



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 9th July 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE INSTITUTE,
HIGHAM ROAD, STRATFORD ST MARY**

		Action
1.	Present and apologies for absence.	
	Bill Davies (Chairman); Richard Tilbrook; Lorry Shead; Brian Such; Kevin Cassell, Shaun Baker, Graham Pearce and Jenny O'Hanlon (Clerk)	
	Gordon Jones (County Councillor) Hilary Cairns arrived at 8.20pm	
	2 Members of the Public:	
	Apologies: - Roger Barrell (Vice-Chairman), Sue Carpendale (District Councillor); Fenella Swan (District Councillor)	
2.	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.	
3	To review and if appropriate to approve, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th May 2018.	
	The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr Tilbrook and approved unanimously.	
4.	Matters arising from the minutes	
	1. Land at former garage site Lower Street – The Chairman confirmed that he had been forwarding all recent emails relating to this matter to the councillors for reading. The latest development was for a suggested 50/50 compromise whereby half of the land was retained by Mr Wild and the other half transferred to the parish council. A letter from the Solicitors Thompson Smith and Puxon appears to dispute that there is such willingness from their client and this matter remains ongoing. The Chairman confirmed that he will continue to act on behalf of the Parish Council and will not incur any costs without prior consultation of the Councillors.	Chairman
	2. Drainage opposite the Swan PH: Once Cllr Jones arrived at the meeting this item was returned to and reported that due to there being none or very little rainfall since the last meeting, this matter remains ongoing.	GJ
	3. Strickmere Estate Pavements: Cllr Jones confirmed that no further progress had occurred since the last meeting but he will chase this up again.	GJ
	4. Flooding in School Lane into Magnolia House: Cllr Jones confirmed that he will speak to Highways again about the issues at this property.	GJ
	5. Post Office/ Village Shop: The Post Office and shop are now successfully up and running and the only negative was the need to collect undelivered parcels from Manningtree which is proving inconvenient for residents. Clerk to write to the PO again asking if maybe Dedham could be suggested as an alternative collection	CLERK

	point for parcels if a sorting office is definitely not an option.	
6.	Overgrown trees and shrubs outside the Gables on approach road to A12: Although the trees have been cut back the vegetation is still encroaching into the road and needs to be cleared. The chairman and Councillor Jones agreed to meet on site in the near future to review the matter	CLERK
7.	Tree update – The tree stump at Kenyon place has still not been removed nearly a year from when Babergh agreed that they would do it. Clerk to chase them up. Cllr Such reported on the Cherry Tree that was damaged on Millennium Avenue and advised that the original company, Original Landscape Designs had not been too helpful in giving him a price and he has therefore also contacted Fillpots for a price. They need to ensure that the same tree species is purchased. Once he has obtained an estimate from Fillpots, Cllr Such will forward it to the clerk who will then contact the contractor whose vehicle caused the damage to the tree requesting them to send their payment to us so that we can purchase a new tree. There was also a discussion about whether the old tree can be donated if it survives.	CLERK Cllr Such
5.	Clerk's Report.	
	The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting and this was reviewed and accepted unanimously. She also added that she had submitted a VAT claim for £534.76 on the 21 st June 2018. Cllr Tilbrook needs to submit his Register of Interests online and the Clerk will arrange with him how to do this asap.	CLERK/RT
6.	Chairman's Comments.	
	The Chairman advised that the work on the Institute field has been completed and all seemed acceptable. The work on the bench in the bus shelter has not yet been done and Cllr Davies will chase this up. The work to be done to improve the junction at the Kings Arms has been reported back by Cllr Jones and he also confirmed that the cost for the work will be coming out of his budget. The repairs to the house have not yet been completed. The Chairman confirmed that the footpath at Mors End will be cleared by Nick Taylor. There is a laying water issue outside number 2 Strickmere and this has already been reported and should be dealt with by Friday.	WD
7.	Parish Neighbourhood Plan	
	Cllr Such has called a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on the 17 th July at 7.30 here at the Institute. Capel St Mary had 60 people attend their meeting and Cllr Such hopes we will get good attendance and asked the Councillors if they are able to attend. The meeting should last approx. an hour. Cllr Such has put the details onto our website and the Clerk to put the meeting as an event on Facebook. BDC have advised that they will send through some information about preparing a Neighbourhood Plan also in readiness for the meeting. Cllr Such proposes holding a referendum, in September 2019, to see if it is acceptable to the residents, once the plan has been drawn up.	CLERK
8.	Land next to the Village Institute	
	Cllr Barrell had suggested that we contact Richard Thompson to express our interest in the land and the future of the field, as a benefit for residents and possibly secure possession of the land to avoid development. Clerk to draw up a letter and Cllrs Davies and Barrell to view before sending.	CLERK
9.	BMSDC – Statement of Community Involvement Consultation	
	The Cllrs briefly discussed this and it was noted that we are half way through the consultation period. There were no comments to make either way.	noted
10.	Community Speedwatch	
	Cllr Davies reported that they have recently lost two members of the Speedwatch team and that they need new volunteers. Cllr Such confirmed that he intends to volunteer once he has retired at the end of the year. Other Cllrs to ask friends and neighbours if they know of anyone else willing to offer some time.	
11.	Public Footpaths – No19	
	On footpath 19, the path between Tally Ho Corner and Meadow Cottages has been cleared but at the other end of the footpath between Meadow View and The Ancient House on Upper Street the footpath sign has been knocked down, presumably by the builders building the new house behind The Ancient House. Complaints had also been received about the overgrown vegetation here causing walkers to walk across the front	

