

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Ian Brown
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Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **04 JULY 2023 AT 7:30 PM**

COUNCILLOR	IN ATTENDANCE
Cllr Diana Garrod (Chairman)	YES
Cllr Alan Carter	YES
Cllr Terrie Jones	YES
Cllr David Porth	YES
VACANCY	
VACANCY	
Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier	NO

CLERK – Ian Brown

0 Member(s) of the public

23/028	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None given
23/029	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS Cllr Diana Garrod wished it recorded a Non Pecuniary Interest for Item 23/037 covering FP3
23/030	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16 MAY AND 23 MAY – 2023 RESOLUTION – Approve the minutes from 16 May 2023 and 23 May 2023; Proposed Cllr Alan Carter and Seconded Cllr David Porth – unanimous approval
23/031	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 public present
23/032	RECEIVE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier has circulated various updates to the council during the month Dist Cllr Diana Garrod full report APPENDIX A
23/033	RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE Full report APPENDIX B 23/033(i) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON S106 CLAIM, 2 OUT OF 3 REIMBURSED - £1,410 Cllrs noted reimbursement 23/033(ii) – IN LIGHT OF THE REJECTION BY BDC OF THE S106 CLAIM FOR AMENITY WALK WORKS COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE RAILINGS OPTIONS, PLAY EQUIPMENT, RESURFACING QUOTES, TREE SURVEY, TREE WORKS QUOTES CLERK to enquire when can the Open Spaces Action Plan is to be updated and if partial VG52 land sale completes confirmation of what the land sale proceeds can be spent on.

23/034	<p>FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS RESOLUTION – Approve finance statements and payments; Proposed Cllr Terrie Jones and Seconded Cllr David Porth – unanimous approval</p> <p>Finance statement APPENDIX C</p> <p>23/034(i) – APPROVE GRANT PAYMENT OF £200 TO STURMER WI, PREVIOUSLY AGREED IN 2022 RESOLUTION – Approve grant award of £200 to Sturmer WI; Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod and Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval</p> <p>23/034(ii) - APPOINT AUTHORISER Cllr Alan Carter</p> <p>23/034(iii) – CONSIDER OFFER RENEWAL FOR THE 5YR LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH CURRENT CONTRACTOR AT SAME RATES AS PREVIOUS YEARS RESOLUTION – Approve renewal of 5Yr Lighting Maintenance Contract with A&J Lighting at same rates as previous years; Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod and Seconded Cllr David Porth – unanimous approval</p> <p>23/034(iv) – CONSIDER REVIEW OF PARISH MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AND ITS DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT Cllr David Porth to supply map of area to be maintained along with frequency of works required, all works weather dependent</p> <p>23/034(v) – CONFIRM CLLRS NOTED BANK RECONCILIATION RESOLUTION – Cllrs noted bank reconciliation; Proposed Cllr Alan Carter and Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval</p>
23/035	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS/LHP OUTCOMES</p> <p>BIO DIGESTER PLANT – WITHERSFIELD – Clerk subscribed to Muck off Acorn updates, council to remain vigilant and keep a watching brief on Suffolk planning sites</p> <p>NOTE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SINCE PREVIOUS MEETINGS –</p> <p>23/01083/FUL Erection of 6 No. dwellings and associated access. Land Off Hill Lane Sturmer Numerous comments from residents on the Planning portal, Highways yet to comment. CLERK to enquire of Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier as to why Highways not yet commented?</p> <p>Lanpro Solar Farm, Hill Lane, Sturmer; Planning Scoping Opinion Consultation 22/03173/SCR No further comments to date</p> <p>Water Hall Farm, Wixoe; Solar farm – Proposed HGV construction traffic route, details on the PC website No further comments to date</p> <p>Wethersfield ex Airbase Appeal outcome to house Asylum seekers BDC website carries regular updates Wethersfield Airfield and housing asylum seekers – Braintree District Council</p>
23/036	<p>RECEIVE ANY FURTHER FEEDBACK FROM HIGHWAYS SITE MEETING TO DISCUSS FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT j/w HILL LANE WITH A1017 – DRAINAGE, REDUCING ROAD WIDTH, FOOTWAY CONDITION (SAFE PEDESTRIAN / MOBILITY USERS), HEDGE MAINTENANCE, ROAD SIGNAGE, VISIBILITY ISSUES No further updates to report</p>

