

# Meeting held on Monday 9th of January 2023 at 7:30pm at the Village Institute, Stratford St Mary

## Minutes

### 01.01.23 Present and apologies for absence

#### Apologies were received from:

Faye Hall (Clerk)  
Paul Alexander  
(Brian Such will take minutes in the clerks absence)

#### Councillors present

William (Bill) Davies (Chairman)  
Roger Barrell  
Derek Robinson  
Lorry Shead  
Brian Such  
Norman Woodard

### 02.01.23 Declarations of interest and dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest from councillors in respect of items on the agenda and no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest. Councillor Robinson informed the meeting that in respect of item 08.01.23 (Planning) he would not take part in any discussion or decision as he was a near neighbour to the property under consideration.

### 03.01.23 Minutes of the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Proposal for the adoption of these minutes was put forward by Councillor Barrell and seconded by Councillor Woodard and confirmed unanimously.

### 04.01.23 To consider any applications to fill the 2 vacancies on the Parish Council.

It was reported that a Councillor who had resigned last year, due to pressure of work had indicated that he was now in a position to stand again. This was generally welcomed and will be considered when written notification is received. Clerk to action.

### 05.01.23 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- (1) Lost Footpaths Langham – update (See report item 20.01.23)
- (2) New litter bin and relocation of dog bin Upper Street  
Councillor Such reported that the instruction to relocate the dog litter bin had been issued but because it would be necessary for the maintenance man to employ a second person to assist with the work, it would be preferable for all the bin installation/ relocation to be done at the same time. This situation was noted and it was confirmed that the bin released from the millennium avenue should be relocated to Strickmere, on the grass verge opposite Tenterfield. **Councillor Such to instruct maintenance man accordingly**
- (3) VI carpark extension outcome of discussion with VI trustees  
It was noted that this item no longer related to the extension of the car park at the Institute but was now more focussed on the drafting of an updated governance scheme for the Trust that would clarify the Trust's relationship with the Parish Council. The Chairman informed the meeting that this would be finalised at a Trust meeting to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January.
- (4) Coparts site Gun Hill – Email received from Copart please see item 12.01.23 correspondence. The response was noted but Councillor Such reported that there had, so far, been no discernible reduction in the passage of vehicle transporters along Lower Street. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored/ reviewed periodically and further letters sent to Coparts if there were no reduction.
- (5) ETRO's Lower Street  
It was agreed that the suggestion, received from Highways, that the proposed additions to the Double Yellow Lines scheme be progressed as a TRO (Traffic

WJG  
13/3/23

Restriction Order) rather than an ETRO (Experimental Traffic Restriction Order), be adopted, **Clerk to communicate with Highways accordingly**

- (6) Speeding tractors from PG Rix Farm – Email received from PG Rix please see item 2.01.23 correspondence.

It was agreed that this item should be monitored/ reviewed periodically and further letters sent if necessary.

- (7) River Garden – Willow Tree

Councillor Such reported that he had written to Essex and Suffolk Water to obtain an update on this work. He had received a response confirming that the work would be undertaken and that a date for doing so would be determined in the near future.

**Councillor Such to report when date received.**

#### **06.01.23 To receive reports for information:**

**- County Councillor Georgia Hall**

County Councillor Hall had submitted her written report in advance of the meeting [Suffolk-January-report.pdf \(onesuffolk.net\)](#)

She drew attention to its reference to the Suffolk Warm Spaces scheme (noting that there were none in Stratford St Mary) and to the information on the proposed Council Tax increase of 3.99% made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care..

She also confirmed that the determination of action to resolve the repeated surface flooding on the Dedham Road was still work in progress and that she would seek to progress and report further in due course.

Ms Hall also reported that the removal of the restriction notices posted on the footpath adjacent to the Anchor Car Park, was also work in progress.

**- District Councillor John Ward**

District Councillor Ward referred to his submitted report.

[Babergh-Report-Jan-2023.pdf \(onesuffolk.net\)](#)

He drew particular attention to the restarting of periodic 'Town and Parish Liaison' Meetings, the first of which would be held on Wednesday 1 February, 9.30 to 11.30am at Constable Memorial Hall, East Bergholt (**see also 12.01.23**)

District Councillor Ward also referred to the introduction into service of the new environmentally friendly bin lorries and to the recently introduced practice of naming them.

In response to a question, District Councillor Ward confirmed that he would be attending and speaking at the Pylons meeting to be held at the Institute Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 12noon until 5pm.

