

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2015

In Attendance:

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mrs D Garrod; Mr C Cadman, District Councillor
Mrs R Mitson Clerk; three members of the public.

Apologies:

Mrs K McLeod Jones; Mr M Novels;

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2014, having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

None.

Matters Arising

(a) S106 Agreement, A1017, Water Lane, Village Sign

Vice Chair has received an e-mail regarding the lay-bys at Riverside Bungalows and confirming that these will be extended as much possible with the remaining money from the S106 agreement.

Representatives from Essex County Council will be in touch to arrange a site meeting. The proposal is to extend the lay-by from No 4 Riverside Bungalows up to No 1 Abbotts Croft.

Once the work has been completed an article will be prepared for the Village News giving a total breakdown of the expenditure from the S106 money.

An email has been received from Mr Paul Sadler regarding a number of blocked gullies in Water Lane. Chair had reported these to Essex County Council but when checking the Essex County Council reporting website it appeared they have been removed. Chair to raise with Essex County Council, with a copy to Mr David Finch, District Councillor and Chair of Essex County Council.

Village sign – the Parish Council have purchased 10kg of daffodils to be planted around the base of the sign.

Vice Chair would like to organise a celebration of completion of the sign in the New Year.

(b) Pocket Park

Bags of food waste had been placed in the rubbish bin in the Pocket Park. Vice-Chair will empty bin.

A representative from Sovereign Design Play Systems recently visited the site to install some plastic bolt covers and a name plaque.



(c) Footpaths

Local residents have been clearing ditches and the Railway Walk. Chair has received a telephone call from a local resident who wished to pass on their thanks.

(d) Flood Action Group

Recent report has been circulated. Meeting held on 12 January with representatives from the Environment Agency who have taken questions away for discussion.

Flood Action Group have made comments to Braintree District Council regarding the proposed planning application for Crunch Croft.

(e) Litter Pick

Proposed date for village litter pick is Sunday 08 March 2015, 10.30 am, meet at the Village Hall. Equipment for the litter pick is available from Braintree District Council. Vice-Chair to arrange. Vice-Chair will also check whether the clean team from Braintree District Council are planning any litter clearance in advance 08 March.

(f) Meeting with Developers of Gt Wilsey Park

A further meeting will be arranged with the developers in the spring. A planning application will not go forward for approximately seventeen months. Chair to discuss details with the Flood Group at one of their future meetings.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£4,109.42
Current Account	£6,645.62

(b) Income

Lloyds Bank interest	£0.18
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(c) Payments

Sturmer Village Hall (printing)	£111.00
AJ Lighting Solutions	£456.00

(d) Estimates 2015/16

Proposed budgetary information circulated by Clerk. Parish Council need to include money for the painting/cleaning of the village gates. Chair to obtain estimate.

Forms not yet received by Parish Council. Chair to contact Braintree District Council. Forms to be completed at separate meeting.



Correspondence

As circulated. Plus

- (i) EALC legal update.
- (ii) Hourly rates of pay for Parish Clerks.

Planning

Applications

14/01594/FUL – Land West of Crunch Croft, development of 13 bungalows.

A number of objections have been made by local residents. These include drainage and sewage, parking, traffic congestion, wildlife disturbance and noise.

The site is outside of the development area and was last inspected ten years ago. The view then was that there would be no change to the plan. Comments on the application to be submitted by 16 January 2015. The view of the Parish Council is that that the land must be in the village envelope before application can be submitted. Parish Council will therefore oppose the application at this stage.

Chris Cadman, District Councillor, reported that the Planning Committee are being asked to review their processes with a view to implementing a new process in May 2015. The proposal is that planning applications should be determined at officer level and therefore planning applications will not necessarily go to the Planning Committee.

Decisions

2014/1393/FUL – Ambleside, Hill Lane, Sturmer – single storey front extension – Parish Council – permitted.

2014/01443/FUL – 19 Crunch Croft, Sturmer – removal of existing chimney and second floor extension – permitted.

Any Other Business

Government are likely to withdraw funding from RCCE and CCRE. RCCE would like individuals to lobby Government by completing on-line petition.

Development of Village/Neighbourhood Plan – plans to be incorporated in planning applications.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Tuesday 24 February 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 07 April 2015, 7.30, Village Hall – to be confirmed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Wint 24/2/2015.

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2015

In Attendance:

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mrs D Garrod; Mrs R Mitson Clerk; two members of the public.

Apologies:

Mrs K McLeod Jones; Mr M Novels; Mr C Cadman, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 2014, having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

Mr D Porth – Finance – payment to the Haverhill Golf Club

Matters Arising

(a) S106 Agreement, A1017, Water Lane, Village Sign

Lay-bys Riverside Bungalows - site meeting held with representatives from Essex County Council Highways Department confirming that these will be extended as much as possible with the remaining money from the S106 agreement. Essex County Council may be able to provide some additional funding for further improvements. Improvements will give potential parking for five cars. Post box will be repositioned.

Gulley sweep along the main road is scheduled for 12 March 2015.

