



# STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Village Institute, Higham Road,  
Stratford St Mary at 7.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## PRESENT:

Cllr W Davies - Chairman  
Cllr R Barrell - Vice Chairman  
Cllr R Tilbrook  
Cllr L Shead  
Cllr B Such  
Cllr G Pearce  
Cllr H Cairns

## IN ATTENDANCE:

J Rose - Clerk  
Two members of the public  
County Cllr Gordon Jones (arrived approximately 8.15pm)

### 01.01.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Baker, District Cllr F Swan, District Cllr S Carpendale – valid reasons given.

### 02.01.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- (1) to receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda;
- (2) to receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any);
- (3) to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

There were no declarations of interest from councillors and no requirement for dispensation.

### 03.01.19 TO APPOINT NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The appointment of Jane Rose as new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council was proposed by Cllr Such, seconded by Cllr Cairns and approved unanimously.

### 04.01.19 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

**Decision** – The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Barrell, seconded Cllr Shead.

### 05.01.19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**(1) Land at former garage site Lower Street** – Cllr Davies referred to letter dated 17 December 2018 from Thompson, Smith & Puxon (TSP) which had been forwarded to Councillors. Cllr Davies asked Councillors for their opinion relating to payment of £7,613.00. Councillors did not agree to payment of this sum. A discussion took place as to whether SSM Parish Council should reply directly to the letter from TSP or whether a reply should be prepared by Wilson Browne (solicitors acting on behalf of SSM Parish Council). The decision was taken for Cllr Davies to obtain a quote from Wilson Browne Solicitors to prepare a reply on behalf of SSM Parish Council. Cllr Davies will email Councillors with outcome of discussion.

WD

**(2) Drainage opposite the Swan Public House.** This item was returned to when Cllr Jones arrived at the meeting. Cllr Jones has submitted a list of outstanding work to Suffolk County Council including drainage opposite the Swan Public House.

GJ

**(3) Strickmere Estate Pavements.** Cllr Jones is hoping remedial work will commence in the Spring.

GJ

Ongoing

**(4) Overgrown trees and shrubs outside the Gables on approach road to A12.** Cllr Jones will chase on this issue and report back.

GJ

**(5) Tree update.** The tree stump at Kenyon Place has still to be removed. The damaged Cherry Tree at the Millenium Avenue has now been removed and replaced with a new tree. It was discussed whether VAT should be returned to the contractors who originally damaged the tree. Cllr Shead suggested SSM PC ask contractor if they wish to donate the VAT. Cllr Davies and Cllr Such will discuss with contractor.

WD BS

**(6) Public Footpaths.** Cllr Pearce informed meeting that:

- . footpath sign has been installed by Meadow Cottage;
- . sign by White House (opposite Tally Ho corner) needs replacing;
- . Cllr Davies reported that the sign between Ancient House and Garden Meadow has fallen down. Cllr Davies will ensure this is reinstalled.

WD

**(7) Playground Inspection and Issues.** Cllr Such reported that he had received two quotations for fence repair. In obtaining these quotes Cllr Such checked longevity and quality of the posts with the suppliers. The quotations were £710 from Bland Landscapes (estimated longevity 15 years) and £625 from Andy Page (longevity unknown). Cllr Such proposed, Cllr Cairns seconded acceptance of quote from Bland Landscapes of £710.00.

BS

**(8) Overgrown trees and hedges 17/18 Tally Ho Corner.** Cllr Davies visited resident of above property. Resident has spoken to Babergh DC concerning this issue and BDC have visited the property to view and measure trees and hedges. If Babergh DC trim hedges and trees resident is happy to maintain. Cllr Davies will monitor progress.

WD

#### **06.01.19 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting and this was reviewed and accepted unanimously. Cllr Such and Cllr Pearce will look into options for removing old grit bin. Cllr Davies proposed a card and gift for Jenny O'Hanlon and recorded their thanks for all her work.

BS GP

#### **07.01.19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

**(1) Resignation of Cllr K Cassell.** Cllr Davies confirmed the resignation of Cllr K Cassell from SSM PC and thanked him for his contribution.

**(2) SSM Resident Charlie Ablitt.** Cllr Davies recorded the sad passing of SSM resident Charlie Ablitt and the contribution he had made to the village.

**(3) Dedham Bridge Meeting, Duchy Barn, Dedham on 16 January at 7pm.** Cllr Davies asked which Councillors would be joining him at Dedham Bridge meeting. Cllrs Cairns, Shead, Such and Pearce indicated they would be attending.

HC LS

BS GP

#### **08.01.19 ROAD SIGNS – THE ROW/HIGHAM ROAD/SCHOOL LANE**

Cllr Davies confirmed all road signs are now installed.

#### **09.01.19 PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Such informed the meeting that the Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council Joint Local Plan was still on course to be published April/May. Cllr Such requested that this item be placed on SSM Annual Parish Meeting agenda for discussion. Cllr Such will be attending Community Energy and Neighbourhood Planning Course on 24 January.

