



# STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of Stratford St Mary Parish Council held at the Village Institute, Stratford St Mary at 7.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr W Davies - Chairman  
Cllr B Such  
Cllr N Woodard  
Cllr D Robinson  
Cllr P Alexander

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J O'Hanlon - Clerk  
County Cllr Georgia Hall  
District Cllr John Ward

**DRAFT**

**ACTION**

**01.07.22 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr R Barrell – Vice Chairman and Cllr L Shead

**02.07.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

- (1) to receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None
- (2) to receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). Cllr Robinson gave notice of a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application item relating to Weald House DC/22/03336
- (3) to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. None

**03.07.22 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

**Decision** –The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. All in favour.

**04.07.22 TO DISCUSS IF THE PC HAS RECEIVED ANY APPLICATIONS TO FILL THE 2 VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL –** None received. The advertisement to remain in the Quartet.

**05.07.22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1) **Lost Footpaths** – Cllr Robinson reported that 6 forms had so far been received for the Langham Hall Estate footpaths and he is due to contact the witnesses who have completed them to ensure they are compliant. He hopes to be able to submit the application to Essex CC before the end of July

**DR**

2) **Jubilee – Queens Green Canopy** – Cllr Such had already approached Essex and Suffolk Water about the possibility of a tree on their land beside the River Garden but had yet to hear, he will chase them up again. **BS**  
The clerk has contacted BDC about the feasibility of planting a Hornbeam tree either on their land by Matthews Close or behind the Anchor, she had yet to hear from them and will chase this up. She will also find out if there is a timescale before the offer of free trees available to us will expire. **CLERK**

3) **Fibre Broadband** – The work to lay the infrastructure has mostly been completed by Gigaclear, and it appears that the final phase of work to start will be in Higham Road shortly. Cllr Robinson will contact Gigaclear to find out when they will be finished. **DR**

4) **Purchase and location of new dog waste bin** – Clerk has now purchased the new litter bin and will advise Cllrs once it arrives. The plan is to site the new bin at Millenium Avenue and move the smaller current bin

there onto Strickmere. Stickers have been purchased by Cllr Robinson to place on all litter bins advising that they can also be used for bagged dog waste. **CLERK /DR**

#### **5) Village Institute carpark extension outcome of discussions with VI trustees**

The VI Trustees have informed us that Birketts have advised the fee will be £1000 to contact the Charity Commission about the final wording of the new constitution. The PC had agreed to cover half of the cost of legal advice at a previous meeting up to a maximum of £500.00. Cllr Such suggested wording our own constitution and submitting this to the Charity Commission ourselves for feedback. Cllr Davies will liaise with the VI Trustees on this matter and report back. The invoice for the grass for the extension work has been received and as the VI trustees had requested the PC to go ahead and arrange the work, the invoice will be paid by PC. Clerk to sort this out. Cllrs Such, Woodard and Davies will ensure the sprinkler is on for 2 hours each evening during the extreme hot weather. Ongoing.

#### **6) ANPR camera locations**

We are waiting to hear from a resident along Dedham Road as to whether the suggested location for the ANPR camera along here is acceptable to them and their neighbours. Cllr Davies will contact them again. **BD** Once this has been agreed we can advise Jonathan Shaw from Highways and get the post locations finally in place. The camera once available will be in place for approx. 2 weeks in each village around Suffolk.

#### **06.07.22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.**

Councillors had submitted their most recent reports which had been circulated by the Clerk.

- (1) **County Councillor Georgia Hall after she arrived at 8.25pm.** Cllr Hall advised that she is still waiting for an update on the signs placed on the footpath by the Anchor, she is aware of the complaints from residents. She has also noted that the signs are discriminatory in that they state the banning of "all scooters" to use the path and that this therefore discriminates against those who use mobility scooters. She was also waiting for a response on the issue of the faded white lines near the Church and B1029 junction, she will check if this has been done and chase if necessary. She also advised that she has used some of her budget to arrange mindfulness sessions for 20 students from our Primary School, to help support the mental health crisis. **GH**
- (2) **District Councillor John Ward.** Cllr Ward advised that BDC will be paying out the final energy rebates very shortly. He advised that he has requested increased patrols of the wardens at Stratford St Mary for both the Dedham Road and Lower Street DYL locations. A meeting between all interested parties including, the Police, Colchester BC, Dedham PC and SSM PC is to be arranged to try and find some solutions to the problems at the river at Dedham. Serious incident last week involving knives and the area is becoming "lawless". Also, WC facilities are desperately needed.
- (3) **Police/Neighbourhood Watch Report.** Cllr Davies advised that there was a break in at the Vale Garage last week and a window was broken, but no money is left at the property overnight, so little was taken.

#### **07.07.22 PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

No public in attendance

#### **08.07.22 CLERKS REPORT – Clerks resignation and replacement**

The Clerk had previously circulated her report. The only question was had Essex CC been back in touch about the issue with the Gallop. Clerk to chase them up. **CLERK**

Issue with not being able to forward the planning applications onto Cllrs easily, Cllr Ward asked the Clerk to forward him a planning application to see if he could see what the issues may be. **CLERK/JW**

An advert for a replacement Clerk has gone into the Quartet. Cllr Davies has also contacted Holton SM PC to see if their Clerk might consider dual roles. They have recently had a change of Clerk and she has contacted Jenny to discuss our role and see if she might want to consider it. Cllr Davies has also received 2 good references for her. Holton had also interviewed 3 other applicants for their role and suggested they might be considered if their current Clerk did not wish to take on two Parishes. Cllr Davies will get in touch with Holton and update Cllrs accordingly. Jenny to continue in Clerk role until the end of August and is happy to train the new Clerk going forward too. **CLERK/BD**

### **9.07.22 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS**

The Chairman wanted to thank Jenny for the work she has done over the past few years as SSM Clerk. The Jubilee celebration weekend had been a great success and the Chairman wanted to formally thank the Jubilee committee members for all their hard work. There is due to be a meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the events and plans going forward.