Flooding near Honey Suckle Cottage – this has been caused by a build-up of silt in the Balk. Member of the village has cleared some vegetation in order to provide access.

Water Lane – closed due to work at the Kedington end of the road.

Village Sign – 19 April agreed as date for unveiling of village sign, followed by tea in the village hall. Vice-Chair will contact Olive Porter, Essex County Council, to see if she is available to attend and also the Village Sign Society. Details to be included in the Village News.

(b) Pocket Park

Significant clearing has taken place in the play area and the hedge has been cut back and footpath cleared.

It was noted that a motorcycle has been seen riding along the Railway Walk.

(c) Flood Action Group

A survey of ordinary water courses has been completed. This will help to identify problem areas within the village.

As the result of a meeting with the Highways Department the gullies in Hill Lane have been cleared.

Flood Action Group have also met with representatives from Anglian Water.

Pipes under the bridge in Water Lane are to be reviewed.

Chair of the Parish Council to attend the next meeting of the Flood Action Group to discuss the proposed Wilsey Site Development.

(d) Litter Pick

Proposed litter pick to be rescheduled to possibly coincide with national litter pick. If time permits details will be published in the Village News.

(e) RCCE

Information received that funding has been restored.

(f) Village Neighbourhood Plan

Vice-chair has received information that Parish Council should wait before taking any action. Agreed to defer.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£4,109.92
Current Account	£6,123.62

(b) Income

Lloyds Bank interest (January & February 2015)	£0.34
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(c) Payments

Sturmer Village Hall	£28.00
Haverhill Golf – Sturmer Common maintenance	£320.00
Uttlesford History Record	5.00
Sturmer Parochial Church Council	£125.00
Sturmer Village Hall Charity (donation)	£1200.00

(d) Estimates/Precept 2015/16

Estimate received for cleaning/painting of village gates £130.00

Precept form for 2015/16 has been completed. Total amount claimed £5,255

Correspondence

As circulated.

Planning

Applications

14/01594/FUL – Land West of Crunch Croft, development of 13 bungalows - withdrawn

Future of the District - Chair and Vice-Chair attended meeting on 26 January 2015.
Information to be circulated to members of the Parish Council. Information is also available on the internet, including a comments form. Comments to be received by 06 March 2015.

Any Other Business

Questionnaire

Chair has received questionnaire regarding environmental issues from Leigh Day (lawyers).

- Question 1 Parish Council will raise the issue of flooding, building on the flood plain.
Question 2 Parish Council will comment on air and water pollution, flooding and habitat loss.
Question 3 Introduction of a National Planning Policy Planning Framework – Parish Council disagree as they do not feel that this is necessarily a good thing.

Annual Parish Meeting


Nicky China, project manager, Flood Management, can provide a presentation on "Where Does the Water Go".

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 07 April 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 05 May 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall
Parish Council AGM Tuesday 19 May 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

 7/4/15.

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 07 April 2015

In Attendance:

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mrs D Garrod; Mrs K McLeod Jones; Mr M Novels; Mrs R Mitson Clerk; one member of the public.

Absent

Mr C Cadman, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2015, having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

None

Matters Arising

(a) S106 Agreement, A1017, Water Lane, Village Sign

Lay-bys Riverside Bungalows – further funding has been awarded which will allow the scheme to be completed.

Notices regarding the road closure from Steeple Bumpstead to Hempstead have been put up in the Garden Centre and the Red Lion Public House.

Village Sign – date for unveiling has been changed to Sunday 31 May, 2.30 pm. followed by tea in the village hall. Details will be put in the Village News.

(b) Pocket Park

Chair has received letter from RoSPA advising that the annual inspection will take place during May. Chair has advised RoSPA of the new play equipment. It was noted that catch on the gate to the play area is not closing properly. Chair will repair.

(c) Sturmer Flood Action Group (SFAG)

Mark Novels thanked those who had undertaken work on the Railway Walk during his absence. A copy of the Flood Action Group Newsletter was circulated to member so of the Parish Council.

A survey of water courses has been completed and information passed to Charlotte Smith, Essex County Council. Essex Fire Service has kindly agreed to provide a group of volunteers to help clear the ditch that runs along the public footpath. Proposed date is 09 June. However, concern was expressed that this may disturb wildlife and would be better done in September/October.

SFAG are hoping to have the use of a mechanical digger to help clear ditches. SFAG may wish to approach the Parish Council for funding. The Parish Council have included £150.00

in their budget for SFAG. SFAG will contact Angela Vegase, External Funding Managing, Braintree District Council, to ascertain whether any external funding may be available.

Charlotte Smith, Essex County Council will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

(d) Litter Pick

Unfortunately it has not been possible to organise a suitable date for the litter pick. However, equipment will be available throughout May from Barbara Collar, Vice Chair, for individuals who wish to undertake a litter pick in their area. Details will be published in the Village News.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£4,110.08
Current Account	£4,073.42

(b) Income

Lloyds Bank interest (March 2015)	£0.16
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(c) Payments

None

(d) Audit 2014/15

Details of the audit will be advertised from 24 April 2015. Accounts will be available for inspection, by prior appointment, from 08 May until 05 June 2015.