**- Police/Neighbourhood Watch Report**

The Chairman reported that he had nothing to add under this item other than that reported crime in Stratford St Mary remained low.

Councillor Robinson referred to his recently expressed concerns about the relevance of neighbourhood Watch in today's world. He reported that he had recently learned that there were two internet information streams, one National and one for Suffolk and that although these were informative at a generic level, they did not appear to provide relevant information at a local level. Possible subject for discussion at the APM in April.

#### **07.01.23 Public Discussion –5 minute limit per resident**

A member of the public suggested that the Council should be using it's 'Resident Data Base' (launched two years ago) to issue announcements/ reminders of meeting dates and agendas. Suggesting that this might result in better attendance by the public. Councillor Such responded that, as reported at the 2022 Parish Meeting, only about a third of Parish households had signed up to the data base, which made its use for official notices questionable. A short general discussion followed and it was agreed that the Council would review use of the data-base at its March meeting with a view to putting use proposals to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

#### **08.01.23 Planning Applications:**



**DC/22/05745** – Household application – erection of two storey extension (following demolition of existing), construction of dropped kerb and creation of 3 parking spaces (one accessible).

The Chairman reported that the Council had received copy of a comment from a Neighbouring resident expressing concern about the possible light restriction from the proposed extension. This was noted but the Council view was that there was genuine need for more accommodation at the property and the proposed extension did not have any significant impact from a wider village perspective. The Council will not therefore submit comment. Neighbouring householders should however submit any concerns of their own to the planning authority.

**09.01.23 Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the date of the meeting scheduled for May 2023 had been declared a public holiday for the King's Coronation. It was agreed that the meeting would be deferred for a week, to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May

**10.01.23 Street Light painting/maintenance**

Councillor Such reported that a request to paint the lower section (up to 6 feet) of the agreed four lampposts in Lower Street, had been issued to the maintenance man and that work would commence when weather conditions permitted. The situation in respect of the painting of other posts by external contractors was however unknown. To be reviewed at the March meeting

**11.01.23 Kings Coronation**

It was noted that VillageLife would be holding its next meeting at the Parish Room on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January and that event(s) to celebrate the Coronation were topics included on the meeting agenda Councillors should attend as possible and report back to the March meeting.

**12.01.23 Correspondence received since the last meeting:**

**Email 28.11** – Woodhouse Farm Barn development – Application DC/20/01461

Resident emailed with concerns as to what has been agreed with regards to lighting at the development. Clerk has messaged back with the contact email address for Planning Enforcement at Babergh for further assistance. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to follow-up with the complainant to determine whether the issue had been resolved.

**Email 28.11** – Copart have advised that they have sent a notice/memo out to all employees, sub-contractors and all their customers to advise them to use the alternative route to avoid coming through Stratford. **(See 05-01-23 4)**

**Email 13.12** – PG Rix will reiterate to employees the need to slow down when coming through the village, but tractors are limited to 25 mph. They have advised that they had very little if any tractor movements through the village in October / November so they would like the issue of speeding tractors also brought to the attention of other local farming companies. **(See 05-01-23 6)**

**Email 20.12** – Babergh have advised that district councils are now able to re-start their meetings with town and parish councils. There is a meeting to be held on the 01.02.23 0930-1130hrs at Constable Memorial Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt.  
**The Chairman confirmed that he would attend.**

**Email 21.12** – Email received from a resident concerned that the Swan Pub have cut down a hawthorn hedge which runs the full length of the lane at the side of the venue. Resident also wanted to enquire on the regulations on burning garden waste.  
Noted: Hedge Resident contacted, no further action required.

**Email 21.12** – Resident has reported that over the past 3 months there has been incidents of dogs fouling on pavements in Strickmere. Agreement to review again, following the



relocation of the bins (see **05.01.23** (2), with a view to launching a public campaign if dog fouling still considered a problem.