Several residents had asked what the PC are doing about the proposed new pylons. Cllr Ward commented that if the plan were ever to proceed, then as an AONB cables would be underground through SSM. However, all Councils have objected to the ideas and suggested the off shore route for the cables. There will be further public consultations ahead and many more negotiations before anything happens. Cllr Robinson will place a notice on our FB page to update residents on what Cllr Ward has said. **DR**

Finally, the chairman commented that not all Cllrs are responding to emails, some frequently give responses, but he asked if when a response is requested that all Cllrs please find the time to do so. **ALL CLLRS**

### **10.07.22 PROPOSAL FOR A DROPPED KERB OPPOSITE HALL FARM ENTRANCE – CLLR ROBINSON**

Cllr Robinson had witnessed residents with mobility issues having difficulty getting to Hall Farm and had suggested a possible solution was a dropped kerb outside Hall Farm to assist them. Cllr Hall had already looked at costings for this and it would be approx. £6000, mainly due to the legal steps. Cllr Ward advised that the PC could apply for CIL funding to cover costs. After some discussion it was proposed that Cllr Hall would look at getting a Safety Assessment done here before anything else can be decided. Ongoing. **GH**

### **11.07.22 REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE DOG BIN FROM CORNER OF SCHOOL LANE AND UPPER STREET**

The Parish Council had received a request from a local resident to move the bin as the smell was causing issues in their garden. Cllr Robinson advised that he had visited the resident to discuss a potential solution to move it the widest point of the grassed area by the 30mph sign and this was acceptable to the resident. Cllr Such to contact our maintenance contractor to move the bin asap. **BS**

### **12.07.22 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

SVP100, trail run letter received and as we had not had any issues last year, Clerk to advise the organisers we are happy but to again point out about considerate parking of supporters in Lower Street. **CLERK**

Email received from BDC about the Parking Strategy survey and to encourage residents to complete this online before 31<sup>st</sup> July. Cllr Robinson will put this onto our Facebook page. **DR**

### **13.07.22 DEDHAM ROAD AND LOWER STREET DOUBLE YELLOW LINES**

The deadline for the current temporary double yellow lines to become permanent has now passed. Our proposed changes were unfortunately submitted too late, but we agreed to request our proposed additional lines be introduced for the remainder of the 6-month experimental period. David Chenery has agreed to provide us with the costings involved in the additional lines. Councillor Such proposed to accept the current double yellow lines to become permanent, and also to ask for the additional lines to be introduced for the remainder of the experimental period and this was seconded by Cllr Alexander, all were in favour. Clerk to advise Suffolk CC of the decision **CLERK**

**County Cllr Georgia Hall arrived at 8.25pm**

### **14.07.22 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr Woodard advised that the Hedgehog gateways had not proved popular, but that Orchard Barns had taken some.

Cllr Alexander was concerned that work had commenced at the scrapyards at Gun Hill and this may lead to an increase on HGV's coming through the village, could a weight limit be considered and a suggested alternate route around the Ardleigh junction to avoid this. Cllr Hall would find out what might be done and will also liaise with her counterpart at Essex CC on this matter. **GH**

Cllr Such advised that the Mile Post in the village needs to be painted. Cllr Robinson advised he will report to Highways who have promptly come out and repainted it in the past. **DR**

Cllr Such also commented on the recent message from a resident about the parking on the pavements in Lower Street. Unfortunately, it is only illegal in London and Scotland and causes inconvenience for pedestrians, John Ward to be advised and sent the photos provided. Standard response to be used going forward for complainants to empathise, report using the tool, and let us have the reference number so we can monitor. **CLERK**

Cllr Robinson advised that the two issues raised by residents this week had both been reported using the online tools. Tree overgrown onto the bus shelter outside Christmas Cottage in Upper Street and a collapsed drain cover next to the notice board by the Anchor pub.

Cllr Davies had been contacted by a resident about the number of cars speeding along Higham Road and cats being killed here. He was requested to put a notice in the Quartet about it, Cllr Davies will arrange this. **BD**

#### **15.07.22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – to consider any applications received prior to the meeting.**

DC/22/03336 Weald House, TPO and DC/22/03161 Poynings TPO. Both applications were for tree maintenance and the Cllrs felt all work is necessary and would have no objections to this.

#### **16.07.22 FINANCE**

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

the expenditure sheets had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Woodard and seconded by Cllr Such. **Decision** –expenditure of £4852.49 from 10.05.22 to 11.07.22 was approved by all.

(2) **Monthly cashflow analysis against agreed Precept.** No comments

(3) **Monthly cashflow reserves.** No comments.

(4) **Consider applications for funding received before and after publication of agenda.** – None received

#### **17.07.22 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

The next Parish Council meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Institute.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance meeting closed at 8.55pm.