Audit return to be submitted by 08 June 2015.

(e) Quotations

A quotation for the cost of painting the village gates at a cost of £130.00 has been received from Mr C Canter. It was agreed to accept the quotation.

Correspondence

As circulated.

Planning

Applications

15/00271/FUL– Erection of two log cabins, 9 Crunch Croft, Sturmer. Application not validated as no fee enclosed with application and also purpose of buildings not stated. Deadline for comments is 08 April 2015.

PC will state that due to lack of information they would like to ask that Braintree District Council set restrictions that the cabins are not to be used for permanent habitation, and paying particular attention to vehicular access.

15/000/12/HHPA – 15 Abbotts Cottages, The Street, Sturmer - erection of single storey rear extension – permission not required.

Any Other Business

It was reported that children had light a bonfire near the gauging station and a large amount of debris has been put into the water. The Police have been informed. Chair will speak with the Environment Agency regarding the debris.

A notice regarding the elections will be displayed from 10 April 2015. Closing date for nominations for Parish Councillors is 09 April 2015. Nominations need to be hand delivered to Braintree District Council.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 05 May 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall
Parish Council AGM Tuesday 19 May 2015, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

WMA 19/5/2015.

**Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 19
May 2015**

In Attendance:

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr Graham Coles, Mrs D Garrod; Mrs K McLeod Jones; Mrs R Mitson Clerk; one member of the public.

Apologies

Mr M Novels

Absent

Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The declaration of acceptance of office and code of conduct was completed by members present.

Election of Officers

Chair – Mr D Porth. Elected unopposed. Nominated by Mrs K McLeod-jones, seconded Mrs D Garrod.

Vice-Chair – Mrs B Collar. Elected unopposed. Nominated Mrs D Garrod, seconded Mr David Porth.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 07 April 2015, having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

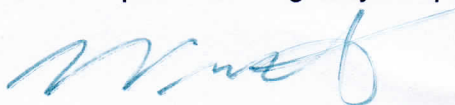
Members of the parish Council are required to register their personal and prejudicial interests with Braintree District Council. Information to be held locally on the parish website. However, Sturmer Parish Council do not have a website and the monitoring officer from Braintree District Council will discuss this with the clerk.

Matters Arising

(a) S106 Agreement, A1017, Water Lane, Village Sign

Lay-bys Riverside Bungalows – nothing further has been heard. Vice-Chair will send an e-mail asking if there have been any further developments.

Pot hole, Crunch Croft – Vice-Chair will report to the Highways Department, Essex County Council.



(b) Footpaths

Mrs Garrod has met with the footpath officer. The footbridge at footpath 15 is going to be raised. The footpath officer will contact the Environment Agency regarding the sandbank that has developed in the river. Sandbags will be placed along the banks.

The railway bridge near Sturmer Hall has developed some cracks and some of the bricks are dislodged. The footpath officer will arrange for the bridge to be looked at.

(c) Pocket Park

The Chair and Vice-Chair have cleaned the tiles under the play equipment. Chair has asked a local company for a quotation for further cleaning.

It was noted that the window in the shelter has been broken.

(d) Sturmer Flood Action Group (SFAG)

Mrs Linda Bevan gave an update on behalf of SFAG. The ditches near the Hanson site have been cleared. A group of volunteers from Essex Fire Service are planning to clear the ditch near the Red Lion and Wentworth House on 09 June. Once the ditches have been cleared Essex highways will clear the culvert.

Leaflets on riparian ownership have been distributed.

(e) Litter Pick

Equipment for litter picking has not yet arrived. This has been raised with Braintree District Council. The area from the nursery to the war memorial has been cleared by garden centre.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£4,110.43
Current Account	£8,199.86

(b) Income

Braintree District Council	£4,058.00
Lloyds Bank interest (April and May)	£0.35

(c) Payments

Aon UK Limited (insurance premium,)	£422.05
EON	£269.88
EALC (annual subscription)	£144.08
Mrs B Collar (bin liners)	£6.48



(d) Audit 2014/15

Annual governance statement agreed. Audit forms completed.

Correspondence

As circulated.

- (i) Parish sweeping route – new dates for July onwards.
- (ii) UK Power Networks – inventory of unmetered supply updated.
- (iii) Letter from resident in Pope Court regarding the pruning of a large oak tree in wood. This is privately owned and the resident has been referred to the land owners Agent.
- (iv) Vice-Chair's details have been added to planning policy portal.

Planning

Applications

2015/0020/FUL – 1 Rose Cottage, Rowley Hill Sturmer. Previous application withdrawn. Parish Council are in agreement with the proposed planning application.

Chair has received a letter from Beattie Communications regarding the Gt Wilsey development. Public consultation in Haverhill Arts centre 03 June 13.00-15.00 and then from 16.30-20.00 at the Churchill Free School, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill.

