

**STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

Karen Simmons  
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
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19, Woodcock Close  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 AT 7:30PM**

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>
Cllr David Porth - Chairman	YES
Cllr Terrie Jones	YES
Cllr Sean Mercer	APOLOGIES SENT
Cllr Gareth Morley	YES
Dist Cllr Diana Garrod	YES
Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier	APOLOGIES SENT

CLERK – Karen Simmons

<b>25/001</b>	<b>NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	As above
<b>25/002</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 stated
<b>25/003</b>	<b>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (again – no minutes for March)</b>
	These were approved and seconded.
<b>25/004</b>	<b>RECEIVE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS</b>
	Please see attached report. NB did you know there was a local swimming pool? The pool is open for business is Stambourne.  PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE BRAINTREE PLANNING LOCAL PLAN REVIEW FOR SMALLER SITES IS SCHEDULED FOR 25 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025.
<b>25/005</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b>
	Some residents have complained about the use of dirt bikes on the Railway path. All incidents MUST be reported to the police and should be notified, with as much detail as possible, to the Clerk.
<b>25/006</b>	<b>REVIEW &amp; COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</b>
	PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE BRAINTREE PLANNING LOCAL PLAN REVIEW FOR SMALLER SITES IS SCHEDULED FOR 25 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025.
<b>25/007</b>	<b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</b>
	<b>a) Footpaths –</b> In a recent discussion with a local council representative, it may be possible to reopen FP3. Some repairs will be needed. An assessment of cost will be carried out.
	<b>b) Flood Action Group.</b> No further information at this time.
	<b>b) Play Area – Cllr G Morley.</b> It was agreed that a sum of £2,351 should be paid for the urgent defects on site to be repaired, part of which are under the supplier's guarantee. Until this is done the next yearly safety inspection cannot take place and has been put back until later this month. Cllr GM will personally attend to the weedkilling, graffiti removal and safety checks. PLEASE NOTE THAT GRAFFITI IS A CRIME AND WILL BE REPORTED. It is planned that we find funding for a solar powered light to be placed in the park.

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	<p>The resurfacing of part of the park has been agreed to be funded by S106 funds as per our updated POSI.</p> <p><b>c) Parish Maintenance.</b> Cutting has started.</p> <p><b>d) War Memorial.</b> Volunteer Carter continues to make repairs and keep the area tidy. We thank him for volunteering for this task for many years.</p> <p><b>e) Village Hall and Defib – Cllr T Jones.</b> The Village Hall is undergoing rewiring work. The defib should now be on the ambulance list. Cllr to double check.</p> <p><b>f) Highways.</b> A couple of signs with significant rusting have been reported to the council. Despite one sign barely attached on one leg, ECC Highways deem it as not necessary work at this time.</p>
<b>25/008</b>	<b>Popes Mill Bridge Progress – Cllr G Morley</b>
	<p>It was decided that a steering group be formed to speed up the considerable amounts of paperwork and admin that needs to be completed. This will be made up of Cllrs GMorley, S Mercer and DPorth with the clerk to support.</p>
<b>25/009</b>	<b>Compulsory purchase of Land for Village use.</b>
	<p>The land referred to as STU2424 that lies between the walk and the main road, recently cleared, was agreed to be go to compulsory purchase. Clerk to start paperwork.</p>
<b>25/010</b>	<b>Motorcycle issues</b>
	<p>As mentioned earlier, this is a crime. The same people have been seen riding on the pavement and riding without any safety gear. They have also been acting in a threatening manner. Again, as before, this needs to be reported to the police. Clerk is currently checking with Insurance company to see what else we can do to mitigate this risk to disability scooters, prams and walkers. Clerk also to contact PCSO Cooper and the Safer Neighbourhood group for extra support.</p>
<b>25/011</b>	<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AGREE ANY PAYMENTS AGREE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO AUTHORISE RAISED PAYMENTS BEFORE NEXT MEETING TO AVOID CHARGES/LATE BILLING</b>
	<p>Agreed and Invoices due to be paid were signed and agreed.</p>
<b>25/012</b>	<b>CLERKS REPORT</b>
	<p>As before we still have 2 vacancies on the Council. Adverts have gone up and not one reply has been received.</p>
	<p><b>DATE OF Annual Village MEETING Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - at 7:30 pm</b></p> <p><b>Due to the wait for further applications for the vacancies we have put back our AGM to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7:30pm</b></p>

Karen Simmons – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**