

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Ian Brown
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Email: clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk

72 St. Edmunds Fields
Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2AN
Tel: 01371 871641

Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021** at **7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Garrod Cllr Porth Cllr Carter Cllr Jones
00 Member of the public

21/51	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Keith Choat, on leave and Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier, prior County meetings
21/52	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING None declared
21/53	APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2021 RESOLUTION – Minutes 13 July 2021 adopted as true record: Proposed Cllr Alan Carter, Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones - Unanimous agreement
21/54	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
21/55	DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S) Dist Cllr Diana Garrod <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Commencing 02/09 - Two days highway patching along The Street➤ Commencing 19/09 – Five days highway patching Kedington Road➤ Full report APPENDIX A
21/56	RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Continuing complaints of speeding.➤ Invitation from CPRE, Campaign to Protect Rural England, to renew your annual subscription at £36.➤ Essex CC launch a new secure telephone payment system where callers can now use their telephone keypad to enter payment details rather than share them with an operator.➤ Invitation to join the Essex Highways scheme for devolved ability to provide some of the services currently provided by the County Council with a supporting grant from Essex of 68p per person in the parish, which for Sturmer is some 426 in total on the electoral register = £290➤ An expression of interest from two residents in helping with a Community Speedwatch group.➤ Expressions of interest received from two members of the community to join the parish council. <p>All other matters are to be covered by the items on the Agenda</p>
21/57	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements as attached: Proposed Cllr Terrie Jones, Seconded Cllr David Porth – unanimous approval - Cllr Carter to Authorise.

	<p>Finance Statements at APPENDIX B</p> <p>21/57(i) - RESOLUTION – Approve Clerk Work from Home payment at £26 per month: Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod, Seconded Cllr Alan Carter – unanimous approval</p> <p>21/57(ii) - Defer purchase of Defibrillator training decision until a future meeting.</p> <p>21/57(iii) - RESOLUTION – Approve renewal of CPRE membership at £36: Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod, Seconded Cllr Alan Carter – unanimous approval</p>
21/58	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</p> <p>None current to review</p>
21/59	<p>REVIEW CURRENT EMERGENCY PLAN AND ADVISE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES</p> <p>Cllr Diana Garrod to review current Plan</p>
21/60	<p>REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SERVICE</p> <p>Service to be held at the War Memorial commencing 10:00am</p>
21/61	<p>OPEN DISCUSSION ON QUIET LANES TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE TARGET ROUTES AND IMPLICATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concerns over potential safety of pedestrians and other lane users ➤ Possibility to gel with Cycling initiative ➤ Hill Lane and Linnetts Lane identified as potential targets ➤ Additional signage required at a cost ➤ Hill Lane already has “Protected Status” ➤ Request to Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier for additional information – CLERK to ACTION ➤ Keep item on the agenda
21/62	<p>CONSIDER APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPABILITY FUND TO PROVIDE RURAL CYCLE TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Question as to whether schools provide cycle training. ➤ Suggestion to place comment on Village Hub website to invite interest in scheme
21/63	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <p>a) Footpaths – Cllr Keith Choat – Cllr David Porth to contact Kedington PC to report path area along Stour Valley with vegetation overgrowth problem. FP bridge by the weir along the Amenity Walk remains in need of attention. Tree fallen across river along Amenity Walk, by Red Lion access pathway has been partially removed.</p> <p>b) Flood Action Group – Cllr Alan Carter – Exploratory bore holes on bridge completed, awaiting outcome. August update at APPENDIX C</p> <p>c) Play Area – Cllrs Alan Carter & David Porth – Reported issues up to date, Cllr Carter continues to maintain grass areas. Railings in need of maintenance and painting – quotes to be sought.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance – Cllr Alan Carter – Tree along Amenity Walk identified in need of attention; recommended “Three year” Tree condition inspection be completed asap.</p> <p>e) War Memorial – Cllr David Porth – Reshaped Yews, Rear hedge cut. Works can proceed post 02/09. Cllr David Porth to advise contractor.</p> <p>Noted grateful thanks offered on behalf of the PC by Cllr Diana Garrod to Cllrs Alan Carter and David Porth for their continuing efforts invested on behalf of the community.</p> <p>f) Village Hall – Cllr Terrie Jones – 32 people attended Defibrillator training plus First Aid training. Thanks offered to Village Hall Committee for the generous free use of the venue for the event. Suggested a joint event to link a village venture coinciding with the WI World Day on the 25 September.</p> <p>g) Highways – Cllr Keith Choat – No report</p>

21/64	UPDATE TO FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AND REGISTER LAND OWNERSHIP Investigate cost to register land – CLERK to ACTION
	<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>
21/65	RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS
	<i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i>
21/66	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Speedwatch Group 2022 Budget
21/67	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12 OCTOBER – CLOSE – 08:46pm