Need for a road from Gt Wilsey Development to Coupals Road has been expressed. Individuals can make representations at the exhibition. Parish Council will be making representations.

Decisions

15/00271/FUL– Erection of two log cabins, 9 Crunch Croft, Sturmer. Refused.

Any Other Business

EALC Parish Council Training Updates – short courses tailored to individual parish councils can now be delivered at venue of Parish Council's choice. Chair to ask for further details.

Graham Coles will attend meeting at Queens Hall Halstead, for new councillors.

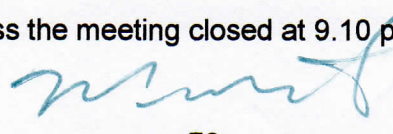
Details of parish Councillors to be updated in Village News.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Tuesday 30 June, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 28 July, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 08 September, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

 30/6/15.

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2015

In Attendance:

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr Graham Coles; Mrs K McLeod Jones; Mr M Novels; Mrs R Mitson Clerk; four members of the public.

Apologies

Mrs D Garrod; Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The declaration of acceptance of office and code of conduct was completed by Mr Mark Novels.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2015, having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

Clerk has not heard anything regarding recording information on a Sturmer Parish Council website.

Mr D Porth, Chair, item (b) footpaths.

Matters Arising

(a) S106 Agreement, A1017, Water Lane, Village Sign

Lay-bys Riverside Bungalows – nothing further has been heard. Vice-Chair will contact the Highways Department, Essex County Council, for an update.

Pot hole, Crunch Croft – Vice-Chair reported this to the Highways Department, Essex County Council. The pothole has been assessed and does not meet the criteria for repair. This will be monitored.

A survey recording the state of lanes within the area has been carried out on behalf of Essex County Council.

Large temporary illuminated sign has been placed near the roundabout. This is in readiness for the diversion relating to the roadworks to be carried out in Cavendish Road, Clare.

(b) Footpaths

Railway Walk, which was thoroughly cleared over the winter, has now regrown and needs to be cut back. Chair has received a letter from Mr Mark Novels, on behalf of Sturmer Flood Action Group suggesting that quotations for the ongoing maintenance be obtained. Mr Novels will contact Mr Stephen Pledger, Mr James Porth and Mr Paul Sadler for quotations for this work.

Quotations have been obtained for the hire of a self-drive digger at £155 per day (Parish Council would need to arrange insurance and provide an operator) and £300 plus VAT per

day for a digger and operator. It was agreed to accept the quotation for £300 per day. Digger will be required for approximately 3 days.

The work will be undertaken in September in accordance with guidelines from Essex County Council.

It was noted that the hedge at footpath opposite the Red Lion has been removed and people are jumping the ditch rather than using the kissing gate. Also a tree near the Baulk is a hazard as it looks as though it is likely to fall.

(c) Pocket Park

A copy of the RoSPA report has been circulated. The only issue raised was the bark chippings around the kinetic play equipment are not deep enough causing the geo-textile to be exposed. Parish Council to remedy.

(d) Sturmer Flood Action Group (SFAG)

A small section of the ditch near the Hanson site has not been cleared. SFAG are unsure as to who is responsible for this section. Mr Mark Novels will speak with Mrs Diana Garrod who organised the initial consultation with representatives from Hansons.

Volunteers from Essex Fire Service have cleared the ditch near the Red Lion. The Fire Service have suggested that the Parish Council might want to invest in some flood warning lights.

Maps regarding the ordinary water courses within Sturmer have been lodged with Essex County Council.

SFAG has been given as a good example of a flood action group.

Details of the flood warning system will be published in the Parish Newsletter.

(e) Litter Pick

Vice Chair has equipment for litter pick. Parish Council agreed to purchase two litter pickers. Vice Chair to arrange.

Gulley sweeping is currently planned for the 07 July 2015.

(f) Village Sign

Vice Chair has received a phone call from resident in Ridgewell who would like to buy some Sturmer Pippin trees to place either side of the sign. Parish Council to consider.

The village sign has featured in the latest edition of Village Sign News.

(g) EALC In-house Training Courses

Chair has received details of charges for in-house courses. This is £285 for a sixty minute course, plus travel expenses.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£4,110.59
Current Account	£7,629.42

(b) Income

Braintree District Council (Street Cleaning Partnership)	£68.44
Lloyds Bank interest (June)	£0.16

(c) Payments

S Pledger (grass cutting)	£70.00
PlaySafety	£78.00
Mrs B Collar	£2.00

(d) Audit 2014/15

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

As circulated.

Planning

Applications

2015/00806/FUL – 4 Rowley Court, Sturmer – erection at the front of the property at first floor level to form en suite bathroom. Parish Council are happy to support application.

Chair attended the public consultation regarding the Gt Wilsey development. Parish Council have raised issue of water drainage. Anglian Water and the Environment Agency will be responsible for surface water.

Sturmer Hall – no planning application received. It was agreed to raise with the Enforcement Officer, Braintree District Council.

A copy of the planning application will be sent to Parish Council. Once planning application has been made Parish Council may wish to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall to discuss implications.


