**STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Karen Simmons 19, Woodcock Close**

**Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 0JP**

**Email:** [**clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk**](mailto:clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk) **Tel: 07814339155**

Minutes of **ANNUAL COUNCIL** **MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY** **25th June 2024 AT 7:30PM.**

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| **COUNCILLOR** | **IN ATTENDANCE** |
| Cllr David Porth - Chairman | YES |
| Cllr Alan Carter | YES |
| Cllr Terrie Jones | NO but apologies were received |
| Cllr Coral Fordham | YES |
| Cllr Sean Mercer | YES |
| VACANCY |  |
| Dist Cllr Diana Garrod | YES |
| Cnty Cllr Peter Schwier | NO |

CLERK – Karen Simmons

4 Member(s) of the public

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| 24/024 | NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  Received from Cllr T Jones |
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| 24/025 | **WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS**  With reference to item 24/027, D Porth related to a candidate. |
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| 24/026 | **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024**  Proposed A Carter, Seconded Coral Fordham |
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| 24/027 | **CO-OPTION PROCESS-REPRESENTATION FROM THOSE STANDING FOR CO-OPTION AND WISHING TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COUNCIL.**  A Carter took Chair.  **MEMBERS TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY THE REPRESENTATION FROM THE CANDIDATES**  None needed. |
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| 24/028 | **CANDIDATES DULY CO-OPTED TO COMPLETE AND SIGN ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE DECLARATION**  **– CO-OPTED CLLRS TO RECEIVE REGISTER OF INTEREST FORM TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT INDEPENDENTLY TO BDC**  **– ALL CLLRS TO BE INVITED TO REVIEW THEIR REGISTER OF INTEREST AND ADVISE BDC ACCORDINGLY OF ANY AMENDMENTS**  Gareth Morley was voted onto PC. |
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| 24/029 | **RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**  **a) Footpaths – all Cllrs** still awaiting works to be completed on footpath 3 – dangerous bank. To be followed up.  Footpath No 21 requests for numerous diversions has been noted.  **b) Flood Action Group – Cllr Alan Carter –** Report attached.  **c) Play Area – as maintenance** Repairs being completed shortly by Cllr Sean Mercer.  **d) Parish Maintenance – Cllrs A Carter, S Mercer and D Porth** Ongoing  **e) War Memorial –** A Carter to repaint. Some issues with overgrowing hedgerow at site to be resolved.  **f) Village Hall and defib – Cllr T Jones** No comment  **g) Highways – Cllr Coral Fordham** It appears we may have fallen off the maintenance schedule. This has been followed up and as a result the culvert has been cleared and is due regular maintenance. Cllr P Schwier has had pictures of all relevant items including the pot holes. Please note that we are informed that the fill on the “Sturmer Crater” is only temporary.  Broken signage has also been reported and we are assured this is being sorted.  There is some concern about vegetation overgrowing onto pavements, affecting pedestrians, and close to roads, affecting traffic views particularly at junctions. Letters will be going out to some properties deemed necessary.  Speed awareness and increased traffic. We are in touch with a number of agencies including Essex Police regarding a speed survey and suggestions for traffic calming. |
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| 24/030 | **REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS**  **Lanpro Solar Farm, Hill Lane, Sturmer; Amendment to boundaries.**  Go to BDC Planning Application 23/02705/FUL for all details including amendments to boundary and fire report. |
| 24/030 | **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**  *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)* |
|  | There was some concern regarding illegally parked vehicles which Braintree Council and the Police are dealing with. |
| 24/031 | **VOLUNTEERS POLICY** Proposed Cllr Fordham and seconded Cllr Carter.  Agreed and will be put on the website. |
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| 24/032 | **DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON PARISH COUNCIL “SURGERY”** Item was agreed as useful and so the next meeting we will be deciding any dates times that are best convenient to the residents. |
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| 24/033 | **FINANCIAL STATEMENT –** Agreed and signed. Prop C Fordham and second A Carter  Approved A Carter to support Clerk re payments due during periods council do not meet. |
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| 24/034 | **REVIEW OF LIGHTING CONTRACTS** |
|  | It was decided to move to SSE. Prop D Porth Sec A Carter |
| 24/035 | **Report from BDC by Cllr D Garrod**  **No Report provided from ECC** |
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| 23/035 | **RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS** |
|  | A meeting should be held next week to find out the progress of the planning. |
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| AOB | **Exclusion to public re VG52 removed**  **Council suggests a letter to previous clerk for his outstanding help and support.** |
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|  | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 30th July at 7:30 pm** |
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**Karen Simmons – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Dated 26 June 2024.**

**Appendices.**

**A. Flood Action Report**

**B. BDC Report**

**C. Financial Statements**

**Appendix A**

**Flood Action Report.**

**Flood Protection:**

**Two houses have flood doors etc with a grant from ECC.  Both have experienced problems with the mechanism after the one year guarantee for this part expired.  The residents had repairs carried out.  This has been reported to the ECC Flood Team who will speak to the supplier - Lakeside about it.**

**Sturmer Station Bridge:**

**Workmen have been seen collecting more information about the bridge for its replacement.  Additional funding is being sought.**

**Culvert opposite Red Lion:**

**Some work has been done by Highways to clear this which should help with flooding near the pub.**

**SFAG log:**

**Please let new Parish Councillors know that a log of our activities since 2014 (updated each Autumn) is available to view at Rivendell, The Street at any reasonable time by appointment with me.**

**Linda Bevan**

**SFAG**

**Appendix B**

**District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils June 2024**

**Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward**

**Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks**

Intended closure of North Street, Steeple Bumpstead on 9th June 2024 for 9 hours. Required while Openreach undertakes new connection.

