open Spaces Action Plan to be updated. CLERK to ACTION
	<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>
20/125	RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS No update to report <i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i>
20/126	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Dog waste bin purchase, FP3 update, Pothole on highway at entrance to pub car park, War Memorial grant update, Defib, Census 2021.
20/127	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 09 MARCH – CLOSE – 9:18pm

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

APPENDIX A

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

06/01/21

COVID-19 Community Testing: Getting a test if you have no symptoms

From Wednesday 6th January 2021, Braintree District Council will be supporting the overall testing capacity by distributing testing kits from Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB. The programme's aim is to help prevent and reduce transmission in the community through increasing the testing capacity and giving people who are asymptomatic (someone who doesn't have symptoms) an opportunity to be tested. Around 1 in 3 people have coronavirus without symptoms so could be spreading the virus without knowing, so this testing is designed to identify these people and make sure they self-isolate. Community testing means anyone can get a test and play their part in keeping others safe. The Council is initially targeting 11 to 18 year olds and their families, however they won't prevent others who live or work in the Braintree district from collecting tests.

The test involves a swab from the nose and mouth, which is done by you at home, then will need to be dropped back off at Causeway House via the drop box. No physical interaction will be required when dropping off the test. They will then couriered to a lab from Monday to Thursday for analysis. Please be aware that the test cannot be carried out on site, and must be taken away to ensure that we can manage the process safely and support as many of our residents as possible. **You do not need to book an appointment, just turn up Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.** Please follow the instructions within the test kit on how to register your test online and how to package once the test is done. Anyone who does not register will not receive their test results.

For people who do not have access to the internet and want to get tested, a carer or family member in a support bubble is able to register on their behalf, visit a testing centre or call NHS111 to discuss what options are available to them. Please do not attend the site if you have any coronavirus symptoms or have been asked to isolate. If this is the case, refer to the advice on what to do if you have symptoms.

Getting your results: The tests are PCR tests, which need to be sent away to a laboratory for analysis. You should get results 2 days after the home test sample is collected, however due to the volume of tests this may take longer (up to 5 days). Results will be by email and text to the number provided when registering the test online.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

On Wednesday 6th January, Leader of Braintree District Council, Cllr. Graham Butland wrote to the Executive Lead for Mid Essex NHS Trust to ask for information about future Vaccination Centres in Essex but I'm afraid I don't have any information for residents at this time. This will be conveyed to Parish Council's at the earliest opportunity.

New National Lockdown from 5th January 2021

Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly across the country. To reduce the spread of the virus England has entered a national lockdown.

What can and can't you do during lockdown?

Detailed guidelines are available at www.gov.uk

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term. Early Years settings remain open. Higher Education provision will remain online until mid February for all except future critical worker courses. If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live. You may leave your local area for a legally permitted reason, such as for work. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

Meeting others

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a support bubble with (if you are legally permitted to form one). You may exercise on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble. You should not meet other people you do not live with, or have formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason. Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household.

Test and Trace Self-Isolation Payment

If you are losing income and struggling to pay your bills after being asked to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace scheme, you may be eligible for a discretionary lump sum payment of £500. Details about eligibility and the on-line application form are at www.braintree.gov.uk.

Recycle your Christmas Tree

Braintree District Council will be collecting Christmas trees from 9 locations (listed on website) throughout the district on the **16th January 2021**. Social distancing measures will be in place to protect both BDC staff and members of the public at collection points. You must remove all decorations before recycling the tree. Some local drop-off locations are:

Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall, Finchingfield Road CB9 7EA – 9.15am – 9.45am
The Old Council Yard, Hedingham Road, Gt Yeldham, CO9 4HS – 10.15am – 10.45am
Playing field car park, High Street, Wethersfield, CM7 4EQ – 11.15am – 11.45am

Please note that BDC will treat Christmas trees left outside of the times below will be treated as fly-tipping. You can also take Christmas trees to Essex County Council's Recycling Centres or cut your tree up and put it in your Green Wheeled bin. BDC will empty this bin when the collection resumes in Spring 2021. You must also make sure your tree fits within the bin with the lid shut. Alternatively, you can compost your Christmas tree at home by breaking it down into smaller pieces and putting it in your home compost bin.

