

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Ian Brown
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Minutes of the **COUNCIL MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **10 OCTOBER 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 - meetings

CLERK – Ian Brown

0 Member(s) of the public

23/068	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier, other meetings
23/069	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS Footpath 3 Diana
23/070	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 05 SEPTEMBER – 2023 RESOLUTION – Approve the minutes from 05 September 2023; Proposed Cllr Terrie Jones, Seconded Cllr Alan Carter - unanimous approval
23/071	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> None present
23/072	RECEIVE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier has circulated various updates to the council during the month Dist Cllr Diana Garrod full reports APPENDIX A
23/073	RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE Full report – APPENDIX B
23/074	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS RESOLUTION – Approve finance statements and payments; Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval Finance statement APPENDIX C 23/074(i) - APPOINT AUTHORISER Cllr Alan Carter 23/074(ii) – CONFIRM CLLRS NOTED BANK RECONCILIATION RESOLUTION – Cllrs noted bank reconciliation; Proposed Cllr David Porth and Seconded Cllr Terrie Jones – unanimous approval

	<p>23/074(iii) – CONTRIBUTE TO THE OUTLINE BUDGET 2024-2025 PREPARATION Clerk to provide details budget performance to date</p> <p>23/074(iv) – IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING CHALLENGES WITH BARCLAYS BANK AND THE LACK OF CREDIT INTEREST COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A MOVE TO THE INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNTS WITH UNITY TRUST BANK, IN COMMON WITH MANY OTHER PARISH COUNCILS RESOLUTION – Approve the move to Unity Trust bank: Proposed Cllr Diana Garrod; Seconded Cllr Alan Carter – unanimous approval CLERK to ACTION</p> <p>23/074(v) - AGREE TARGET PROJECT SUITABLE FOR APPLICATION TO RURAL PROSPERITY FUND Defer</p>
23/075	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS</p> <p>SCC/0045/23SE - ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY IN WITHERSFIELD WITH SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND NEW ACCESS ROAD, CONNECTING PIPELINE AND COVERED DIGESTATE LAGOONS Comment date – 26 October 2023 This council OBJECTS to these proposals for the following reasons –</p> <p>The proposed site is not designated in the local plan for Industrial development, and is prone to annual flooding with is normally natural but also controlled. The proposed site is inappropriately located within a Flood Risk Category 3 Zone and floods annually. The Wash Lands are to protect Haverhill against flooding.</p> <p>It also contravenes policy HV18 ‘Green Infrastructure in Haverhill’. Page 65 of ‘Haverhill Vision 31’ states “This area should focus on conserving and enhancing the network of woodland and hedgerows (as noted by stakeholders)”.</p> <p>The current farming practices of the owners can show no agricultural need for the process as they do not keep poultry, do not keep cattle, and currently the only maize that is grown is for pheasant cover which is used for recreational use.</p> <p>Around 90% of the feed stock will be imported, using the local road network and through the historic village of Sturmer. Residents object to the odour that will be obnoxious.</p> <p>The chosen location is inappropriate and inconsiderate. Haverhill is a growing town and this development will have a detrimental impact on local residents, particularly those in the village of Withersfield. There are currently thriving food businesses and these will be impacted by the anticipated odour and increase in insects.</p> <p>No consideration has been given to the short term life expectancy of generating biogas. It is anticipated that hydrogen and electrification solutions are in development.</p> <p>RECEIVE ANY UPDATE ON THE ALLEGED FOOTPATH ISSUE AT THE WOODLANDS HOTEL DEVELOPMENT SITE Dukesmead are to confirm with their Planning Consultant handling the site development</p> <p>CONSIDER ANY FURTHER INPUT TO THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM AT WIXOE Remove item</p>
23/076	<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.</p>

