

**STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

Karen Simmons  
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
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19, Woodcock Close  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL held at STURMER VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 AT 7:30PM.**

COUNCILLOR	IN ATTENDANCE
Cllr David Porth - Chairman	YES
Cllr Gareth Morley	YES
Cllr Terrie Jones	YES
Cllr Coral Fordham	YES
Cllr Sean Mercer	APOLOGIES RECD
Cllr Matt Porth	YES
Dist Cllr Diana Garrod	YES
Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier	NO – BDC Planning meeting

<b>24/071</b>	<b>NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	NOTE ABOVE
<b>24/072</b>	<b>WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS</b>
	NONE
<b>24/073</b>	<b>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
	DONE – Prop MP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> CF
<b>24/074</b>	<b>RECEIVE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS'</b>
	DG report is on the back of these minutes. Awaiting information regarding Soluform Bags in river and impact on flooding.
<b>24/075</b>	<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> <b>NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE PRESENT</b>
<b>24/076</b>	<b>REVIEW &amp; COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ref. 24/02064/FUL – storage of building supplies/ scaffolding - URGENT</li><li>VG52 – progress</li></ul> Objection to 24/02064/FUL agreed and sent. RE SOLAR FARM – Community benefits are linked to specific govt legislation – Public Services Social Value Act 2013. Worth exploring.
<b>24/077</b>	<b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</b> <b>a) Footpaths – Cllr S Mercer</b>  <b>b) Flood Action Group – council rep to be decided.</b> Information from Linda Bevan received and is on back of these minutes. No rep decision made but council are happy for Volunteer Carter and Linda Bevan to continue their efficient reporting. The tree fallen across river this month to be reported to owners of site.  <b>c) Play Area – Cllr G Morley.</b> - <b>decision regarding 3 quotes received</b> Further information required from 2 of the quoters.

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	<p><b>d) Parish Maintenance – reviewing of cutting schedule needed.</b> It was agreed that due to the unusually warm weather that a further cut will be needed in November. DH to be informed. Further issues lie in the boundaries of the Amenity Walk with a working party to be set up to clear back and repair fencing on the boundaries. VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS ACCEPTED.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- <b>Litter.</b> A discussion was had regarding litter picks and consideration was given to safety supplies that can be acquired through the Green Heart Braintree programme. Concern raised regarding picking by roadside due to speeding traffic.</p> <p><b>e) War Memorial – The Sunday Remembrance will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November.</b> Discussion was held regarding purchase of wreaths. Cllr DPorth will contact and arrange wreaths.</p> <p><b>f) Village Hall and Defib – Cllr T Jones.</b> Village Hall are reviewing a variety of improved exterior lighting options.</p> <p><b>g) Highways – Cllr Coral Fordham.</b> Some drains have been jetted but we are still chasing the rest. It is now becoming most urgent that the ditches are cleared. The Highways department have written to residents regarding this urgent need. We thank those who are maintaining their hedges to prevent accidents and increase traffic view for pedestrians. Crossing/ Safety. The design team has come back to us with a variety of reasons this cannot be done in the village including speeding vehicles being unable to stop. Community Policing for traffic calming – visit to be arranged to gain further suggestions.</p>
<b>24/078</b>	<b>Popes Mill Bridge Progress – Cllr G Morley</b>
	<p>Signage has been placed across and under the bridge regarding safety. To fully repair and maintain this bridge we need to apply for funding most of which requires community financial support to match the funds raised. A further surveyors report is being sought.</p>
<b>24/079</b>	<b>Village Safety - Lighting, speed signs and Crossing. Discussion of proposals and any previous feedback..</b>
	<p>The village pedestrian lighting has been set up as per footway lighting standards. Restrictions with power access and extremely high costs prevent further posts. However, we will look into the possibilities under Road Safety Trust grants</p>
<b>24/080</b>	<b>POSI review – additions to and any removals.</b>
	<p>Changes made for Jan 2025 can be seen on the POSI on our website.</p>
<b>24/081</b>	<b>IT Infrastructure – Cllr M Porth</b>
	<p>A variety of suggestions were made regarding current offers and how we could improve our email system and web page to improve accessibility and make relevant changes. This was left to MP to review and improve with costings to be approved at the next meeting (hopefully)</p>
<b>24/082</b>	<b>Policy reviews: - (please ensure you have read and made any notes before the meeting) Dog Policy Emergency Plan</b>
	<p>No changes were deemed necessary to the dog policy, and this was agreed. Changes to the Emergency Plan to be updated by the clerk and needs to include a “civil emergency”.</p>

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<b>24/083</b>	<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AGREE ANY PAYMENTS</b>  <b>AGREE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO AUTHORISE RAISED PAYMENTS BEFORE NEXT MEETING TO AVOID CHARGES/LATE BILLING</b>
	Payments and financial statement were agreed. The information is attached.
<b>24/084</b>	<b>CLERKS REPORT to include name of rep to visit Haverhill Forum 5<sup>th</sup> November.</b>
	Councillor David Porth will attend meeting on behalf of the council. Clerk also handed banking details to newer councillors. Funding opportunities – need to know what the project/funding is for before application. Clerk happy to chase these amounts once Councillors inform them.
	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 - at 7:30 pm</b>

Karen Simmons – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **23rd October 2024**