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

APPENDIX A

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

06/08/21

Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closures:-

Finkle Green, Birdbrook due to commence on 10th August for 3 days (Anglian Water new connection).
Camps Rd, Helions Bumpstead on 10th August for 6 hours (Openreach pole testing).
Wiggins Green, Copy Hill, Helions Bumpstead on 11th August for 6 hours (Openreach pole testing).
Camps Rd, Helions Bumpstead on 12th August for 1 hour (UK Power Networks tree trimming)
Station Road, Sturmer on 16th August for approximately 1 week (ECC – ground investigations to bridge)
Camps Rd, Drapers Green, Helions Bumpstead due to commence on 17th August for 21 days (County Broadband fibre optic broadband installation).
Birdbrook Rd, Birdbrook due to commence on 19th August for 1 day (Anglian Water meter exchange).
Chapel Street, Steeple Bumpstead due to commence on 23rd August for 5 days (ECC carriageway patching).
Finchingfield Rd, Eggshell Lane, Steeple Bumpstead due to commence on 23rd August for 5 days (ECC carriageway patching).
Birdbrook Rd, Stambourne due to commence on 24th August for 3 days (Anglian Water boundary box installation).
Birdbrook Road, Birdbrook due to commence on 31st August 2021 for 3 days (ECC carriageway patching).
Haverhill Road, Wiggins Green, Copy Hill due to commence on 9th September 2021 for 21 days (County Broadband superfast fibre optic broadband installation).
Steeple Bumpstead Rd, Helions Bumpstead on 20th September for 7 days (County Broadband superfast fibre optic broadband installation)

Affordable Housing and Land Searches

This year BDC has so far seen 91 affordable housing completions during April, May and June and are therefore on target to deliver over 200 affordable homes by the end of the Civic year.

The Government scheme for a Stamp Duty holiday resulted in a surge in house sales. The scheme is being phased out and ending in October. Despite this surge, the Governance Team have kept to their expected response times and have been able to assist neighbouring local authorities to clear their backlog, furthermore BDC is rated as the 5th best Authority in England in this service. In June this year, the Land Charges search total from developers and personal searches reached a peak at 136% higher than June 2020.

The Community Support and Employment Service

This is a new FREE service at Braintree District Council; working alongside the Department for Work and Pensions to support people living in the Braintree District with their employment needs, to assist in managing challenging life barriers **that are affecting a person's development or hindering their life** opportunities to employment through engagement and identify individual solutions which will lead to progression towards the job market. Participants can be those who are unemployed, those who are in fear of unemployment for some reason and those who are for any reason, no longer engaging with the workplace. For further information, contact Mr Paul Weaver.

Steeple Bumpstead GP Services

The District Council is not able to influence the provision of GP services. However, I have been communicating with the Partnerships & Development Director, at Suffolk GP Federation CIC after I discovered that a few residents found that they were not registered with Unity Healthcare, Haverhill Practice. Unity Healthcare are keen to address this issue ASAP and have requested that residents contact them directly to resolve this.

With regards to future plans for Steeple Bumpstead Surgery, they have informed me that they do not have a firm position at present as to whether services will run from this building. They say they are currently in discussions about the use of the Unity Healthcare buildings 'post pandemic' and will keep me updated with developments as they unfold. They also said "I would urge parish councils and residents to be mindful of the extreme pressures they are experiencing across the NHS; the unprecedented and relentless increase in demand following relaxation of restrictions and the exhaustion of many of the staff who really do need some time to recover".

Mental Health Champions

At the Cabinet meeting held on 17th May, it was agreed that Braintree Council will sign up to the Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge run by the Centre for Mental Health (and partners), and to appoint myself and Cllr. Andrew Harrison as the Council's Member Champions.

It was reported that Local Authorities have a key role in promoting wellbeing and improving mental health in their communities. The mental health challenge for Local Authorities (the Challenge) seeks to support and encourage Local Authorities to undertake a proactive approach toward addressing this crucial issue. By signing up to the Challenge, the Council would adhere to the following principles:

- a) Support positive mental health in its community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces;
- b) Would look to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community;
- c) Work with local partners to offer effective support for people with mental health needs;
- d) Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community; and
- e) Proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.

The role of the Member Champion required those appointed to the role to support the Council's activities and responsibilities through key activities, which included:

- a) Advocating for mental health issues in Council Meetings and policy development;
- b) Reaching out to the Local Community (e.g. via schools, businesses, faith groups) to raise awareness and challenge stigma;
- c) Listening to people with personal experiences of mental ill health to get their perspectives on local needs and priorities;
- d) Fostering local partnerships between agencies to support people with mental health problems more effectively; and
- e) Encouraging the Council to support the mental health of its own workforce and those of its contractors.

In undertaking these key activities, Member Champions will provide a presence for mental health within the Council, working respectfully and sensitively with Members and responding to requests from the Challenge Organisers on the work undertaken. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing would continue to retain oversight for emotional health and wellbeing. Alongside this, the Member Champions will be required to ensure that the Cabinet Member is kept up to date throughout the course of their roles.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