SLCC membership due for renewal in January – new clerk price is £140 **Noted:**

#### **13.01.23 Finance**

The financial reports had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting

- (1) To approve the expenditure since the last meeting.  
Proposed by Councillor Barrel, seconded by Councillor Such and agreed unanimously.
- (2) Monthly cashflow analysis against agreed Precept.  
No comments
- (3) Monthly cashflow reserves.  
No comments
- (4) To consider applications for funding received before and after publication of agenda  
None received..
- (5) Maintenance expenditure – discuss and agree emergency expenditure.  
It was agreed that the currently applicable version of the Financial Regulations would be identified and confirmed at the May Meeting.
- (6) To discuss, agree and sign the Precept application.  
It was agreed that, given the current steep rise in the cost of living and the known increase in Council Tax, the precept level should remain unchanged for the coming year and that the Council would rely on its reserves to cover any necessary increase in expenditure.
- (7) Discuss keeping all the precept monies in the Parishes current account  
Defer to March meeting.

#### **14.01.23 30 MPH stickers for wheelie bins purchase**

Councillor Robinson reported that not all of the first batch of stickers had been actually deployed by the residents receiving them. Continuing would require investment of more time and further funds to buy more stickers. He questioned whether we should continue. Councillor Shead undertook to assist with the project and it was unanimously agreed that the project should be extended. Councillor Robinson to source more stickers

#### **15.01.23 Fireworks display accident**

Given that this matter had not been in the direct remit of the Parish Council and that the Council was satisfied that appropriate action had been taken, by the responsible parties, to reduce future risk, this matter is now closed.

#### **16.01.23 Thermal Imaging survey**

Councillor Robinson informed the meeting that he had confirmed that surveys would be by invitation from residents and would be external only. He had therefore arranged loan of the equipment for April. It was agreed that Councillor Robinson should seek to place advance notice of the possibility of arranging for a survey in the February Quartet magazine. This to be supported by Facebook and Web-site notices during February and March. Programme to be reviewed at March meeting.

#### **17.01.23 Confirmation of Clerks appointment**

It was noted that the Clerk had satisfactorily completed the probationary period on 12.12.22 and Councillor Barrell proposed that her appointment should be confirmed at the agreed salary. This was seconded by Councillor Woodard and unanimously approved.

#### **18.01.23 Renewal of the tenancy for the River Garden**

The decision to renew the tenancy, agreed at the November meeting, was confirmed and the Clerk is requested to follow-up with the agent.



**19.01.23 Electric Pylons campaign**

Councillor Alexander's report to the meeting with regard to the planned meeting at the Institute Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, was noted. (see also 06.01.23 re John Ward's participation).

**20.01.23 Footpaths**

Councillor Robinson drew attention to the e-mail from Langham Estate, received earlier in the day. He informed the meeting that although the situation was not as claimed by the Estate Manager, their offer to allow 'permissive access' was, he suggested, acceptable. This was generally accepted and Councillor Robinson undertook to prepare a draft response to Langham Estate, for Councillors consideration/ confirmation.

**21.01.23 Trees**

Councillor Robinson reported that in respect of the trees offered by the Suffolk Tree Wardens for local planting, the main concern appeared to be the ongoing watering of the trees to ensure their survival. He said that he would seek further advice from the group before making any recommendation.

**22.01.23 Village Institute**

Complaint received from Orchard Barns Nursery with regards to trees between the Village Institute and Orchard Barns which are over-hanging their children's play area. A quote of £450.00 has been obtained, for cutting back the trees.

Councillor Woodard reported that the Contactor quoting for the removal of the overhanging branches had advised that doing so could unbalance the trees and that further corrective work might then be required, at additional cost.

It was decided that in the interest of getting the situation resolved as quickly as possible the quote should be accepted and that additional cost be funded under the Chairman's emergency authority. Proposed Derek Robinson, seconded Roger Barrell and carried unanimously.

**23.01.23 Emergency Committee**

It was noted that copies of Holton and Capel Emergency Plans had been obtained and that these might prove helpful in the preparation of an updated plan for Stratford St Mary. In the short term, pending the development of any updated plan and in the absence of a dedicated emergency committee, it was agreed that an updated emergency contact list would be prepared and published on the web-pages, on our Facebook page and submitted to Quartet. Councillor Such to prepare.

**24.01.23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council for consideration at March Meeting**

**Appointment of Charity Trustees. Stratford St Mary Community Trust and Dedham Educational Foundation.**

Councillors Woodard and Such are not standing for office in the new term but both are willing to continue their trusteeships if requested to do so.

**Stratford St Mary, Millennium and River Gardens:** Ongoing maintenance.

**25.01.23 Confirm date for the next meeting and agree a date for the Annual Parish meeting in April**

The date of next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 commencing at 7.30pm in the Institute Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Parish Room.

The meeting was declared 'closed' at 9.23pm

