

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: 07913 514 589

Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL held at STURMER VILLAGE HALL on 02 APRIL 2024 AT 6:45 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 – BDC Planning meeting

Locum CLERK – Cllr Diana Garrod

0 Member(s) of the public

23/134	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	<i>County Councillor Peter Schwier</i>
23/135	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS
	<i>Cllr. Garrod – Footpath 3, Sturmer</i>
23/136	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY – 2024
	<i>Proposed Cllr. Jones, Seconded Cllr. Carter. Unanimous approval.</i>
23/136A	PRESENTATION FROM CANDIDATE(S) STANDING FOR CO-OPTION
	<i>Mrs Coral Fordham presented and will attend the next meeting for a decision by the parish council.</i>
23/137	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> <i>No members of the public.</i>
23/138	RECEIVE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS <i>County Councillor, Cllr Schwier sends emails to advise of matters of interest.</i> <i>District Councillor, Cllr. Garrod sent a monthly report and added that Water Lane in Steeple Bumpstead will be closed for 4 days for gas connection. Finkle Green road closure on 5th April for power networks works and the B1057 is scheduled to be closed from 10th May to 13th September whilst Anglian Water undertakes works.</i>
23/139	RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE <i>Received and noted. VAT claim submitted.</i>
23/140	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS Finance statement to be attached at APPENDIX A 23/140(i) - APPOINT AUTHORISER: <i>Cllr Carter (Proposed Cllr. Porth, Seconded Cllr. Jones. All approved).</i> 23/140(ii) – CONFIRM CLLRs NOTED RECONCILED BANK STATEMENT: <i>Proposed Cllr. Jones, seconded Cllr Carter. Unanimous approval.</i> 23/140(iii) – CONSIDER GRANT REQUEST FROM DEDHAM VALE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE: <i>Regrettably, the council cannot offer a grant at this time due to budget constraints. Request Clerk to write.</i> 23/140(iv) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SUPPLIER OPTIONS: <i>Drax, Tomato and West Mercia were discussed. Stay with Drax and review monthly. Cllr. Porth to discuss with village hall committee the possibility of obtaining a metered supply through the village hall.</i>

	<p>23/140(v) – AGREE ANY REDUCTION IN CLERK’S HOURS FOR TEMPORARY LOCUM SERVICES: <i>Clerk to advise hours required to undertake work remotely only. The Parish Council would like to retain his services until a replacement is found. Proposed Cllr. Carter, seconded Cllr. Jones. Unanimous approval.</i></p>
23/141	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS <i>Former Woodlands Hotel: 23/01994/FUL. No Objections. Unanimous agreement.</i></p>
23/142	<p>CONSIDER TREE SURVEY REPORT AND HOW IT MIGHT INFORM A TREE POLICY – DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: <i>Cllr. Porth has viewed a number of Tree Maintenance Policies. The Policy should just include trees owned by the parish council. The recent tree survey report should form the base of a new policy, although may include a list of trees in the village with a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) as the parish council and residents would benefit from this knowledge. Cllr. Porth to provide a draft in due course.</i></p> <p>23/142(i) – UPDATE ON REQUEST TO MEET ON SITE REFERENCE ITEM FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA - CONSIDER RESPONSE TO EMAIL FROM PARTNER IN ARCHITECT FIRM ADVISING TREE WORKS TO LAND REAR OF ROWLEY COTTAGES TO REMOVE 60 – 70 DEAD ELM TREES, THE FIRM HAVE OFFERED TO ATTEND A PC MEETING TO DISCUSS THEIR PLANS: <i>Owners not responded to suggested dates. The parish council would like a meeting to discuss the boundary and proposals from the new owners. A tree has fallen and is hanging precariously near to the railway amenity walk (although no immediate danger) – this needs to be discussed.</i></p>
23/143	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <p>a) Footpaths: <i>Footpath 3 – 2 x ECC Highway blue barriers with ‘footpath closed’ notices have been in position since 2021. These were exchanged for new like-for-like barriers 28 February 2024 and tied to the fence of Pope Mill and gateway (as were previous barriers). New Temporary Prohibition of use Order notice pinned to a tree to close footpath 3 (again). Closure commences 4th March 2024 “... and may continue in force for six months or until the works have been completed. Whichever is the earlier”. Dated 29 February 2024. Proposed Cllr. Jones, seconded Cllr. Porth.</i></p> <p>b) Flood Action Group <i>Cllr. Carter read the report for Sturmer Flood Action Group. Station bridge works are pushed back to 2025/26. No sluice gate at Haverhill.</i></p> <p>c) Play Area – Approve play area inspection offer from RospaPlaysafety: <i>Cllr. Carter provided an update. ROSPA to undertake safety inspection. Proposed Cllr Porth, seconded Cllr. Carter. Unanimous approval.</i></p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance: <i>2 new signs No Motorcycles now in place, one on Railway Amenity Walk at Pope Mill bridge and the other at the gate of the Pocket Park. Only one ‘Deep Water’ sign; replacement to be considered pending ROSPA inspection suggestions. Darren has cut an area at the Railway Amenity Walk and opposite the Garden Centre.</i></p> <p>e) War Memorial: <i>Nothing remarkable to report.</i></p> <p>f) Village Hall: <i>Easter egg hunt was a huge success. Next event; to celebrate D-day 80th anniversary.</i></p> <p>[f](i) – Defibrillator function: <i>An intermittent fault. Self-diagnostic test sometimes fails but next test 10 minutes later is successful. Cllr. Jones will email. Still functioning.</i></p> <p>g) Highways: <i>Pot holes throughout the village and collapsed bank at Water Lane with barriers on a blind bend are of concern. ECC seemingly taking no action. Residents have reported concerns of dangers to parish councillors.</i></p>
23/144	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON ST MARY’S CHURCHYARD CLOSURE: <i>No update supplied. Awaiting response from Braintree District Council.</i></p>
23/145	<p>DISCUSS PROPOSED TREE WORKS ALONG AMENITY WALK REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Cllr. Carter provided update. 13 trees either felled or received maintenance as suggested by the recent tree survey report. 3 more need attention – Mr Bryce to undertake works.</i></p>
23/146	<p>CONSIDER FREE OFFER TO RECEIVE PORTRAIT OF KING CHARLES III</p>