	<p>CURRENT OFFERS TO COMPLETE SURVEY PRICED AT Q1 £495, Q2 £600, Q3 up to £1,500, Q4 £960 (currently no response from BDC re use of S106 for this purpose) CLERK to chase alternative Arborist quotation; suggested get samples of reports to be produced</p> <p>23/076(i) – CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY, example circulated to members Await Arborist decision and report</p>
23/077	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE TO PROPPED BRIDGE INSPECTION WORKS Pope Mill bridge, Essex CC (Ringway Jacobs) has recently been on site to clear some of the vegetation from the structure to help with inspection. Confirmation from contractor that Essex CC own the bridge.</p>
23/078	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR ANDREW BILBY, ESSEX HIGHWAYS, FOR SITE VISIT REF. DROPPED KERB AND ROAD CROSSING ON A1017 ADJACENT TO BUS SHELTER Council agreed to meet Mr Bilby on site Tuesday 17 October at 10am</p>
23/079	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths – FP3 not cut b) Flood Action Group – See report as APPENDIX D c) Play Area – Quote received for signage, £140 + VAT for four signs made from Aluminium, example circulated to members. Cllr Alan Carter to send supplier details to the CLERK. RESOLUTION – Approve purchase of signs: Proposed Cllr Alan Carter; Seconded Cllr David Porth Play Area inspections completed every Monday, report handed to the Clerk d) Parish Maintenance – Some footway clearance completed. Felled tree from adjacent private land awaiting collection from the Amenity walk by the contractor; broken ladder still on Amenity walk awaiting collection. Correspondence to dwelling Camarista with thanks for assistance removing tree – CLERK to ACTION e) War Memorial – Final cut to be completed before Remembrance Sunday and any debris to be cleared the day prior to the service. f) Village Hall – Fright Night 27 October, Free event. [f](i) – Defibrillator function – All working OK g) Highways – Water Lane patching works due to commence end of October</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>
23/080	<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>
23/081	<p>AGREE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS AND WREATH PURCHASE Sunday 12 November, 10:30am RESOLUTION – Agree PC service date and timing: Proposed Cllr David Porth; Seconded Cllr Alan Carter Cllr David Porth agreed to lead the service if Cllr Diana Garrod was delayed</p>
23/082	<p>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Update on response from Cement works operating hours Update on alternative Arborist quote plus sample reports Outcome of S106 submission of Arborist quotes</p>

	Report on dropped kerb meeting with Highways Outline Budget for discussion
23/083	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 28 NOVEMBER 2023 – CLOSE 20:39

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

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils October 2023

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closures of Chapel Street, Haverhill Road, Finchingfield Road, Old Hall Road, Eggshell Lane, Cornish Hall End, Little London Hill, Steeple Bumpstead, due to commence on 9th October 2023 for 16 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes surface dressing. Details at: <https://one.network/?tm=135615331>

Intended closures of Bumpstead Road, Haverhill Road due to commence on 9th October 2023 for 3 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Details at: <https://one.network/?tm=135630916>

Intended closure of Kedington Road, Water Lane, Sturmer, due to commence on 25th October 2023 for 3 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Details at: <https://one.network/?tm=135299544>

Traffic control from 28th September to 22nd October 2022 for highway alterations on the A1017 at Church Road, Gt Yeldham (at the 'pinch-point', corner of the new development). Delays likely.

Intended closure of Braintree Road, Halstead Road, Queen Street, Potter Street, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham, due to commence on 15th January 2024 for 6 days whilst Essex CC undertakes machine resurfacing. Details at:

<https://one.network/?tm=135750313>

Fly-Tipping (1st quarter performance report – 1st April to 30th June 2023)

309 fly-tips were cleared within 24 hours of being reported. Braintree District Council continues to take a proactive approach to fly-tipping, investigating all reports received and issuing fixed penalty notices or prosecuting where possible.

Homelessness (1st quarter performance report – 1st April to 30th June 2023)

53 cases of homelessness were prevented through various interventions by the council's housing team. Working in partnership with local organisations and charities, support continues to be provided to support those who are/are at risk of rough sleeping, rough sleepers through their transition from the streets and into sustainable accommodation, access mental health services, emergency beds and funding to help rent deposits.

Affordable Homes (1st quarter performance report – 1st April to 30th June 2023)

77 affordable homes were delivered in the first quarter and is well on its way to achieving the target of 250 affordable homes by March 2024.

Rural Prosperity Fund – Open for Applications

Grants between £10,000 and £50,000 are available for the execution of capital projects in rural areas. Businesses and organisations can visit www.braintree.gov.uk/ruralprosperityfund to find out more about the scheme, criteria and application process.

RAAC – Steeple Bumpstead Primary School

It is indeed disappointing that our local primary school has been affected by the RAAC problem. Essex County Council advertises that all pupils are now receiving face-to-face learning. BDC informed me there was RAAC

found in some classrooms and non-teaching spaces. ECC had previously installed structural mitigations in the classrooms, but a small area of non-teaching space without the mitigation in place has been closed off until mitigation works are completed.

The ECC website is update weekly: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/raac-schools-updated-list>

Housing Options Briefings at BDC

Braintree District Council offer free Housing Briefings throughout 2023. There are places available on the Housing Options Briefing being held on Tuesday 17th October 2023, at 9.30 a.m. at Causeway House in Committee Room 2. The briefing explains how BDC works with people in the Braintree District who may be at risk of homelessness. Major changes in legislation relating to homelessness were introduced in 2018; the Housing Options briefing will explain the new duties and how things have changed for the team and customers alike. The briefings are aimed at BDC staff, District and Parish Councillors and staff/volunteers from other organisations involved in housing and associated services. They are ideal for new starters as well as those looking for a refresh on these topic areas.

If you are unable to attend this Housing Options Briefing but would like to hear about other sessions, contact angela.tame@braintree.gov.uk.