Any Other Business

Chair and Vice Chair attended Suffolk Preservation Society AGM.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:
Tuesday 28 July, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 08 September, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.


28/7/15.

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 28 July 2015

In Attendance

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr G Coles, Mrs D Garrod, Mrs K McLeod-Jones, Mr M Novels, Mrs R Mitson, Clerk; one member of the public

Apologies:

None

Absent:

Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

Mr D Porth, Chair, declared an interest in agenda item 4 (b) Future management of the railway walk and ditches.

Matters Arising

(a) A1017, Hill Lane, Water Lane and Coupals Road, S106 Agreement for Village Lay-by

Straw pieces falling from lorries travelling along the A1017 is causing problems and has been raised with Essex County Council.

The village gates have been cleaned in preparation for painting.

It was noted that there are now two pot holes in Crunch Croft. Vice-Chair will continue to monitor the situation.

The Vice-Chair has contacted Essex County Council regarding the lay-bys. No further developments.

It was noted that the S106 Agreement money is time bound. Chair will check when original agreement is due to expire.

(b) Footpaths and Pocket Park

Parish Council to organise for two bags of wood chippings to be placed around the kinetic play equipment.

Loose debris is falling from the ash tree. The tree is not looking very healthy and needs to be monitored for disease. Chair does not think it is showing signs of Ash dieback.

Mr D Porth, Chair, then left the meeting whilst the future maintenance of the railway walk and ditches was discussed. Two quotations had been received one from Mr S Pledger for £100.00 per occasion and the other from Mr J Porth for £75.00 per occasion. As Mr Pledger already maintains the Pocket Park it was agreed to accept his quotation of £100 per occasion. Vice-Chair will write to Mr Pledger confirming that Parish Council wish to accept his quotation and also to Mr James Porth thanking him for his quotation.

Mr D Porth then re-joined the meeting.

(c) Flood Action Group Up-date

Mr M Novels gave an update on progress made since the last meeting. A meeting with Mr Tom Palmer had taken place. They had looked at issues relating to flooding at Maltings Cottages and suggestions regarding flood protection. Mr Palmer will also write to Hanson Concrete regarding the ditch at the side of their site.

Gullies within the village are to be cleared.

(d) Village Sign

Grass at both sides of the sign has been cut by member of the parish. Vice-Chair will put notice of thanks in the next issue of the Village News.

The chair has explored the possibility of Sturmer Pippin trees being planted at the site of the village sign. Advice from Essex County Council is that this is not possible due to hazards from falling apples.

Chair and Vice-Chair are to attend the AGM of the village sign society. It was suggested that they ask the society for some ideas for the finishing of the Sturmer Village sign plinth.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Instant Savings Account	£7479.42
Current Account	£4110.76
Interest for July	£0.17

(b) Payments

Sturmer Village Hall (Hire of Hall)	£60.00
Mrs B Collage – plants for area around the village sign	£20.48

Correspondence

As circulated, including a copy of the Village Hall accounts.

Planning

(a) Applications

FUL/00929/15 – 3 Popes Court, Sturmer – proposed single storey rear extension. It was agreed to support the the application provided it complies with current planning regulations.

Gt Wilsey Park

Comments following the public consultation have been circulated. Concerns relating to footpaths, raised by Chair of the Parish Council, have not really been addressed,

It was noted that the waterworks have been identified as being in the wrong area. It was suggested that Chair should contact Anglian Water regarding the sewage network. The highways department and Anglian Water will not make comments until the planning

application has been lodged. The planning application may be put in in the autumn of this year.

Parish Council may wish to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the application once it has been submitted.

Parish Council are able to make comments to Beattie Communications.

It was agreed to arrange a public meeting for 15 September to discuss issues relating to the Gt Wilsey Park development. Parish Clerk not required to attend the meeting but would be welcome if she wished to attend. Details of the meeting will be published in the Village News Letter.

Local Plan Update

The Parish Council need to submit a local plan based on how they would like to see the village in fifteen years' time. Parish Council to arrange separate meeting to discuss.

Churdels, The Street Sturmer

Mr & Mrs Collar have recently purchased Churdells and would be happy to allow improvements to be made to the footpath leading to Hill Lane. This has been raised with Essex County Council and forms relating to the proposed scheme have been received by Mr & Mrs Collar.

(b) Decisions

None.

Any Other Business

Circulation of Agenda/Minutes

It was noted that notices of meetings and minutes should be circulated at least three clear days prior to the meeting (not including Sundays), it was agreed that the agenda and minutes would be circulated on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Village Fete

A meeting is being organised to discuss planning a village fete. Details will appear in the Village News.

Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Tuesday 08 September, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 15 September, 7.30 pm, Village Hall – public meeting to discuss Gt Wilsey Park Development

Tuesday 20 October, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 01 December 7.30 pm, VillageHall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 pm.

 8TH SEPT. 2015.

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 08 September 2014

In Attendance

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr G Coles, Mrs D Garrod, Mrs K McLeod-Jones, Mr M Novels.