	<i>Cllr. Porth applied for a portrait on behalf of Sturmer Parish Council, we await delivery. Size is unknown. Agreed by the Village Hall Committee that it can be hung in the village hall.</i>
23/147	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA
	<p><i>Motion to debate the potential co-option of candidate who presented at the meeting this evening. The candidate will attend the next meeting May 14th 2024. The registration book will be required.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr. Porth spoke of Pope Mill Bridge and advised that other bridges are owned by the parish council, including the Iron Platform Bridge near the sluice gate on the Railway Amenity Walk. Cllr. Porth to supply a list of bridges. All bridges to be noted at the next meeting and entered into the Parish Council Asset Register.</i></p> <p><i>Clerk applications. Parish Council will conduct interviews.</i></p> <p><i>Chairman; Cllr. Diana Garrod announced that she is resigning from the parish council after 21 years of service, on 3rd May 2024. Cllr. Garrod was elected Chairman in September in 2016 and has attended every meeting of the Parish Council since that time. Cllr. Garrod advised that she will support the Parish Council through her activities at the Braintree District Councillor for the Bumpstead Ward.</i></p>
23/148	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 14 May – Annual Council Meeting – CLOSE: 19:33 meeting closed.

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

APPENDIX A

Sturmer Parish Council Finance Statement - March 2024						PRECEPT 13,131.00	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE		
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS/DD	Minute Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	NETT	Cost Cnt
Month Closing Balance							13602.73				
04-Mar	WeDoSigns	Amenity walk signs	Inv14789	FPO		Y		210.00	35.00	175.00	Admin
04-Mar	Electric Websites	Annual email provision	280224	FPO		Y		18.00		18.00	Admin
06-Mar	DH Maintenance	Parish maintenance	Inv 050324	FPO		Y		100.00		100.00	PM
15-Mar	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	Inv38107	DD		Y		27.00	4.50	22.50	Lighting
18-Mar	D Bryce	Tree maintenance	Inv 22	FPO		Y		200.00		200.00	Trees
18-Mar	HP Inc/IB	Printer Ink	Inv 95019	FPO		Y		6.72	1.12	5.60	Admin
19-Mar	DRAX	Electricity lighting	06013/00776	DD		Y		24.19	1.16	23.03	Utility
25-Mar	Employee	WFH Allowance	N/A	FPO		Y		26.00		26.00	Admin
25-Mar	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO		Y		498.75		498.75	Clerk
MARCH							0.00	1110.66	41.78	1068.88	
Month Closing Balance							12,492.07				
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							
Jun-23		1,410.00	WM & Bench	13,029.56							