CLERK

#### **10.01.19 VILLAGE INSTITUTE - TRAVELLERS ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING VILLAGE PLAYING FIELDS**

**(1)** Cllr Davies asked if this item was worth pursuing given the amount of open space in Suffolk. Cllr Such referred to the Government's scheme for establishing new pocket parks or refurbishment of existing parks and whether it was worth applying for a grant towards barriers and extending the car park. Following discussion, Cllr Pearce proposed and Cllr Cairns seconded placing this item on hold for review in six months.

CLERK

(2) It was agreed use of plastic mesh to extend car park should be placed on Agenda for next Parish Council meeting on 11 March. Cllr Jones asked if SSM PC had applied for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards cost of extending car park. Cllr Such will investigate extending Institute car park and costs.

BS

#### **11.01.19 CAR PARKING ISSUES LOWER STREET**

It was agreed details of this issue should be discussed at Dedham Bridge meeting on 16 January. Cllr Such thinks SSM PC should pursue having a car park in the village to accommodate visitor parking. Cllr Davies was concerned who would be responsible (Police or Babergh DC) for enforcing yellow lines if they were introduced to village. Cllr Jones informed meeting that legislation was not in place to enable Babergh DC to enforce yellow lines. Hopefully legislation will be passed in next 2-3 months. Cllr Such has approached Northumbrian Water re providing car parking on Pumping Station site however Northumbrian Water have not responded. Cllr Jones will be attending meeting at Duchy Barn, Dedham on 16 January to discuss parking issues.

#### **12.01.19 VILLAGE INSTITUTE – LAND ADJACENT**

Cllrs Davies and Barrell will arrange a meeting with the land owner to discuss future plans for the land adjacent to the village institute. Babergh DC have indicated in the past that planning permission would not be granted to develop the field. Cllrs Davies and Barrell will investigate the possibility of Parish Council purchasing the field to prevent any future development.

Ongoing  
WD RB

#### **13.01.19 NOISE FROM LE TALBOOTH AND SPEEDING VEHICLES ALONG LOWER STREET**

It was agreed that noise disturbance from Le Talbooth was rare and did not continue beyond 11.30pm. Speed watch is being used as a deterrent to cars speeding along Lower Street.

No action

#### **14.01.19 PUBLIC DISCUSSION, INCLUDING COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE/NHW REPORTS.**

(1) Cllr Jones, Swan and Carpendale had submitted their reports for January which had been circulated by the Clerk.

(2) A member of the public suggested a 10.30pm curfew on music at La Talbooth. Dedham Bridge parking, use of yellow lines and clearer signage for car park were also discussed.

(3) Cllr Davies has emailed police requesting information relating to recent burglaries and will enquire after new police representative in Capel St Mary.

WD

(4) Cllr Davies asked Cllr Jones about pot holes on Lower Street. Despite being reported on 14 May 2018 Cllr Jones said potholes had not been listed on Highways reporting tool. Suffolk Highways had confirmed receipt of the original complaint. Cllr Davies will log this complaint again with Suffolk Highways.

WD

#### **15.01.19 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

(1) Cllr Such advised that two further trees on Millenium Avenue had died. Cost for two new trees is £766 and Cllr Such will check with Fireworks Committee if they are happy funding replacement trees. If so, SSM PC will purchase trees and recover VAT so Fireworks Committee pay the net sum. Replacement of name plaques will be addressed as part of the agreed action being undertaken by Cllr Such.

BS

(2) Cllr Shead confirmed Kier are ordering 300 yard marker for A12 slip road into SSM and the remaining two chevron countdowns can now be clearly seen.

(3) Cllr Pearce informed meeting that he had recently been burgled during daylight hours and for people to be vigilant.

**16.01.19 PLANNING**

Walnut Tree Cottage – approved.

**17.01.19 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence.

**18.01.19 FINANCE**

**(1) To approve expenditure since last meeting:**

the expenditure sheet had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the amount of £1,912.02 was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Tilbrook and the vote was carried unanimously.

**(2) Monthly cashflow analysis against agreed Precept.**

No comments.

**(3) To consider applications for funding.**

£52.53 for Millenium Garden was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr Cairns and the vote was carried unanimously.

**(4) Precept 2019/20 figures to be agreed at this meeting.**

Agreement of Precept was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Barrell, seconded by Cllr Such and the vote was carried unanimously.

CLERK

**(5) To agree to the purchase of a new monitor for the Clerk’s computer.**

Due to the age and poor quality of current screen which was causing eye strain the Clerk requested purchase of a new monitor at a cost of approximately £100. Cllr Barrell may have a suitable monitor available. If not, then Councillors are happy to agree to the purchase of a new monitor.

RB/CLERK

**19.01.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Date of next meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at approximately 9pm.

W. Davies, Chairman .....

Date .....

R. Barrell, Vice Chairman .....

Date: .....

B. Such, Councillor .....

Date: .....