23/037	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING FALLEN WILLOW TREE 03/11/22 FROM WOODLAND NEXT TO RAILWAY AMENITY WALK OVER RIVER AND PROW 3 PROW3 is not being walked due to height of vegetation and fallen tree as not being cut. Situation to be reported to Highways by Cllr Diana Garrod</p> <p>CLERK to contact EA re access request from neighbouring landowner</p>
23/038	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Footpaths – 23/038(i) – CONSIDER COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT AND DOG BIN REQUEST – potential bin site is assessed as inaccessible b) Flood Action Group – Report APPENDIX D c) Play Area – Ongoing issue with rubber matting lifting under swing d) Parish Maintenance – No further comment e) War Memorial – Plinth painted, neighbouring hedge in need of cutting back. WM features on national site. Cllr Diana Garrod wished it noted the Council’s expression of grateful thanks for the tireless work of Cllr David Porth and Cllr Alan Carter f) Village Hall – AGM Thursday 06th July, 7pm [f](i) – Defibrillator function – Working OK g) Highways – Cllr Garrod photographed and reported potholes to Highways using W3W at Kedington Rd, in response to Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier call for defects, on 28 June
23/039	<p>COMMENT ON REQUEST FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY TO CONFIRM CERTAIN TREE OWNERSHIP AND WHETHER CERTAIN IDENTIFIED TREE WORKS ON THE AMENITY WALK HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PC TREE WORK SCHEDULE. Noted T1 is on PC land whereas T2 is on the neighbouring land under Hanson company management</p> <p>23/039(i) – CONSIDER ACTIONS TO TREE T1 AS INDICATED BY THE E.A. CONTRACTOR Identified dead limb to be removed</p>
	<p>MOTION TO BE AGREED - <i>Approve exclusion of the public</i> <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></p>
23/040	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</p>
	<p>MOTION TO BE AGREED – <i>Approve readmission of the public</i> <i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i></p>
23/041	<p>CONSIDER ENGAGEMENT OF QUALIFIED ARBORIST TO COMPLETE TREE SURVEY ALONG AMENITY WALK AND PRODUCE DETAILED REPORT ENABLING COUNCIL TO INVITE CONTRACTORS TO TENDER FOR THE IDENTIFIED WORK SCHEDULE. CURRENT OFFERS TO COMPLETE SURVEY PRICED AT Q1 £495, Q2 £600, Q3 up to £1,500</p> <p>Defer to next meeting pending information on possible consideration for S106 funding – CLERK to request input from S106 team</p> <p>23/041(i) – CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY, example circulated to members</p> <p>Cllr David Porth to discuss with the parish Tree Warden CLERK to request EALC to ask members</p>

23/042	CLARIFY POLICY FOR ACTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LOGS FROM ANY TREE WORKS ALONG THE AMENITY WALK To be included in tree policy, members to cease all voluntary tree works until matter is clarified
23/043	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Control of dogs on PC land Agree regular play area inspection frequency and whom to complete, training available from EALC
23/044	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 05 September 2023 – CLOSE 09:16pm

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

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils 3rd July 2023 Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Wethersfield Airfield & Housing Asylum Seekers

The Court of Appeal has unfortunately decided to dismiss Braintree District Council's appeal against the High Court's decision to not grant BDC with an injunction to stop the Home Office's proposal to provide accommodation for asylum seekers at Wethersfield Airfield, and their decision that the Home Office could rely on the use of permitted development rights (Class Q) as a way of getting around the need for planning permission. BDC is extremely disappointed with this outcome and now will reflect on the detail contained within the judgement and consider the council's position.

BDC will be proceeding with their judicial review permission hearing, which further challenges the Home Office's decision to use the site for this purpose. A Judicial Review requires permission from the Court and this hearing will determine whether the three judicial reviews (BDC, West Lindsey DC and a resident from Wethersfield) are granted permission to proceed with the judicial reviews. If permission is granted, the case will then go to a final hearing which would give an opportunity for us to further seek clarification on the interpretation of Class Q in the judicial review.

BDC continues to stand behind the community on the fact that the site is unsuitable for these plans and are doing all it can through legal routes to prevent it from going ahead. All updates can be seen in full at: www.braintree.gov.uk/wethersfieldairfield

National Grid – Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia Green Energy Enablement)

National Grid has opened a consultation on its [Norwich to Tilbury proposal](#). The eight-week consultation closes on Monday 21 August 2023. The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury. It will be made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation. Residents, landowners, businesses, individuals or groups can take part in the consultation. Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said:

"We have continued to work with our city, district and borough councils and neighbouring county councils of Norfolk and Suffolk to discuss the Norwich to Tilbury project. We remain fully committed to our net-zero ambitions and appreciate this involves building infrastructure to connect renewable energy sources to the National Grid. However, we believe this can be far better achieved by viable alternative means, without the detrimental impact to our residents, businesses and the local environment that would be caused by the current proposals. We will continue to push for changes to the proposals, and I would urge the public to also have their say".

Residents can give their feedback by [completing an online form: https://norwich-tilbury.participatr.io/](https://norwich-tilbury.participatr.io/)

Feedback can also be emailed to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Further information and their interactive map can be seen at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/public-consultation>

Councillor Community Grant (please circulate this information to those in the list below)**

Each District Councillor has an allocation of £1250 per year to apportion to organisations running projects that benefit residents of their ward. Any 'not for profit' organisation can apply for a grant. These may include:

- o Registered Charities
- o Constituted 'not for profit' Community or Voluntary Groups
- o Parochial Church Councils (anything that benefits the wider community)
- o Social Enterprises e.g., Community Interest Company, Co-operative
- o Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committees
- o Town & Parish Councils (anything that is not an ordinary or existing activity/function or a statutory obligation or duty and benefits the wider community)
- o Schools (anything that is not statutory/curriculum based and benefits the wider community)

There are many activities that can be funded with a Councillors Community Grant; however, some restrictions do apply. The Guidance Booklet for this can be found at:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/homepage/83/councillors-community-grants-scheme-guidance>

Cabinet Meeting scheduled 10th July 2023 to Debate the Future of Garden Waste Collection Service

Some of the key points in the Cabinet agenda for debate:-

The collection of garden waste is a discretionary service for which the Council may make a reasonable charge under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. For many years, the Council has provided a non-chargeable garden waste service.

The operating budget for garden waste in 2023/24 is £683,000 and this level of expenditure is no longer sustainable or affordable. The existing service is disproportionate inasmuch as it is funded by Council taxpayers irrespective of whether or not they use the service. Introducing a charge would mean that only those who use the service would pay for it and this would be seen as a fairer way of providing the service. Those who do not opt-in to the service have the option of home-composting or taking their garden waste to their local Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Others may choose to vary the frequency they cut their grass and leave some areas to rewild.

If approved, the proposed opt-in garden waste service would commence from Monday, 4th March 2024, and operate on a fortnightly basis over 50 weeks of the year, allowing for a 2-week suspension in the week before and the week after Christmas to ensure there is adequate staff cover over this period.

It is proposed to set an annual subscription of £55 p.a. in the first year (13 months) for a standard 180L bin, with an additional one-off charge of £34 for new or replacement bins. A 50% discount on the annual subscription price would apply to collections of any additional bins requested by customers i.e. £27.50 in 2024/25. An early bird discount of 50% is proposed for customers who sign-up by 30th November 2023 to encourage participation and help establish the likely level of demand for service so that resources can be managed accordingly.

Within the District, there are c.1,700 households that have remained on black sack collections as they are not suitable for wheeled bin collections. These householders would be offered a garden waste collection using bio-degradable sacks sold by the Council at a cost of £8 per roll of 20 including collection (no other sacks would be accepted). 3 sacks have equivalent capacity to a 180L wheeled bin.

In considering the level of charge, benchmarking was undertaken with other Essex & Suffolk Authorities, details of which are set out at Appendix 1 (*of the agenda*). Charges in Essex range from £37 p.a. to £90 p.a. but research by the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee puts the national average at £43, with 60% of annual subscriptions at between £40 and £60 for a 240L bin – either weekly or fortnightly

The meeting is open to the public and members of the public will be able to view and listen to this meeting via YouTube:- <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL -CLERKS REPORT JULY 2023

Another request from the landowner of the adjacent woodland to use the Amenity walk to access their land to clear a fallen tree from FP3, EA have shared that request.

Request from BALC to renew subscription at £48.

EA advised FP3 Temporary Restriction Order will be renewed stating it to be closed for the foreseeable future; Cost of reinstatement significant. Suggested a re-routing order?

Concerns over over-hanging tree branches along The Street

The council have received various communications from the bodies that support this sector including BDC and ECC and all other matters are covered by the agenda.

APPENDIX C

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - May 2023												
										BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
										11,937.00		
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt	
Month Closing Balance							16117.55					
15-May-23	AJ Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37266	DD	23/016	Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
17-May-23	SLCC	Subscription	MEM244383-1	FPO	23/016	Y		46.75		46.75	Subs	
17-May-23	Employee	Expenses	May expenses	FPO	23/016	Y		42.20		42.20	Admin	
17-May-23	DH Maintenance	Maintenance & Amenity W	20523	FPO	23/016	Y		150.00		150.00	PM	
22-May-23	DRAX	Electricity - Lighting	51460	DD	23/016	Y		25.03	1.19	23.84	Utility	
23-May-23	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO	23/016	Y		470.75		470.75	Clerk	
30-May-23	HP - IB	Instant Ink	88018	FPO	23/016	Y		9.14	1.52	7.62	Admin	
30-May-23	Playsafety	Play area inspection	21-Nov	FPO	23/016	Y		90.00	15.00	75.00	Play Area H&S	
MAY							0.00	860.87	22.21	838.66		
Month Closing Balance							£15,256.68					
S106	Source - Exp 30-04-27	Open - Spend to date	Description	Balance								
	Wheel Chase	20,103.56		20,103.56								
	Oct-20	5,664.00	Play equipment	14,439.56								

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - June 2023								BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	
								11,937.00			
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt
Month Closing Balance							15256.68				
15-Jun-23	AJ Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37338	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
19-Jun-23	DRAX	Electricity - Lighting	44090/51611	DD		Y		25.86	1.23	24.63	Utility
27-Jun-23	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO		Y		470.75		470.75	Clerk
27-Jun-23	Employee	WFH expenses	N/A	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00	Admin
29-Jun-23	BDC	S106 claim	Ref 3361	BGC		Y	1,410.00				Income
JUNE							1,410.00	549.61	5.73	543.88	
Month Closing Balance							16,117.07				
S106	Source - Exp 30-04-27	Open - Spend to date	Description	Balance							
	Wheel Chase	20,103.56		20,103.56							
	Oct-20	5,664.00	Play equipment	14,439.56							

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - July 2023								BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	
								11,937.00	3,267.11	9,863.50	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt
Month Closing Balance							16117.07				
	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	03+04/23	FPO				300.00		300.00	PM
	Employee	Expenses WFH+Travel	July expenses	FPO				42.20		42.20	Admin
	Amazon - IB	Ring binders	320ETOZAEUI	FPO				2.68	0.45	2.23	Admin
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				470.75		470.75	Clerk
	Sturmer Village Hall	Hall hire April & May	Inv 23	FPO				36.00		36.00	Hall Hire
	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37379	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
	BALC	Sunscription	2023-24	FPO				48.00		48.00	Subs
	WI	Grant - cooking course	N/A	FPO				200.00		200.00	Grants S137
JULY							0.00	1126.63	4.95	1121.68	
Month Closing Balance							14990.44				
S106	Source - Exp 30-04-27	Open - Spend to date	Description	Balance							
	Wheel Chase	20,103.56		20,103.56							
	Oct-20	5,664.00	Play equipment	14,439.56							
	Jun-23	1,410.00	WM & Bench	13,029.56							

APPENDIX D

June 2023

Dear Alan

Please let the PC know:

Side inlets near Hill Lane have been cleared by Highways;

The damaged pipe between the gully near Hillside towards Ambleside (formerly Regained) (revealed and reported after recent jetting)has been referred to the Engineering Team;

ECC Flood Team has asked us to contact them when field drains are in full flow on to Hill Lane so they can attend/view a video with a view to improvement of the drainage arrangements here;

Braintree Planning Enforcement have been supplied with a picture of the Meadow opposite Dearsley acting as a flood plain for Water Lane before the current hardstanding and scaffolding business occupied the site. We understand a retrospective planning application is awaited (see attached).

Thanks - **Linda Bevan - Sturmer Flood Action Group**