Essex County Council offer subsidised compost bins. To purchase a subsidised compost bin (see further details at www.loveessex.org)

- You must live in statutory Essex (which doesn't include Southend and Thurrock).
- Have the compost bin delivered to your Essex address

- Choose between either a 220l or 330l sized compost bin
- You can purchase two of the same size compost bins and will get a further 50% of the price of the second bin.

The compost bins are made from recycled plastic and require no set-up. All you need to do is enter your Essex postcode and your discount will be automatically applied.

Successful Prosecutions for Car Littering

Braintree District Council are reminding drivers of the consequences of throwing litter out of the car. Two successful car littering prosecutions were secured in one day at Chelmsford Magistrates Court on Thursday 3rd December.

Bircan Ay, aged 54 of Coggeshall Road, Braintree, was witnessed smoking in the his licensed Hackney Carriage vehicle on the 3rd February 2020 and then littering the cigarette butt while travelling along Coggeshall Road, Braintree, contrary to the Health Act 2006 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Mr Ay pleaded guilty to the offences, was fined and ordered to pay costs which in total came to £282. Elliot Peacocke of Montfort Drive, Great Baddow, was witnessed depositing lots of waste from the passenger windows of his vehicle by a Braintree District Council Street Warden whilst travelling behind him along Hatfield Road, Witham to Hatfield Peverel on the 22nd October 2019. When the vehicle stopped, the Street Warden tried to deal with the offences however the occupants of the vehicle would not provide details. Mr Peacocke was identified as the owner of the vehicle and requested to provide the details of the offenders under the Environment Act 1995, but failed to comply. Mr Peacocke failed to attend court and the case was heard in his absence. He was found guilty, was fined and ordered to pay costs which in total came to £1,224.

Residents can report any instances of fly-tipping, dumped rubbish or litter to us via www.braintree.gov.uk or by calling 01376 552525.

FYI: Transport in East of England – Survey (Hosted by Suffolk County Council)

Transport East is the Sub-national Transport Body for Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock and are currently developing an ambitious Transport Strategy for the East of England, with the aim of setting out a vision for a future of inclusive and sustainable transport over the next 30 years. Suffolk been involved in this work through day to day officer support, but they are keen to hear from all communities and their representatives as they progress this work. They would like you to take ten minutes to complete their survey and share the link with local people in your area so they can have their say too. The survey covers a range of topics about travel choices, the impact of COVID-19 and the priorities for transport in the region and will be open until **11.59pm on Sunday 17 January 2021**. The results from the survey, along with direct feedback from their engagement with councils, businesses and community groups in the region, will help to ensure they have a clear direction of travel which aligns with the objectives of their partners and the public. The survey can be found at www.transporteastfeedback.org

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - January 2021									BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	
									10,332.00	15,119.31	-4,787.31	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt	
04-Dec-20	T Jones	Defib		BGC		Y	70.00				Income	
08-Dec-20	T Jones	Just Giving - Defib		BGC		Y	510.87				Income	
15-Dec-20	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintain	34704	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
16-Dec-20	Haven Power	Electricity	9097/9098			Y		46.58	2.22	44.36	Electricity	
23-Dec-20	Open Spaces Society	Grant	N/A	FPO		Y		45.00	0.00	45.00	S137	
23-Dec-20	Commnty Heartbeat	Annual support		FPO		Y		198.00	33.00	165.00	S137	
23-Dec-20	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO		Y		417.00	0.00	417.00	Clerk	
24-Dec-20	Commnty Heartbeat	Defibrillator	7066	FPO		Y		2999.00	0.00	2999.00	S137	
07-Jan-21	SVHall - Fayre 2016	Defibrillator donation	N/A	100009		Y	500.00				Income	
18-Jan-21	Haven Power	Electricity	5956/5957	DD				48.04	2.29	45.75	Electricity	
16-Jan-21	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintain	34776	DD				27.00	405.00	22.50	Lighting	
DEC/JAN21							1,080.87	3,807.62	447.01	3,761.11		
Balance £	13,215.21											