

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES TUESDAY 26TH JUNE 2025

Karen Simmons
 Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
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COUNCILLOR	IN ATTENDANCE
Cllr David Porth	YES
Cllr Terrie Jones	NO
Cllr Sean Mercer	YES
Cllr Gareth Morley - Chair	YES
Dist Cllr Diana Garrod	YES
Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier	APOLOGIES SENT

AGENDA

25/029	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	AS ABOVE
25/030	INVITE ANY DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING
	NONE
25/031	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2025
	PROP AND AGREED
	MATTERS ARISING
	There has been a reduction in motorbike riding on Parish Council land and neighbouring footpaths. A risk assessment will be completed to document all of the steps taken to date to mitigate the risk of damage or injury. The last outstanding action is the installation of a 'No Motorbikes' sign at the playground end of the amenity walk, to mirror that on the bridge at Pope Mill when entering from the Haverhill end.
	ACTION: Cllr G Morley to purchase and affix sign to the fence.
25/032	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>
	ONE MEMBER PRESENT.
25/033	RECEIVE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS (if any extra to add since June10th)
	REPORTS FROM CLLR D GARROD CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT. INCLUDING RESULTS FROM BRAINTREE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW OF SMALL SITES.
25/034	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER
	– RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT, NOTE CONTENT
	– CONFIRM ASSET REGISTER REVIEW
	– RECEIVE AND APPROVE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
	– RECEIVE AND APPROVE ACCOUNTING STATEMENT
	– APPROVE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE NOTIFICATION
	– APPROVE CLERK TO MAKE PAYMENTS
	ALL ACCOUNTS COMPLETED AND AGAR TO BE SENT AS REQUIRED. LEGAL NOTICE OF INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS IS ON OUR BOARD AND WEBSITE
25/035	REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS
	25/01243/LBC GAS BOX AT RED LION
	NO COMMENT
25/036	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:
	a) Footpaths –
	A considerable amount of work has been completed by Cllr Sean Mercer. Some large branches have been cleared and removed. FP 15 has been largely cleared, FP 3 has been cleared as has FP 17. Request to be made to ECC regarding schedule of works on footpaths. It was suggested we buy a lawnmower to help clear the footpaths better. A mower was donated by Mr A Carter, we are very grateful.

	<p>b) Flood Action Group Workmen attended to CCTV survey and clear the pipe in front of Maltings Cottages today because of flooding in January 2025. They jetted and cleared a 90% blockage of twigs etc in the pipe. CCTV revealed the root blockage under the war memorial area was still there as in the 2020 survey. Unfortunately, the root cutter could not be used to clear this because of complications and faults in the pipe. I understand the root cutter cannot enter from the Highways side.</p> <p>The Flood Team will consider what further action, if any, can be taken by their team, and will keep the Parish Council informed. Residents have a copy of the ECC Flood Team's report on flooding at Maltings Cottages. They can register an interest in an ECC Property Protection Grant if they have not already done so.</p> <p>c) Play Area – repairs are being scheduled – we are waiting on the company. Resurfacing has been repriced to come within our budget. The Annual check has not yet been done as we are aware of dangers and we are waiting for the repairs to be done. Action: Cllr Gareth Morley will chase the repair works. General grounds maintenance has been completed by DH Maintenance and Volunteer A Carter.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance – Volunteer Carter has been helping to clear the park and has completed some weeding, leaf blowing and many other tasks. We thank him for this service. We would like to extend our gratitude to our contractor, DH Maintenance, for his work. We also appreciate him bringing many of the unique plant species to the village's attention through Facebook.</p> <p>e) War Memorial – Volunteer A Carter has been clearing hay and pebbles that get blown onto the memorial on a regular basis. If you do use pebbles/ gravel pathways, please ensure these are swept back onto the property regularly. (They can also be a hazard for cyclists)</p> <p>f) Village Hall & Defib – no report</p> <p>g) Highways – We are trying to collate a database of all the reports – very considerable – so we can monitor their progress. Any offers in supporting the Clerk with this would be welcomed. In the meantime, Parish Councillors are requested to report any new or worsening defects online, or send the details to the Clerk.</p>
25/037	<p>ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA</p> <p>Pope Mill Bridge Progress – suggested dates have been circulated for the sub-committee meeting. Byelaws Review Risk Assessment review</p>
25/038	<p>CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE FINANCE TO DATE AND TRAINING FEEDBACK</p> <p>We have had a request to pass our records to the County Records Office for Archiving. Before deciding whether this occurs, they will be open and available to the public on Tuesday 9th September 2025 6-8pm where we will also have further details of the Braintree Local Plan for which we need your feedback. History clubs/ groups are welcome.</p> <p>Comments regarding the issues on Devolution were mixed.</p>
25/028	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 29TH JULY 7.30PM</p>

KAREN SIMMONS Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **27 JUNE 2024**.