The 40mph speed restriction on Copy Hill, Helions Bumpstead, which commenced on 29th May 2024 and is in force for up to 21 days (to be followed by an 18 month order) (It is estimated to be completed on 13th September 2024. However, please check [one.network](https://one.network) for the most up to date information on duration of the emergency closure) is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst Anglian Water undertakes mains replacement. These works are being undertaken as an emergency, please check <https://one.network/?tm=139021899> for the most up to date information regarding these works.

Current closure of the B1057 Haverhill Rd, Steeple Bumpstead from 20th May to 13th September whilst Anglian Water undertakes works. https://one.network – “permit granted and works about to start”.

**Norwich to Tilbury Statutory Consultation Extended to 11.59pm Friday 26 July 2024**

Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid) to reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia between the existing substations at Norwich Main in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk, and Tilbury in Essex, as well as connect new offshore wind generation. They are proposing to build approximately 184 km of new electricity transmission reinforcement between Norwich and Tilbury. This will be made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new 400 kV substation. Their proposals are the largest overhaul of the grid in generations. They have rescheduled their five remaining Project webinars.

The revised dates for these webinars are below, and you can register for them via their website:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

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| **Date and Time** | **Topic** |
| Wednesday 10 July 2024: 6pm-7pm | Section A and B South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk |
| Thursday 11 July 2024: 6pm-7pm | Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester |
| Tuesday 16 July 2024: 6pm-7pm | Section E and F – Braintree and Chelmsford |
| Wednesday 17 July 2024: 6pm-7pm | Section G and H Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock |
| Thursday 18 July 2024: 6pm-7pm | Project Overview Two |

**Wethersfield Airfield Asylum Accommodation Centre - BDC Judicial Review Appeal Update**

On 30th May 2024 Braintree District Council announced that it has withdrawn from the Judicial Review appeal process, challenging the Home Office of its use of Wethersfield airfield for asylum accommodation. In making this decision, the council has had to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of continuing the legal action and determining whether the gain arising from the action is worth the risks associated such as additional costs incurred, adding to the council’s budget pressures, and impact on council resourcing.

Further information at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/news/article/690/special-development-order-for-wethersfield-airfield-means-legal-challenge-no-longer-expedient->

**General Election**

Taking place **Thursday 4th July 2024**. Residents can have their say on the new MP’s for the Braintree constituency. There is lots of information for residents to be aware of including registering to vote, applying for postal/proxy votes, photo ID and changes to postal vote handling at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/generalelection>.

Important deadlines:-

Register to vote: 11.59pm Tuesday 18 June 2024. Apply for a proxy vote: 5pm Wednesday 26 June 2024.

New postal vote application: 5pm Wednesday 19 June 2024.These will be sent on 17 June 2024 to those already registered. A second batch will be sent 26th June for those who apply between 1 June and the deadline of 5pm on 19 June 2024.

**Update from Anglian Water**

The following update has been received: “*We wanted to provide an update on the project and address concerns that have been raised by some members of the community about our Haverhill to Steeple Bumpstead water mains project. As you will be aware, we have now started work to deliver this project, which when finished, will ensure that our customers continue to have a consistent and resilient water supply in years to come. We have received a small number of complaints from our customers, some of which you may be aware of, relating to the inconvenience our road closure is causing. We would like to assure you that we are working closely with Highways and our traffic management company, and we have already deployed signage and additional measures to help traffic flow and inform road users of diversions whilst keeping our workforce and the local community, as well as drivers, safe. As a gesture of goodwill we have also accommodated requests from local farmers to allow them access through our road closure to ensure their harvest and trading are not impacted.  Once again, we apologise for any disruption to the community but please be assured that we are doing all we can to minimise any inconvenience caused. Just a reminder that we also have a project webpage which is kept up to date with our progress –* [*Additional contact (anglianwater.co.uk)*](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/your-local-area/report-an-issue/additional-contact?alertId=af445bda-f04d-42ff-89b9-7fc338a498d9&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Anglian%20Water&utm_content=1&utm_campaign=1708778_One_Alliance_Steeple_Bumpstead_20240404&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0) *– but should you have any questions or suggestions for communication with the community, please let us know*.”

Contact: E: [steeple@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:steeple@anglianwater.co.uk) or call 03457 145 145 quoting reference number **61886011**

**Affordable Housing Update**

424 new affordable homes were completed during 2023-24 across the Braintree district, exceeding the council’s target by 70%. Despite the continued economic uncertainties in the housing sector, this is the highest number of affordable homes ever recorded in the district in a single year.

The council’s target for 2024/25 is for a further 250 additional affordable homes to be completed across a range of sites including in Kelvedon, Halstead, Silver End and Finchingfield.

**Watch and Report any Sightings of Asian Hornets this Summer**

A close up of a bee

Description automatically generated**The Government is urging the public and beekeepers to report any sightings.** Asian hornets are a highly effective predator of insects, including honey bees and other beneficial species, which can cause significant losses to bee colonies, and potentially other native species. **They can be identified by their very dark body, wide orange stripe on the fourth abdomen section and yellow leg ends.**

**E:** [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) **and include a photograph if it can be safely obtained. More info: https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/species-alerts/**

**Cllr**. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

Appendix c