Apologies:

None

Absent:

Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

None..

Matters Arising

(a) A1017, Hill Lane, Water Lane and Coupals Road, S106 Agreement for Village Lay-by

It was noted that the Kedington road is closed. Notices had appeared in the local paper regarding this but no formal notification had been received.

It was noted that two pot holes in Crunch Croft have almost merged.

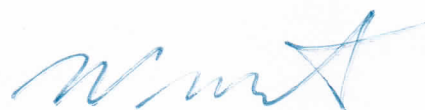
The Vice-Chair has contacted Essex County Council regarding the lay-bys. Samples have been taken from the area and reports are awaited from the contractors.

Chair had spoken with Essex County Council regarding the S106 money. This will expire in 2016.

Chair has received a letter from Mr Tickner at Suffolk Edge, Sturmer, expressing concern at speed of traffic passing through the village. Mr Tickner had indicated that he would put his concerns in writing. Mr Tinkner has also spoken with the Halstead and Braintree Traffic Management Committee.

It was agreed to ask Essex Police to carry out monitoring by either strips in the road or police camera. Graham Coles to raise with Essex Police. Vice Chair to try to obtain data from the vehicle activated signs.

Village gates have now been painted.



(b) Footpaths and Pocket Park

Chair and Vice-Chair have renewed some of the signage and put up news signs "This play area is under surveillance".

It was noted that the dog fouling bins are only emptied upon request.

The surfacing beneath the kinetic play equipment needs to be weeded before the bark chippings are replaced. It was agreed to ask Mr S Pledger if he would be able to do this.

Motorcycles are being ridden along the Railway Walk.

(c) Flood Action Group Up-date

Debris in the stream has been reported to the Environment Agency. Tyres in Sturmer Brook have been reported to Braintree District Council.

Issues have been raised regarding the Gt Wilsey Park development regarding a sustainable drainage system.

(d) Village Sign

Chair and Vice-Chair attended the AGM of the village sign society. Ideas for the finish of the plinth had included cracked flint. Chair and Vice Chair to make enquiries.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

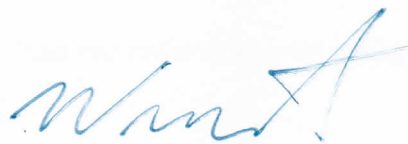
Instant Savings Account	£7057.37
Current Account	£4110.94
Interest for August	£0.18

(b) Payments

R Mitson – Clerks Salary and Expenses	£267.50
HMRC	£60.00
Braintree District Council – uncontested election	£59.00
S Pledger (grass cutting)	£135.00
A J Lighting (annual maintenance)	£324.00
A J Lighting	£117.60
C Canter (repainting of village gates)	£130.00

Correspondence

As circulated



Planning

(a) Applications

FUL/00929/15 – 3 Popes Court, Sturmer – proposed single storey rear extension. It was agreed to support the application provided it complies with current planning regulations.

Braintree Local Plan

Chair has received letter from the forward planning officer, Braintree District Council. 350 plots of land have been put forward for future development, details of which are available on the web site. Three sites have been identified within the parish, Woodlands Hotel, Crunch Croft, Orchard at rear of Spinning Wheel site. Also Pit Lane which is partially in Sturmer.

Parish Council also asked to suggest other sites for affordable housing.

Village Design Statement

It was suggested that the Parish Council should have a village design statement on how the village ought to develop.

Chair has discussed with RCCE. Statement may take between 18-24 months to complete; should not be drawn up by the Parish Council and must not be negative. Following discussion, it was agreed that it would not be possible to complete a village design statement within the timescale as local plan is due for discussion in early 2016.

Gt Wilsey Park Development

Parish Council met with representatives from Beattie Communications. No new information arose from the meeting. Survey has been completed on potential road use within the area. Parish Council have submitted further questions via e-mail and are awaiting a response

Decisions

FUL/00929/15 – 3 Popes Court, Sturmer – proposed single storey rear extension. Approved with two special conditions:

- (i) Within three year start date
- (ii) Development shall be carried out in accordance with given plans. In character with surroundings and does not differ in appearance from existing build.

FUL/00271/FUL Erection of two log cabins 9, Crunch Croft, Sturmer, – refused.

Any Other Business

None.

Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Tuesday 20 October, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 01 December 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Wm 20TH OCT. 2015

**Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 20 October
2015**

In Attendance

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr G Coles, Mrs D Garrod, Mrs K McLeod-Jones, Mr M Novels.

Apologies:

None

Absent:

Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 September 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

Mrs B Collar, items (a) footpath and (c) Sturmer Flood Action Group

Matters Arising

- (a) A1017, Hill Lane, Water Lane and Coupals Road, S106 Agreement for Village Lay-by

The Vice-Chair continues to monitor the pot holes in Crunch Croft.

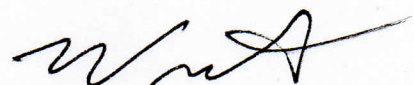
Nothing further has been heard from Essex county Council regarding the lay-bys.

