



# STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE BI-MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE INSTITUTE, HIGHAM ROAD,  
STRATFORD ST MARY**

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Present and apologies for absence.</b></p> <p>1. Cllr Bill Davies (Chairman); Cllr Roger Barrell (Vice Chairman); Cllr Shaun Baker; Cllr Brian Such; Cllr Kevin Cassell, Cllr Graham Pearce, and Cllr Richard Tilbrook.</p> <p>Members of the Public: 2</p> <p>Apologies received Cllr Lorry Shead and Cllr Hilary Cairns</p>	
<p><b>2. Declarations of interest and dispensations.</b></p> <p>(1) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None</p> <p>(2) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). None</p> <p>(3) To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. None</p>	
<p><b>3 To approve Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.</b></p> <p>The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Such, seconded by Cllr Barrell and the vote carried unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters arising from Minutes.</b></p> <p>(1) Land at Former Garage Site Lower Street</p> <p>Cllr Davies has nearly completed the work on the completion of the API form, he will once Cllr Shead has provided him with some final items to include he proposes to send the form off in the next 2-3 weeks.</p> <p>(2) Drainage opposite the Swan PH</p> <p>With the lack of any significant rainfall recently, no photographs of flooding have been forthcoming. Cllr Such will take photographic evidence of any flooding when it next occurs.</p> <p>(3) Play Area – Final update from Cllr Baker</p> <p>The new play area was successfully completed and officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> May, attended by the School, EADT and Tesco's. There have now been photos and articles in the EADT and In Touch magazine. The invoice has been paid £27239.04 and we are awaiting the VAT reclaim of £4539.84. There will be £300 balance remaining from the grants as a contingency. We have also had donated £1000 from the Fireworks committee to go</p>	<p>WD</p> <p>BS</p>

	towards additional equipment and/or fence. Cllr Baker will get quotes for work needed on the fence. The cost of the installation included an inspection and the Clerk has diarised the Annual Inspection for May 2018. A question was raised about how our insurance policy covers us for legal liability for the zip-wire. The Clerk will check this again and report back.	SB CLERK
(4)	Tree Update  The new tree planted on Kenyon Close is being watered by the resident and the old stump has still not been removed. Clerk confirmed that she had already emailed David Pizzey about the matter but will chase the issue again.	CLERK
(5)	Millennium Garden  Cllr Such reported that some signage for a diversion has been left by the Garden unnecessarily and needs to be removed. He will take it down and we will report the issue to Cllr Gordon Jones. £44.95 has been spent from the precept for plants for the Garden. Cllr Davies commented that the Garden is looking as lovely as when it was created for the Millennium.	BS
(6)	Strickmere Estate Pavements  No further updates and still awaiting email from John Simpson since his visit confirming all the items that need attending to. Cllr Jones will follow this up. Pavements to remain on the agenda as work is not due to be actioned until the Autumn.	GJ
(7)	Flooding in School Lane into Magnolia House  This problem was also looked at on John Simpson's visit and also remains outstanding. Area to be photographed during next significant rainfall.	
(8)	Deterioration of pavement outside the Church  Gordon Jones to arrange for this to be actioned when funds are available. Issue to remain on agenda.	GJ
(9)	Post office/Village Shop  The Clerk explained that she had contacted Royal Mail about the possibility of an alternative to the sorting office at Manningtree with no response. She will chase them again on the matter.	CLERK
(10)	Grassing cutting issues raised at the APM  The Clerk read out the email response she had received from Peter Garrett at BDC. Cllr Cassell will keep a record of how often the grass is cut to see if this corresponds with their "3 week cycle" The Parish Council agreed that they do not necessarily want to incur any additional cost for extra cuts, but a better quality. Clerk to establish from BDC how much their cuts cost, how many per year and can they provide a list of their approved contractors. This will enable us to decide whether to arrange an alternative to BDC cutting the grass in SSM.	KC CLERK
(11)	Overgrown trees and vegetation outside the Gables on the approach to	

the A12

A discussion was had about the work currently being carried out at this location by Dedham Vale Tree Company. Clerk to contact Highways about A12 verges and the verge along Dedham Road too.

CLERK

5. **Clerks Report**

The Clerk had submitted her report to the Councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Davies went through the items. Millennium Avenue litter bin, which appears later on the agenda was discussed at this point. Clerk had received a reply from Christine McSloy about BDC not being able to empty the bins more regularly and suggested the PC purchasing either a larger or a second bin for this location. Estimates for a new bin to be added to the agenda for the September meeting.

CLERK

6. **Chairman's Comments.**

The Chairman commented about the lovely article in the East Anglian Daily Times for the new Playground. He also read out the letter from the Fireworks committee accompanying their £1000 donation. Clerk to arrange a letter of thanks to them. He also read out Cllr Such's report about the success of the Village Open Garden day and that they were able to make generous donations to the Church of £1000 and also retain £500 to fund future Villagelife activities from the profit made on the day. The Chairman had attended the Babergh and Mid Suffolk liaison meeting, where the move to Endeavour House was discussed and the huge savings that will be made on running costs of the properties at Hadleigh and Needham Market. The Chairman had attended the last two Babergh East Police and Parish Forum meetings in Hadleigh and Chelmondiston and although crime levels remain low, a major concern expressed by many attendees was that of vehicles speeding through their villages.

CLERK

7. **BAPTC**

Cllr Davies was not able to attend the last meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July but he had forwarded the BAPTC constitution onto all other Councillors for their consideration. A discussion was then had about whether SSM PC should join the group or not. The consensus was that SSM would not join the group but Cllr Davies is still happy to attend the meetings as a non-member to gather useful information.

