

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 Tuesday 30th September 2025 AT 7:30PM.

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

25/053	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	AS ABOVE
25/054	INVITE ANY DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING
	NONE DECLARED
25/055	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th July 2025
	SECONDED AND APPROVED
25/056	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION <i>Concerns raised re dangerous vehicles parked in layby.</i> <i>Potholes are still of concern – some are very big. We are all encouraged to keep reporting them to Essex Highways (please also inform details to clerk)</i> <i>Mr Garrod kindly cleared some trees out of the river near FP3.</i> <i>Hay is causing a problem again. This is being investigated however it would be helpful to have pictures or further information sent to the Clerk to compile a more detailed report. Please ensure your hedges and overhanging trees are cut back to avoid making it worse.</i>
25/057	RECEIVE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS
	Cllr Garrod's Report can be found on the website. Further copies are available on request. It was also mentioned that we should encourage local groups to get involved with the Dedham Vale Group to further encourage the improvement of this end of the Stour Valley Path. Cllr Schwier. As well as Highways Highlights that can be found on our website, it should be noted that the reporting of potholes has decreased significantly over the past 2 years. Additionally, white lining of roads is another target – particularly at junctions. Lots of drains have been cleared but please continue reporting this. PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDOWNERS TO CUT BACK ANY TREES, BUSHES, ETC THAT ARE BLOCKING THE VIEW (EVEN PARTLY) OF ROAD SIGNS.
25/058	FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS – APPROVE CLERK TO MAKE PAYMENTS
	All agreed and seconded.
25/059	REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS To include the Large STU developments and feedback from the Open Evening.
	STUR2293 – the large development south of Haverhill, was rejected. A copy of that part of the minutes is on the website. The scaffolding site is being cleared. They have an order that insists repair work is done before 28th September 2025. Trees need to be replanted and hedge restored.
25/060	Timetable/ Forward Plan – Cllr G Morley
	A forward plan is to be developed to ensure the updating and checking of records such as policies and contracts is kept in a timely fashion. Action Cllr Morley and Clerk.

25/061	How we will review Standing Orders and other policies.
	As Part of the above and to ensure they are fit for purpose and appropriate, these will make part of further meetings.
25/062	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: a) Footpaths – FP 3 and 5 have been removed by Cllr Mercer who has also cleared back the footpath on the main road. Footpaths are regularly checked after high winds. Information on FP3 repairs are currently in process. A footbridge behind the Public House looks to be damaged and this has been reported. b) Flood Action Group – Investigations are continuing regarding flooding near the War Memorial. Currently, work is planned by Highways on 12th November. They are looking to constructing a manhole at the intersection of the highway drainage and private pipe. They may try root cutting. c) Play Area – Repairs are still taking place. The partial resurfacing will start soon. Cllr Morley has been out to spray the rest of the rubberised matting to stop moss growth. d) Parish Maintenance – Some graffiti has appeared on a building overlooking the park – clerk to report to Anglian Water. e) War Memorial – Volunteer Carter has been ensuring that the memorial is clean and cared for. The worst issue is leaf fall and Hay. An order has been placed for the wreath. f) Village Hall & Defib – Due to lack of support all events apart from the School Anniversary have been cancelled. g) Highways – Some signage should be undergoing repairs as you see this. We still have work on potholes/signs/lining etc that needs addressing. All potholes have been reported BUT if they get bigger or deeper, they must be reported again. Use W3W if you are able and take a photo. Report to the Highways Report it AND send a copy to the Clerk.
25/063	CLERKS REPORT Tree Inspection due 1st October – has been done and report expected. Approve letter to go to Digigo/transport office regarding lack of buses in this area. Progress of returning Scaffolding/Building storage to original habitat. – see planning above. Progress of TRO for Station Bridge – awaiting news from Essex Transport. Quotes for extra cutting on pavement following on from local complaints awaiting one more estimate. Progress of quotes for digitizing records – quotes are coming in and are varied. Feedback from SSLC meeting – In light of requirements for safety and security online, we are gathering estimates to hold all our documentation, emails, website and accounts with professional companies. Quotes have been collected. Feedback from EALC meeting – the 3 part Essex Devolution plan – map is in Essex on our website, was put to Government on 26th September. We will keep you updated. Authorisation for removal of photos of flooded properties from previous minutes. Agreed and seconded.
25/064	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA
	Tree report Review Tree policy to be reviewed Forward Plan
25/065	DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2025 7.30PM

KAREN SIMMONS Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated **2nd October 2025**.