Vice-Chair has spoken with Mr Valentine, Highways Department, Essex County Council, regarding the development of the footpath at the end of Hill Lane. Nothing can be done at the moment. However, a site visit is to be arranged.

Chair has received information from local area highways panel regarding speed surveys in Baythorne End, New England and Sturmer. This would involve a cost of £750. A meeting to discuss this has been arranged for 18 January 2016

Graham Coles has met with Keith Smith, Special Constable, to discuss speed monitoring within the village. Equipment would be provided by Essex Police but six volunteers would be required to operate the system. Training would be provided. It was agreed to prepare an article for the Village Newsletter.

Vice-Chair has received information from Solagen regarding the vehicle activate signs. Due to the age of the equipment an extended warranty is not available. A quotation for repairs will be circulated by the Vice-Chair as soon as possible.



Vehicle activated signs will provide accurate details of volume of traffic passing through the village.

(b) Footpaths and Pocket Park

Footpath No15 is now completely overgrown. Chair will raise with Essex County Council.

Mr S Pledger has agreed to treat the ground beneath the kinetic play equipment. This means that the Pocket Park will be closed whilst this takes place.

(c) Flood Action Group Up-date

The Sturmer Flood Action Group have written to the County Council regarding the blocked culvert. Essex County Council Highways Department may be willing to uncover or pipe the ditch but if not the Local Flood Action Group have obtained some money and Sturmer Flood Action Group could apply for funding for this. One of the conditions of the grant is that funding would also have to come from another source.

Expressions of interest for funding need to be made before Christmas 2015. Details of the costs of the work are not available and Sturmer Flood Action Group will try to clarify.

The Parish Council would be happy to support this but would not be able to commit to financial expenditure at this point in time.

It was reported that Mr & Mrs Collar were not aware that the digger was coming to do some work on the Railway Walk. The digger pushed over a fence post and removed a platform bridge. The Chair suggested that Mrs Collar contact the contractor who carried out the work.


Braintree District Council declined to remove the tyres from the Stour Book. However, there is an agreement with the Environment Agency which indicates they will remove them.

Stone filled cages are to be placed at banks of Stour Brook to stop erosion.

The Local Flood Management group have agreed to arrange a site meeting at Maltings Cottages in order to try to help with further flood management.

(d) Village Sign

Chair has made some enquiries regarding the craftsman who completed the stone work at the Golf Club to see if they would be able to do the stone plinths for the village sign.. However that person has now retired.



Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Current Account	£8,570.79
Instant Savings Account	£4111.28
Interest for October	£0.17

(b) Income

Braintree District Council	£2,627.00
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(c) Payments

S Pledger (grass cutting)	£35.00
Sturmer Village Hall (hire of hall July, August, September))	£30.00
B Collar	£8.69
CPRE (annual subscription)	£40.00
PKF Littlejohn (audit)	£72.00

It was agreed to publish details of the CPRE in the Village News.

(d) Audit

Audit has been completed. Asset register needs to be updated.

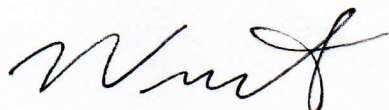
Correspondence

As circulated. Plus:

- (i) Letter received from Carol Canter who would like to plant a tree, either on the Railway Walk or in the Pocket Park, in memory of her son who has recently passed away. The Parish Council agreed that an English native tree could be planted along the Railway Walk.
- (ii) West Suffolk Community Governance Review – St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath are carrying out a review of parish electoral arrangements and are seeking local opinion on a range of issues.

There are perceived historic anomalies in the Essex/Suffolk boundaries. Comments that the boundary may be adjusted so that the by-pass falls entirely in Suffolk. The deadline for response is 09 November 2015.

Chair has raised with Chair of Essex County Council and local District Councillor.



It was noted that there is no advantage to the parish in giving up areas and also that there are very few electorate in that area.

The proposed changes will result in a significant loss of business rates to the District."

- (iii) Local bus network consultation – comments to be made via web site.

Planning

(a) Applications

Gt Wilsey Park Development

Response received regarding the drainage queries. Grey water will be recycled and pumped into Boyton Hall Water Tower. Information will be circulated. Victoria Walker from Beattie Communications is happy to arrange a teleconference with a drainage engineer.

12/01675/FUL The Patch, Sturmer – single storey extension. Application granted 20 December 2012. The Parish Council were not aware of this planning application

Decisions

FUL/00271/FUL Erection of two log cabins 9, Crunch Croft, Sturmer, – refused and referred to the Enforcement Officer. Buildings failed to meet criteria of Class E of the Town and Country Planning Act as within two metres of boundary fence. However, land has now been purchased and this moves the boundary. The case has now been closed.

Any Other Business

Village Sign Magazine

Copy of latest magazine to be circulated.

Sturmer Village Fete

Initial meeting has been held. Further meeting planned for 21 October 2015.

Electronic Flood Warning Sign

Possibility of obtaining a permanent electronic sign which is triggered by flood water.

Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:
Tuesday 01 December 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52pm.

