

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Karen Simmons
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Email: clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk

19, Woodcock Close
Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 0JP
Tel: 07814339155

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL held at STURMER VILLAGE HALL on THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:30PM.

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

CLERK – Karen Simmons

1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT.

AGENDA

24/111	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	SEE ABOVE
24/112	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS
	NONE
24/113	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd December 2024 & 21st January 2025
	PROPOSED AND SECONDED
24/114	RECEIVE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
	Comments received from Cllr P Schweir included updates on potholes. Report from Cllr D Garrod attached. Consideration should be given to a local neighbourhood plan. Clerk to investigate procedure.
24/115	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> Comments made re potholes. Explained Essex finally seem to be on the case. Hoping to hear improved timeline shortly. Damage is being caused to the war memorial from debris being kicked up. Photos to go to Highways this weekend. Sign at end of village still waiting repairs. Was promised End December 2024 but issues arose with printing (we understand) date to be chased by clerk.
24/116	REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS Scaffolding planning appeal – Council to comment refusal with reasons. VG52/ Retirement home current status – planning was agreed on Tuesday. Still some way to go although once a few items are ironed out we expect building to start 2026. Wixoe Group Solar farm planning – clerk to check dates and impact on Sturmer properties/land/flooding. J Porth is the Tree Preservation Officer and is currently reviewing that state of the preserved trees. Clerk to check with Enforcement Agency, Braintree regarding same. Recent clearances should have had Forestry Commission permission. This also to be checked by clerk. See below regarding Acorn Development.

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24/117	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths – Cllr S Mercer. Councillor Mercer has cleared some pathways and checked for safety issues. Councillor Mercer will also be infilling some of the footpath next to the Red Lion. Volunteers always welcome. Two large trees are now overhanging the path – clerk to write to owner of land regarding urgent removal on Health and Safety grounds. b) Flood Action Group – reports to be read by clerk noted flooding incident 5th January 2025. Gullies were cleared again 10th February 2025 Land opp Dearsley planning application – refusal made with photos of flooding on and around the site that a concrete/ impacted base would make a danger to resident flooding. c) Play Area – Cllr G Morley. The company that originally fitted the equipment are currently being taken to task regarding early deterioration of some items. Cllr Morley has been emailing and calling sometimes twice a day. The clip has gone missing on the inclusive swing – should any villagers know where it is please let us know urgently. Graffiti has been removed by Cllr Morley. Resurfacing of playground will happen once the other issues have been dealt with. d) Parish Maintenance – Volunteer Carter regularly attends to war memorial – road issues are not helping see notes above. List of leaf removal and other tasks received from volunteer Carter. Other duties completed by councillors. Thank you for volunteering. e) War Memorial SEE ABOVE f) Village Hall and Defib – Cllr T Jones. The village hall now has a training “RESUS ANNIE” to go with the training defib. g) Highways – All Councillors will send photos and locations to clerk who will coordinate and track. ANY HEALTH AND SAFETY VIDEOS EG SWERVING VEHICLES ETC PLEASE SEND TO Cllr.Peter.Schwier@essex.gov.uk Despite invitations from the Council the local Highways Representative, Mr Tom Cunningham did not attend or reply.
24/118	Popes Mill Bridge Progress – Cllr G Morley National Lottery fund initial stage feasibility study needed:- Engineering Survey required – checking costings Up to date Biodiversity report required. Accessibility of area. An application has also gone to Historic England for funding.
24/119	Acorn development feedback – Dporth

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	Concern for our residents is that a significant concrete base will increase flooding to flood plain and hence down river through Sturmer. Planning comment to be made as such.
24/120	FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AGREE ANY PAYMENTS AGREE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO AUTHORISE RAISED PAYMENTS BEFORE NEXT MEETING TO AVOID CHARGES/LATE BILLING
	Agreed.
24/121	CLERKS REPORT COUNCILLOR VACANCY – Advert had no response to Braintree Elections Office. We will now advertise again. If anyone wishes to apply but isn't sure of responsibilities, please ask. S106 – Money is being held to use for cost of playground resurfacing. SSE – being followed up AGAIN POLICE VISIT – We have been advised that the local officer will be outside the village hall Sunday 2 nd March 2025 between 10:30 and 11:00
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING to be Thursday 27TH March 2025 - at 7:30 pm
	PLEASE NOTE DATES FOR DIARIES – THURSDAY 1ST MAY IS THE PARSH COUNCIL AGM THE PARISH ASSEMBLY WILL BE THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025.

Karen Simmons – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **22nd February 2025**