	garden of Meadow View so it was agreed that the clerk should contact SCC to have the path cleared and the sign repaired.	CLERK
12	Playground inspection report	
	The report had been circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting and they then had discussions about some of the points although they were all low risk. Items which are cosmetic such as the bench, fence and bin a suggestion to use some of the funds left over from the renovation to be used for this was made. Zip wire – Cllr Baker to go back to Hags about the issue which should be under their warranty. Overhanging tree, grips to be tightened, Cllr Davies to compile a list of what needs doing including the bench at the bus stop to go to Nick Taylor to see if he can action. If not we will need to approach another handyman to do so.	SB WD
13	Public Discussion, including County Councillor, District Councillors and Police/NHW reports	
	Cllr Jones had submitted his report and also mentioned the Home to School Transport changes had been to cabinet but was rejected so that the planned changes will go ahead in Sept 2019. There are 3 months to have a judicial review of this. Cllrs Swan and Carpendales reports had also been submitted prior to the meeting. Cllr Jones and Cllr Davies agreed to have an onsite meeting to view some of the issues around the village such as the A12 vegetation and flooding problems. TBA A member of the public asks Cllr Davies to recap on the information discussed about the land dispute, which he did. Cllr Cairns arrived at this point of the meeting. Another member of the public commented about the broken up and overgrown with grass footpaths from Tenterfield through to Kenyon Close to the Anchor. Clerk to report. Also that the cycle path along the side of A12 is almost 6 feet high in places with weeds. Clerk to report also. Cllr Davies showed Cllr Jones the cutting matrix introduced in Jan 2017 and asked was this no longer implemented. Cllr Jones to check.	CLERK CLERK GJ
14	Councillors Reports	
	Cllr Such reported the parking problem from the Millennium Green down to the Swan is very hazardous and a major problem. The increased use of the river is the main problem at weekends. The Swan pays Anglian Water a considerable sum per year for use of the riverbank by their patrons but this is impeded by river users who park along both sides of the road so as to more easily access the river to launch their boats. Cllr Jones suggested when he meets with Cllr Davies to look at the other issues in the village they look at the land that could be possibly used for off-road parking and establish who owns it, to enable us to write to the correct land owners with a view to arranging for parking there.	GJ/WD
	Cllr Davies confirmed that he had reported the pot holes by Riverside Chimes, Clerk to report the potholes by the junction from School Lane onto Upper Street if it had not already been done. He also reported that he had sent the minutes of the latest Babergh East, Police and Parish Forum meeting to all Cllrs	CLERK
	Cllr Cairns reported that the pavement by the Talbooth is still very overgrown with nettles and has not been actions despite it being reported already. She then went on to discuss the parking at Dedham and the parish council there should sort something out as at weekends and bank holidays it is atrocious and dangerous. A discussion about how the issue can be resolved was then had and Cllr Jones confirmed that if yellow lines were here then they cannot be enforced, only by the police. Cllr Shead made a suggestion about contacting the field owner to see if this can be used for parking. Cllr Pearce commented about the cars parking in the pavement at the Talbooth causing a problem. Cllr Such remarked that the whole issue of parking in both Dedham and Stratford is a real problem which should be addressed in unison.	
15	Planning – DC/18/02832 Idle Waters Tree Work	
	Cllr Such had been to look at the site and confirmed that the work was indeed very necessary and supported it totally. All Cllrs were in favour of supporting this application. Clerk to let BDC know	CLERK
16	Correspondence	
	Clerk read out letters received from Santander, SARS and Dedham Vale AONB. There was then a discussion in relation to the correspondence from Suffolk Police about Community funded PCSO . Questions around what costs are involved, hours covered, sharing with our parishes are to be sent in a letter by the Clerk before a decision can be made.	CLERK
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 £4296.14 was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Such, seconded by Cllr Tilbrook and the vote was carried unanimously.	
	(2)	Monthly cash flow analysis against agreed Precept.	
		It was noted that the cash flow is looking healthy and that the £400.00 from Orchard Barns should be moved to the carpark reserve.	CLERK
	(3)	To consider applications for funding.	
		Open Spaces request was not approved as we will be paying our annual premium shortly and it was felt that this was a sufficient contribution.	
	Date of next meeting		
	The date of the next meeting is on Monday 10 th September 2018 commencing at 7.30pm		
	There being no further comments to make the meeting closed at 8.56pm		