Planning Consultation on Anaerobic Digestion Facility (Withersfield, SUFFOLK)

Suffolk County Council – Application number SCC/0045/23SE

Planning officer at Suffolk CC: Mr Andrew Rutter

Land to the north of Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield.

Proposal: Construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, associated infrastructure and new access road, connecting pipeline and covered digestate lagoons.

<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE>

Acorn are expected to have another public consultation meeting in late October/Early November. The MOA steering/campaign group are holding a public meeting at the EpiCentre on Friday 20th October, 7pm. The group requested an extension to the consultation period, which currently ends on 26th October. The Planning Officer advised '... I am anticipating a further round of public consultation will be required in late 2023 and I will be happy to accept representations from members of the public until the day of committee.' (This is not expected before February 2024).

Job Fairs

Saturday 7th October 2023 9.30am to 12.30pm at Braintree District Council offices in Causeway House, Braintree, CM7 9HB. The event will feature a range of different employers from various industries recruiting for roles, located locally and across Essex.

Tuesday 10th October 2023 10am to 2pm at Raddison Blu Hotel, London Stansted Airport, Stansted, CM24 1PP. Email for details about free transport and parking: employment.academy@stanstedairport.com

Ice Rink coming to Braintree Shopping Village this Winter

Expected from 9 November until 7 January 2024. Keep an eye on Braintree Village's [website](#) and [social media](#) for updates.

Councillor Community Grant: Please advise your local groups

For projects that benefit residents of their ward. Any 'not for profit' organisation can apply for a grant. These may include: Registered Charities, Constituted 'not for profit' Community or Voluntary Groups, Parochial Church Councils (anything that benefits the wider community), Social Enterprises e.g., Community Interest Company, Co-operative, Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committees, Town & Parish Councils (anything that is not an ordinary or existing activity/function or a statutory obligation or duty and benefits the wider community), Schools (anything that is not statutory/curriculum based and benefits the wider community) The Guidance Booklet for this can be found at:

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

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

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APPENDIX B

Fallen tree from private land I believe is being cleared

Council received a complaint re the Cement works operating hours, as seemingly operating outside permitted hours, I believe Cllr Porth has details and can advise council further?

Site meeting with Highways re dropped kerb location, arranged for next week

Insurance policy renewed, Insurers BHIB now part of the CLEAR group who have insured us with Aviva LC policy, council has a LTA until renewal in 2024.

Council has received a link to the verge cutting schedule (Sturmer due late October) plus a link to complete a waste strategy consultation.

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.

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 - September 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								14261.94			
	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	0923/1023	FPO		Y		150.00		150.00	PM
	CPRE	Subscription	702604	FPO		Y		36.00		36.00	Subs
	V Evans	Internal Audit	9100021	FPO		Y		106.40		106.40	Admin
	BHIB Ltd	Insurance	LCO01648	FPO		Y		454.01		454.01	Admin
	Amazon - IB	Paper / 8	214281	FPO		Y		3.12	0.52	2.60	Admin
	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37559	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
	Employee	Salary - estimated	PAYE	FPO		Y		470.75		470.75	Clerk
	Employee	Expenses	Sept claim	FPO		Y		42.20		42.20	Admin
19-Sep-23	DRAX	Electricity Lighting	5683/6365	DD		Y		25.86	1.23	24.63	Utility
28-Sep-23	BDC	Precept Pt2	N/A	BGC		Y	6,565.00				Precept
SEPTEMBER								6,565.00	1315.34	6.25	1309.09
Month Closing Balance								19511.6			
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 - October 2023								BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	
								11,937.00	6,233.08	7,122.53	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt
Month Closing Balance								19511.6			
04-Oct-23	RBL	Poppy wreath	Type E EDN05	FPO		Y		25.00		25.00	s137
	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	Inv1123	FPO				150.00		150.00	PM
	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37634	DD				27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
	DRAX	Electricity Lighting	3493/4661	DD				25.03	1.19	23.84	Utility
	Employee	Expenses - Travel	October claim	FPO				16.20		16.20	Admin
	Employee	WFH allowance	N/A	FPO				25.00		25.00	Admin
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				470.75		470.75	Clerk
	HP Inc - IB	Printer Ink / 6	14-Aug	FPO				2.75	0.46	2.29	Admin
OCTOBER								0	741.73	6.15	735.58
Month Closing Balance								19511.6			
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 the following update to the Parish Council from SFAG next week:

Bridge:

We are disappointed to see the date to start work on site has been delayed again to 2026;

Hill Lane:

Ariel Shepherd from ECC Flood Team carried out the annual inspection of woody dams in Sturmer last Friday. She invited us to suggest further areas for woody dams. We showed her the often reported problems in Hill Lane. She has agreed to consult her colleagues about a scheme at the top of Hill Lane to hold back some of the flood water coming down Hill Lane and onto the A1017;

Acorn Biodigester near Epicentre, Haverhill:

We have sent in objections to the development.

Thanks

Linda Bevan
Secretary
SFAG