8. **Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Babergh**

The Councillors had a brief discussion about how this actually affects the Parish Councillors and what response they should give. Cllr Swan arrived at this point and clarified that it will be the District Councillors that will mainly be affected by the review rather than Parish Councillors. Therefore as no Councillors had any other views either way on the matter, no response will be given.

9. **Public Footpaths**

Cllr Cassell confirmed that he had himself cutback some overgrown vegetation along the footpaths reported by Cllr Shead near Mors End and leading to School Lane. But that this was all that had been done and the fallen tree was still partially blocking one of the pathways. Clerk to chase SCC to arrange for this to be cleared.

CLERK

10. **Overflowing litter bin Millennium Avenue**

Item already discussed under Clerks Report

11. **Tree Surgery at Village Institute Field**

Three estimates had been obtained for the tree work needed at the VI field. MD Tree Services £450.00

Bob Chamberlain £420.00 - £450.00

Andy Page £275

Proposal to accept the cheapest quote by Andy Page by Cllr Barrell and seconded by Cllr Baker all in favour. Clerk to go ahead and contact Andy to arrange for the work to be done.

CLERK

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**Public Discussion, including County Councillor and District Councillors and Police/NHW reports**

Cllr Swan had previously forwarded her report to all Cllrs and had the following to add. Due to the high level of day visitors to Dedham, Colchester BC will be making some changes to make the bins larger as they are regularly overflowing. There is some discussion about adding some road markings, as parking on the road is a huge issue and Dedham Vale are getting involved too. Cllr Swan added that the parking in SSM close to the Swan PH is also a huge issue with day visitors and there will be an accident soon if something is not done to rectify it. The idea of a carpark facility for SSM at the Weir was raised by Cllr Such due to the level of people using the River Stour. Cllr Jones will look into this and also contact the River Stour Trust.

GJ

Cllr Jones had also supplied the Cllrs with a report prior to the meeting and added that there have been concerns raised about the proposed changes at the Copella factory site. He had visited the site following the planning application last week and had been assured about certain issues. Although they plan to increase the size of the building and increase their workforce by 115 people, there is no plan to increase the volume of movements. The drivers are instructed to take a route right out of the site and use the A134 and A12 therefore not coming through SSM. They appear to be a responsible employer and operate a second warning rule (and they are out) for their drivers who don't follow the correct routes. No objections had been received from Leavenheath PC so far and Polstead PC has this on their agenda for their next meeting. The emails and phone call to Cllr Davies on this matter was from a concerned resident of Leavenheath.

Cllr Jones had been to the Village Primary School Road Safety awards ceremony where SSM were represented and he was very impressed with this.

The visit by the Road Minister, as we have already been advised, is to now be a shorter meeting with no time for Parish Councillors to meet with the Minister. Any other issues that the PC wanted to raise about slip roads etc, to be emailed to Cllr Jones who will raise this on our behalf. Cllr Such mentioned School Lane still being a problem with traffic volume.

Cllr Davies mentioned the blue sign outside the pumping station "unsuitable for HGV's" needs some attention. Cllr Jones will get this actioned.

GJ

A member of the public raised some issues about the Strickmere Estate pavements and in particular the yellow paint markings outside his property. Highways have already admitted that this is an issue that they intend to resolve in September along with the other work highlighted at the meeting with John Simpson. Cllr Jones had also not received any email yet confirming all the work that needs to be done and he will chase this up.

GJ

Overgrown shrubs at several locations need to be sorted. School Lane, The Anchor, and hedge outside Access Accounting. Clerk to report or send letters to residents as necessary.

CLERK

Overgrown verges on the A12 slip roads again reported. Clerk to report to Highways. The level of debris and broken glass under the underpass is terrible. Speedwatch to check and report or tend to this on their next session.

BD/KC

The cycletrack/pavement alongside the A12 is still very overgrown and becoming unpassable, going towards Four Sisters. Clerk to report

CLERK

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**Councillors Reports**

Cllr Davies advised that Tim Passmore will be at a Public event in Hadleigh on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

He also advised of a dead tree along Millennium Avenue and all the memorial plaques that are missing or have been damaged. A discussion was then had and a suggestion of having one large plaque with all the names on was made. Cllr Such

will speak to the Clerk about how this can be done and that Villagelife may well want to assist with this plan.

Cllr Such also asked for the Parish Plan to be on the agenda for the September meeting.

Cllr Baker said we need to obtain quotes for the fence around the new play area to be repaired; this will also be on the agenda for the September meeting.

BS/  
CLERK

14 **Planning**

A planning application for Billy's Lane, improvements to Telecommunications DC/17/03076 had been circulated prior to the meeting and this was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Cassell and seconded by Cllr Pearce, all were in favour. Clerk to advise BDC/Mid Suffolk as necessary.

CLERK

15 **Correspondence – Proposed expansion of Boxford Fruit Farm**

Copella Site already discussed previously.

16 **Finance**

- (1) To approve the expenditure since last meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Such and seconded by Cllr Baker. All Cllrs unanimously agreed.
- (2) Monthly cash flow analysis against agreed Precept. Cllr Baker went through the figures with the Clerk and the Playground reserve and Tesco's Grant reserve having now both been spent need to be at a zero figure, which will put the total current funds back to a positive figure of £8184.67.
- (3) To consider applications for funding – None received

**Date of next meeting**

The date of the Parish Council Meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm