

**STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **05 SEPTEMBER 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

23/050	<b>NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier – other meetings to attend
23/051	<b>WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS</b> None declared
23/052	<b>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 04 JULY AND PLANNING MEETING 08 AUGUST – 2023</b>  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve the minutes from 04 July 2023 and 08 August 2023; Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Alan Carter (July); Proposed Cllr Alan Carter; Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones (August) – unanimous approval
23/053	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b> <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
23/054	<b>RECEIVE COUNTY &amp; DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS</b> Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier has circulated various updates to the council during the month Dist Cllr Diana Garrod full reports <b>APPENDIX A</b>
23/055	<b>RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT &amp; NOTE CORRESPONDENCE</b> Full report – <b>APPENDIX B</b>
23/056	<b>FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve finance statements and payments; Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval  Finance statement <b>APPENDIX C</b>  <b>23/056(i) - APPOINT AUTHORISER</b> Cllr Alan Carter

	<p><b>23/056(ii) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON PREPARATION OF PARISH MAINTENANCE NEEDS AND SCHEDULE MAPPING – CLLR DAVID PORTH</b>  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve Parish Maintenance schedule and associated map; Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Alan Carter</p> <p><b>23/056(iii) – CONFIRM CLLRS NOTED BANK RECONCILIATION</b>  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Cllrs noted bank reconciliation; Proposed Cllr David Porth and Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval</p>
<b>23/057</b>	<p><b>REVIEW &amp; COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS</b></p> <p><b>REF. 23/01994/FUL</b>  <b>DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS ON SITE, AND THE ERECTION OF A 64NO. BED CARE HOME (USE CLASS C2), TOGETHER WITH ACCESS, CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS. - THE WOODLANDS HOTEL , COUPALS ROAD, STURMER</b>  <b>Comment date – 18 September 2023</b>  Request a structure to clearly identify the boundary between the proposed development site and the village green, a distinguishing feature such as trees, fence, hedging or physical boundary.  Item to be raised with Mr Catley.</p> <p><b>CONSIDER ANY FURTHER INPUT TO THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM AT WIXOE</b>  No further comments</p> <p><i>CLERK ACTION - Planning enforcement – Dearsley Nov 22 report, residents complaints of noise, irregular times of day, update please from enforcement team. Kedington Rd.</i></p>
<b>23/058</b>	<p><b>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.</b>  <b>CURRENT OFFERS TO COMPLETE SURVEY PRICED AT Q1 £495, Q2 £600, Q3 up to £1,500</b>  Request additional quotes and defer item to next meeting. Press BDC for advice on S106 funding</p> <p><b>23/058(i) – CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY, example circulated to members</b>  Defer until next meeting pending results of item above</p>
<b>23/059</b>	<p><b>AGREE POLICY FOR CONTROL OF DOGS ON PC LAND – EXAMPLE CIRCULATED</b>  Suggested to remove reference to dog’s name  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve policy for the Control of Dogs on PC land; Proposed Cllr David Porth and Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones</p>
<b>23/060</b>	<p><b>AGREE FREQUENCY OF REGULAR PLAY AREA INSPECTION AND WHOM TO COMPLETE THE TASK</b>  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve passing inspection frequency every two weeks, report to be handed to Clerk; Proposed Cllr Terrie Jones; Seconded Cllr Diana Garrod</p> <p>CLERK to send sign examples to Cllrs</p>
<b>23/061</b>	<p><b>AGREE RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR THE PC TO CONSIDER ADOPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THAT AREA OF ST MARYS CHURCHYARD PROPOSED FOR CLOSURE</b>  <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Council reluctantly do not agree to adopt responsibility for the maintenance of that area of St Mary’s Churchyard proposed for closure; Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Alan Carter</p> <p>CLERK to advise Secretary of PCC of St Mary, Sturmer</p>

<b>23/062</b>	<b>AGREE RESPONSE TO THE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC RAISING CONCERNS REF. THE PROPPING OF THE POPE MILL BRIDGE ON THE AMENITY WALK</b> Reply to resident advising that access under the bridge is deemed sufficient, the PC own the land upon which the bridge sits (EX862831), regular inspections of the bridge structure are completed by ECC as are any remedial works. The “propping” structure was installed by ECC.
<b>23/063</b>	<b>AGREE RESPONSE TO HIGHWAYS COMMENTS REF. DROPPED KERB AND ROAD CROSSING ON A1017 ADJACENT TO BUS SHELTER</b> Invite ECC Engineer to attend site meeting to discuss options
<b>23/064</b>	<b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</b> <b>a) Footpaths</b> – ECC - FP3 vegetation problem reported, already on a cutting schedule. BP17 too overgrown to be ridden along <b>b) Flood Action Group</b> – Report from SFAG – <b>APPENDIX D</b> <b>c) Play Area</b> – Signs in need of attention, need two No motorcycling signs, plus welcome to play area with guidelines – CLERK to provide members with examples of other PC play area signage <b>d) Parish Maintenance</b> – Up to date. Amenity walk to be checked in light of tree survey delay <b>e) War Memorial</b> – Fine fettle now, painted again, hedge trimmed <b>f) Village Hall</b> – Fright Night, 27 October, 6pm til 8pm, freebie <b>[f](i) – Defibrillator function</b> – OK <b>g) Highways</b> – Patching to commence end of October, Kedington Rd. Patching and new road markings through The Street during August
	<b>MOTION TO BE AGREED - <i>Approve exclusion of the public</i></b> <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>
<b>23/065</b>	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</b> No further update to date
	<b>MOTION TO BE AGREED – <i>Approve readmission of the public</i></b> <i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i>
<b>23/066</b>	<b>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA</b> Remembrance Sunday arrangements, Wreath purchase and Notice on village Hub Note next LHP meeting 21 September 5pm – Check FPs remain on LHP agenda
<b>23/067</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2023 – CLOSE – 21:14</b> And meeting date of 28 November noted

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

## APPENDIX A

### District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

#### Wethersfield Asylum Seeker Site

The Home Office plans for housing asylum seekers has continued. We understand that the Home Office is using a phased approach to move people on site, which BDC has been told has gone smoothly and safely so far,

from an operational perspective. Some councillors visited the site on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 providing a useful insight into the current conditions of the site, see facilities and meet some of the asylum seekers living on the site and learn about their stories. Questions were also asked of the Home Office on behalf of the local communities which BDC feels should be clarified and addressed for local residents. BDC has encouraged the Home Office to be open and transparent and provide regular updates relating to the site. A multi-agency Forum has been set up since April 2023 for statutory partners, comprising Local Authorities, Police, Health and Fire Services to meet with the Home Office and to understand the impact on services and plans for operational use of the site. With regards to BDC's legal action to the Home Office, you will be aware that BDC has been granted permission to proceed with a judicial review. The substantive hearing for the judicial review challenge will be heard on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. This will be the Council's opportunity to formally present its challenge under the three grounds on which BDC has been granted permission and will allow for evidence to be presented to the High Court. This legal action does not prevent the Home Office from progressing with their plans for the Wethersfield site. All multi-agency partners will continue to provide support where needed to all asylum seekers coming into the district and of course for the local wider community. There has been discussion about the funding and whilst BDC understands that there should be grants of £3,500 per bed space made available from the Home Office to Local Authorities, BDC has not yet been provided with this funding and is still awaiting details on specific criteria attached to the funding, which may restrict the Councils' use of it. As a result, BDC is unable to make plans at this stage as to how this funding may be used.

#### **Planning Consultation on The Former Woodlands Hotel Site, Sturmer**

Consultation on Application Number 23/01994/FUL - The Woodlands Hotel , Coupals Road, Sturmer. Demolition of the existing buildings on site, and the erection of a 64no. bed care home (Use Class C2), together with access, car parking, landscaping and associated works. Further information: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk>

#### **Bus Services**

Residents are being urged to share their views on the future of 162 local bus services across Essex. A new consultation will explore how to make the bus network fit for the future. Residents can [share their views online](#) until Thursday 5 October. Physical copies of the consultation are available by [contacting the Passenger Transport team via email](#) or calling 0345 743 0430. A small number of bus services in Essex are subsidised by us as commercial bus operators will not run them. The consultation is about these non-commercial services, which generally run in rural areas and at less busy times. Since the pandemic, the amount of people using buses has declined. ECC needs to ensure future routes are viable financially and are meeting the new demand. It will also look at how to ensure it provides value for money for taxpayers. As part of the consultation, 162 services across three groups are being consulted on:

- the vast majority where no change is proposed until at least 2028
- a group which will be supported until at least 2026, but where passenger numbers need to increase
- a low use group which are not currently meeting the needs of communities

Find out more and [take part in the consultation](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023/): <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023/>

**Cllr. Diana Garrod**

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

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#### **APPENDIX B**

#### **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL -CLERKS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023**

The EA advised they may seek alternative access to advise the landowner of that route for the removal of the tree, I believe that was to be via Pope Mill bridge but have not heard any further on the matter.

The item re the propping of the bridge on the amenity walk is on the agenda but members have been advised of the concern raised by their resident.

Despite requests into the S106 dept at BDC I have still not received a reply to my request for clarification of whether the Arborist spend and the subsequent appointment of a tree surgeon to complete the three year works would be covered under S106. As it is maintenance I am somewhat doubtful it will be covered.

I would urge members to think about updates to the OSAP and forward those to me.

CLlr Schwier advised of scheduled work to an area of Kedington Rd

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 - August 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							14961.55					
04-Aug-23	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	07 & 08 -23	FPO		Y		150.00		150.00	PM	
15-Aug-23	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37493	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
17-Aug-23	DRAX	Electricity - Lighting	2718/4304	DD		Y		25.86	1.23	24.63	Utility	
25-Aug-23	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO		Y		470.75		470.75	Clerk	
29-Aug-23	Employee	WFH	N/A	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00	Admin	
AUGUST							0.00	699.61	5.73	693.88		
Month Closing Balance							14261.94					
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								

  

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - September 2023										BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
										11,937.00	5,272.50	7,858.11
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt	
Month Closing Balance							14261.94					
	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	0923/1023	FPO				150.00		150.00	PM	
	CPRE	Subscription	702604	FPO				36.00		36.00	Subs	
	V Evans	Internal Audit	9100021	FPO				106.40		106.40	Admin	
	BHIB Ltd	Insurance	LCO01648	FPO				454.01		454.01	Admin	
	Amazon - IB	Paper / 8	214281	FPO				3.12	0.52	2.60	Admin	
	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37559	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting	
	Employee	Salary - estimated	PAYE	FPO				470.75		470.75	Clerk	
	Employee	Expenses	Sept claim	FPO				42.20		42.20	Admin	
SEPTEMBER							0.00	1289.48	5.02	1284.46		
Month Closing Balance							12972.46					
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

Dear Alan

Please give this update to the Parish Council:

Sturmer Station Bridge

The draft approval in principle has been added to the website. I have asked for a further update. If work is to start on the bridge in 2024 tenders will need to be sought soon. I have had no reply.

Please could the Parish Council/District Councillor ask for more information about the current situation?

Meadow opposite Dearsley

This area has acted as a flood plain for Water Lane but is now partly covered by a hardstanding for a scaffold business. I understand there are discussions taking place about a planning application for this unauthorised use with Braintree Planning Department. In the meantime, we are told the use is monitored by Planning Enforcement but continues. There does not seem to be a deadline for the application.

Apart from the flood problem - there is loud banging and crashing of scaffolding most days - sometimes from as early as 6.30 a.m. and regular noxious bonfires.

Please could the Parish Council let us know when a planning application is received so we can comment?

Bioenergy Plant, Haverhill

We have sent objections to an access which appears to be for the plant.

Waterhall Solar Farm

We have sent objections to the proposal.

Thanks

Linda Bevan  
Sturmer Flood Action Group