



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE INSTITUTE,
HIGHAM ROAD, STRATFORD ST MARY**

		Action
1.	Present and apologies for absence.	
	Bill Davies (Chairman); Roger Barrell (Vice-Chairman); Graham Pearce; Richard Tilbrook; Shaun Baker; Brian Such; Hilary Cairns, Kevin Cassell, Jenny O'Hanlon (Clerk) Gordon Jones (County Councillor); Fenella Swan (District Councillor); 1 Member of the Public:	
	Apologies: -	
	Cllr.Lorry Shead, Sue Carpendale (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.	
3a	To review and if appropriate to approve, the minutes of the Bi-monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2017.	
	The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Barrell, seconded by Cllr Tilbrook and approved unanimously.	
3b	To review and if appropriate to approve the minutes of the planning meeting held at the Swan Inn on 4th November 2017.	
	The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Cairns and approved by those Cllrs who were present at the planning meeting on the 4 th November.	
4.	Matters arising from the minutes	
	1. Land at former garage site Lower Street – API form. The Chairman reported that since submitting the form he had received a response that they would take no further action, but has not accepted this and is now dealing with the Swansea Office. He will report back in January but our next step could be legal advice if the cost is not prohibitive.	Chairman
	2. Drainage opposite the Swan PH: No recent incidents. Continue to monitor and report to Cllr Jones when necessary	
	3. Strickmere Estate Pavements: It was noted that the weed killing had been done but this had led to all residents having the edge of their grass also killed. Cllr Jones confirmed on his arrival that he has not chased the outstanding work again since the last two times and will now chase again but suspects that due to the impending cold weather season the work is unlikely to be done until next year. Continue to monitor.	Cllr. Jones/ Cllr Cassell
	4. Play area – Insurance liability re zip-wire: The faults referred to in the inspection report are believed to have been corrected but the correction reports have not yet	

	been received. Clerk reported that she is still having difficulty getting a response from Hags about the post completion work having been done in writing. Cllr Baker confirmed that he will also chase Hags on this again. Report back at January meeting.	Clerk/Cllr Baker
	5. Flooding in School Lane into Magnolia House: No recent incidents. However the flooding of the soakaways on Strickmere was discussed at this point. Cllr Jones will chase the clearance of the soakaways again.	Cllr Jones
	6. Deterioration of pavement outside the Church.: Ongoing matter	Cllr Jones
	7. Post Office/ Village Shop: We are still waiting to hear about the decision with regards to the Post Office.	
	8. Grass cutting issues raised at APM: The standard of the grass cutting appears to have improved and it is being cut with the timescales. This matter is concluded.	
	9. Overgrown trees and shrubs outside the Gables on approach road to A12. Still poses a visibility problem. This has been referred to County Councillor Gordon Jones and reported to highways. Cllr Jones on his arrival confirmed that he will again chase this matter up	Cllr Jones
	10. Tree update - Stump at Kenyon close: Still not removed, Clerk continues to chase BDC about this matter, but possibly the change of personnel at the arboriculture team has impacted on this. Clerk now dealing with Andy Graham.	CLERK
	11. Institute playing field and village benches: Cllr Such had obtained 3 quotes for the work needed to clear the vegetation at the periphery of the field, reseed the grass and also remove the existing cuttings from the carpark. The cheapest quote from Andy Page was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Cassell and seconded by Cllr Baker and approved unanimously. Cllr Such will contact Andy Page to arrange for the work to be done. A discussion was then had by the Council about the relocation of the football posts. Again Andy Page was the cheapest quote and it was proposed by Cllr Cairns and seconded by Cllr Baker to arrange for Andy to also do this work after a site meeting has occurred to decide where the posts should go. Cllr Such will also ask Andy Page to provide a quote for an annual maintenance of the village institute periphery.	Cllr Such
5.	Clerk's Report.	
	The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting and this was reviewed and accepted unanimously.	
6.	Chairman's Comments.	
	The Chairman reported that he had attended the remembrance service at church on Sunday and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.	
	The Chairman had attended the meeting of a Town and Parish briefing on 21 st September and that there was no news to report from this.	
	He reported that the newly appointed litter picker Neil Hazelwood was doing an excellent job and seems very enthusiastic.	
	The firework event had been very successful again and the Chairman had been advised that they had made £3000 profit. He was also approached to enquire if he could suggest any good causes to donate funds to. The Play area was mentioned and the goal post relocation costs. No decision was made however.	
7.	Parish Plan	
	Cllr Such reported that no progress had currently been made due to work commitments but he and Cllr Cassell will be reporting back at the January meeting with a proposed plan.	Cllr Such/Cllr Cassell
8	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Development Plan	
	The Chairman had sent an email challenging Stratford St Mary's status as a core village and Cllr Swan reported that we will remain as a hinterland village currently and that another consultation will be carried out in the new year.	
9.	Institute car parking	
	It had been noted that for the last 2 months, there have been as many as 9 cars parked there on some days and how this was affecting the hall users not being able to park here. Cllr Davies had received advice from NALC about the rules around charging for use of	

	our carpark. He had also spoken to the Nursery owner, who did not appear to be concerned about being charged for her staff to use our car park. The Clerk mentioned about putting signage up about only hall users being permitted to park in the car park. Cllr Davies will speak to Andrew Tubb about what cost would be incurred in drawing up a legal agreement and report back at the January meeting.	Chairman
10	The Local Government Boundary Commission	
	The Councillors have had the opportunity to look at the review details of being linked with the other villages and having one District Councillor represents us instead of two. The only negative was the name of the new ward and it was suggested a more neutral name such as Brett Vale ward rather than Polstead ward be submitted. Clerk to respond to the consultation before the deadline date of 11 th December.	CLERK
11	Mid Suffolk/BDC merger	
	Cllr Swan was asked for her input and was not able to add any further information on what we already know. She commented that now the two councils are sharing staff, a Chief Executive and are working from the same building, it seems to be moving in that direction. A discussion was had about why of the 42 Councillors elected; only the cabinet of 8 were actually decision makers. Cllr Swan and Cllr Jones explained that this was normal practice within local government and generally helps to speed up decision making. The future of Corks Lane site is to be decided in December.	
12	Public Discussion, including County Councillor, District Councillors.	
	Cllr Jones had previously sent his report for October and November and referred to the public drop-in sessions about the proposed new quarries in the area. A new one has been proposed in the Belstead area near to the A12 at Copdock, along with extensions to the quarry's at both Tattingstone and Layham. Cllr Swan had also sent her reports and advised that the move to Endeavour house has now concluded. She spoke of the improved working conditions and the multi-story car park plus the use of the Park and Ride as free for 2 years for employees. She also confirmed that all positions had been filled, although they are looking for Planning Officers in Ipswich but this was not due to the relocation. A perceived benefit of being in Ipswich is that the Council generally receives more applications for job adverts due to the location.	
	A member of the public shared his opinion of being against the merger of the two councils. He also mentioned the tree stump in Kenyon Close and poisonous mushrooms growing on it again this Autumn.	
13	Councillors Reports	
	Cllr Barrell mentioned about cars continually parking on the pavement in School Lane meaning people with pushchairs or wheelchairs will struggle to pass safely. Chairman is due to attend the Police meeting on Wednesday and will raise this there to see if anything can be done. Cllr Barrell and Davies will assist the Clerk with a letter to local farms about the speeding tractors coming through the village, particularly since the Boxted Apple Farm crash recently. The three raised manhole covers outside Weavers Cottage had been inspected and deemed not dangerous, report again as they are a definite trip hazard. Cllr Tilbrook raised the overgrown hedges on School Lane again and this is something Cllr Shead is dealing with. Cllr Cairns had two amendments to the Emergency Plan which had been distributed at the start of the meeting. A change to Sue Hearn's telephone number and the Environment Agency number too. She also asked if anyone had any other names for suggestion to add to the Emergency team. Cllr Such updated us on information he had obtained at the East Anglian Tree Warden conference attended a few weeks back. There was concern about the Ash dieback disease, which could mean there will be no ash trees left in 10 years' time. Particular concern for ash trees in public places as limbs falling off presents a hazard. Cllr Such will check to see if Stratford St Mary could be affected by this problem. Cllr Cassell commented that the new bridge on the Weir doesn't have a lock on it and members of the public are walking up to view through the gate. Clerk to check with River Stour Trust if a lock should be in place. Also the private property sign which was once in place here appears to be missing. Cllr Davies had been approached by the residents of The Bowling Green, Lower Street to see if there is any possibility of a disabled space for parking outside the house. Cllr Jones will look into this for us.	WD WD/RB/ CLERK CLERK LS CLERK BS CLERK GJ

14	Planning – To discuss any planning applications that may be received prior to the meeting. DC/17/05460 Gooseacre, Lower Street	
	Gooseacre, Lower Street, Erection of car lodge, garden workshop, storage and studio building. Acceptance proposed Cllr Barrell, Seconded Cllr Cairns and agreed unanimously	
15	Correspondence – To discuss items of correspondence received since the last meeting.	
	None received	
16	Finance	
(1)	To approve expenditure since last meeting.	
	The expenditure sheet had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and this was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Cairns, seconded by Cllr Such and the vote was carried unanimously.	
(2)	Monthly cash flow analysis against agreed Precept.	
	Reserve sum of £1300 to be updated on the cash flow analysis	CLERK
	Councillors had no further comments to make.	
(3)	To consider applications for funding.	
	A request had been made for a donation from the Lettice Dykes charity fund by a young resident of the village. After some discussion Cllr Cairns proposed a sum of £200.00 this was seconded by Cllr Such and the vote was carried unanimously. Clerk to arrange the payment	CLERK
(4)	Santander bank account	
	A discussion was had about a change of bank account to enable a more modern way of banking, eg bank transfers. The Clerk had obtained details from the big 4 banks and Nat West was suggested as a good option. Clerk to investigate further and report back at the January meeting.	CLERK
(5)	Precept 2018/19	
	A brief discussion was had about items to consider over and above the usual expenses for next year's precept, these included, benches, Millennium Garden, replenishment of reserve funds after new playground expenditure. Figures to be agreed at the January meeting.	
2.	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next meeting is Monday 8 th January commencing at 7.30pm	
	There being no further comments to make the meeting closed at 9.07pm	