W. M. F. 1/12/15.

**Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting
held on Tue 01 December 2015**

In Attendance

Mr D Porth, Chair; Mrs B Collar, Vice Chair; Mr G Coles, Mrs D Garrod,
Mrs K McLeod-Jones, Mr M Novels.

Apologies:

None

Absent

Mr R Bolton, District Councillor

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 08 September 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

Mr M Novels has recently accepted a new job in London and therefore felt unable to continue as a member of the Parish Council. Mr Novels will continue with the Sturmer Flood Action Group.

Mr D Porth noted an interest in Item Finance (c)–Payments - Payment to the Haverhill Golf Club.

Matters Arising

- (a) A1017, Hill Lane, Water Lane and Coupals Road, S106 Agreement for Village Lay-by

The Vice-Chair continues to monitor the pot holes in Crunch Croft.

Lay-bys - A site visit has taken place. It is anticipated that the works will be completed during this financial year.

Vice-Chair has spoken with Mr Valentine, Highways Department, Essex County Council, regarding the development of the footpath at the end of Hill Lane, feasibility study will be undertaken in the New Year.

Community Speed Watch Programme – article has been placed in the Village Newsletter asking for volunteers.

Vice-Chair has received information from Solagen regarding costs of repairs/maintenance. This will be discussed in the next financial year.

- (b) Footpaths and Pocket Park

Minutes of the Sturmer Parish Council Meeting
Fallen tree has blocked footpath between the rear of the Red Lion and the bridge.
This has been reported to the Highways Department.

Chair met with Mr and Mrs Canter and identified a site for the planting of a tree. This has now been completed.

The ground beneath the kinetic play equipment has now been treated with weed killer and cleared.

(c) Flood Action Group Up-date

A copy of the Sturmer Flood Action Group latest update is being circulated to members of the Parish Council.

The owner of the ditch at the side of the Hanson site has been identified and the local flood action group have contacted them regarding clearing it.

A site visit has taken place with representatives from Braintree District Council Street Scene Partnership who have agreed to remove the tyres from Stour Brook.

The Local Flood Management group have agreed to arrange a site meeting at Maltings Cottages in order to try to help with further flood management.

(d) Village Sign

Vice-chair will contact Writtle College to see if they are able to offer any help regarding flint cladding for the base of the sign.

Vice-Chair would like to obtain some replacement plants around the sign.

(e) Village Fete

The Fayre Committee have been awarded a grant of £530 (initial application was £750). A request for £220 funding to make up the short fall has been received and a copy of the letter is being circulated.

The PC will consider the position in the next financial year.

Location for fayre has not yet been decided, but Sturmer hall have offered to host it.

(f) Review of Essex/ Suffolk boundary

The chair has written to St Edmundsbury borough council and also the democracy manager, Braintree district council. Democracy group from Braintree district council are in contact with St Edmundsbury borough council. No decision would have been made by the boundary commission. Chair to contact district councillor Robert Bolton.

Finance

(a) Statement of Accounts

Current Account	£8,385.65
Instant Savings Account	£4111.45
Interest for November	£0.17

(b) Income

UK Power Networks	£3.45
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(c) Payments

S Pledger (grass cutting & weed killer)	£55.00
I Kiddy (Clearing of Ditches railway walk)	£1080.00
Haverhill Golf club (maintenance Sturmer Common)	£320.00

Correspondence

As circulated. Plus:

- (i) Copies of the latest edition of the CPRE magazine included.
- (ii) Transparency code briefing to be held on Tuesday 8th December 2015. Chair will attend. Further meetings will be held in the new year.
- (iii) Proposed network group. Email received from Birdbrook parish council regarding the reinstatement of the cluster group. Parish council agreed that they would like to be part of cluster.
- (iv) EALC affiliation fees to NALC are to be increased by 1p per electorate in the parish

Planning

- (a) Applications
None
- (b) Decisions
None

Chair and vice chair attended a council planning information meeting. Information to be circulated.

Great Wilsey park

Flood risk assessment has been received, plan was reviewed at the meeting. Total area of water attenuation amounts to 44 hectares.

Any Other Business

None

Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates:

Tuesday 19 January 7.30 pm, Village Hall.
Tuesday 23 February 7.30pm, Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

 19/1/16

£255.00
£1080.00
£320.00

2 Pledge (grass cutting & weed killer)
1 Kiddy (Clearing of Ditches railway walk)
Haverhill Golf club (maintenance Summer Common)

Correspondence

As circulated. Plus:

- (i) Copies of the latest edition of the CPRE magazine included.
- (ii) Transparency code briefing to be held on Tuesday 8th December 2015. Chair will attend. Further meetings will be held in the new year.
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Planning

- (a) Applications
None
- (b) Decisions
None

Chair and vice chair attended a council planning information meeting. Information to be circulated.

Great Wilsey park

Flood risk assessment has been received, plan was reviewed at the meeting. Total area of water attenuation amounts to 44 hectares.

Any Other Business

None

Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Parish Council agreed the following meeting dates: