



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE BI-MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 14th November 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE INSTITUTE, HIGHAM
ROAD, STRATFORD ST MARY**

	Action
<p>1. Present and apologies for absence.</p> <p>1. Cllr Bill Davies (Chairman); Cllr Roger Barrell (Vice Chairman); Cllr Richard Tilbrook; Cllr Shaun Baker; Cllr Brian Such; Cllr Graham Pearce; Cllr Lorry Shead; Cllr Hilary Cairns</p> <p>Members of the Public: 4</p> <p>Apologies received from District Cllr Sue Carpendale</p>	
<p>2. Co-option Vote for New Councillor</p> <p>Kevin Cassell had written to the Parish Council on 18th October asking to be considered for the position of Councillor. All Councillors had been given a copy of his letter and the Chairman asked him if he would like to say something about himself to add to his letter. He gave a short introduction and then his application was proposed by Cllr Barrell and seconded by Cllr Tilbrook all Councillors were unanimous. Kevin signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at the table with the other Councillors.</p>	CLERK
<p>3. Declarations of interest and dispensations.</p> <p>(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). None (3) To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. None</p>	
<p>3a To approve Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th September 2016.</p> <p>The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr Cairns and the vote carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>4. Matters arising from Minutes.</p> <p>(1) Land at Former Garage Site Lower Street</p> <p>A local Solicitor had today given Cllr Davies an email giving some pointers on how to complete the API form as successfully as possible. The Councillors had not all had the opportunity to read the email at that time. But we understand we have until Dec 2020 before the case needs to be made. Cllr Davies suggested should we put an article in the Quartet asking for support/information from local residents about the land. Other councillors felt that this may too controversial and that we should approach villagers personally, maybe a petition.</p>	BD

(2) Drainage opposite the Swan PH

Cllr Gordon Jones commented on this once he had arrived at the meeting, He confirmed that Highways commented that they have done all that they can, the new pipework had helped but it's a capacity issue. His suggestion was to photograph the area during the next heavy rain and send this onto him via email.

(3) Resurfacing Upper Street – removal of signs

Cllr Jones had emailed Teresa Moyes about this again today. Signs appear to be the property of La Farge

(4) Training – Clerk/Councillors

The Clerk to arrange for the New Councillor training for Cllr Cassell as soon possible.

CLERK

(5) Play Area

Cllr Baker had sent an update on the preferred proposals for the Playground to all Cllrs before the meeting. He had visited 2 of the 4 suggested sites by the preferred company HAGS SMP. Cllr Baker then showed the Cllrs a large site plan. A 20 meter zip wire is included in the proposal but we need to decide on its location on the playing field. A discussion was then had about this and it was agreed to have an on site meeting to decide the best location. The surface type was discussed and although a rubber finish would be ideal this was cost prohibitive and a future option of raising funds for this at a later time suggested. The bark surface will need to be deeper than it is currently, for safety reasons. BDC require 3 policies in place as part of their grant agreement. Cllr Baker is awaiting the outcome of questioning the necessity of these policies. Tesco are happy for us to put back the use of their Grant until April 2017. Cllr Cairns queried about the state of the fence and its location. It will be £500.00 to move the original fence to accommodate the new plan.

SB

(6) Tree Update

Cllr Such read out the attached Tree Officer Report. To add he confirmed BDC have no issue with the home owner at Christmas Cottage lopping their tree. Also the owner of the dead tree at Matthews Close has agreed to cut it down and remove it.

(7) Millennium Garden

Cllr Such confirmed that work at the Garden continues and they have been promised some plants to complete the shrubbery by the bench. They also plan to shortly plant some daffodil bulbs. The fir tree recently uncovered is to be decorated for Christmas and an event including Father Christmas & school children has been arranged for 17th December at 4pm

5. **Clerks Report**

The Clerk had submitted her report to the Councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Davies went through the items.

6. **Chairman's Comments.**

Cllr Davies advised that he had attended the Remembrance Sunday service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. The fence at the village institute has been painted by Jim Sherifi, free of charge. The fire work display was excellent. The entrance to the car park at the VI has been repaired. A discussion was had about

whose responsibility it is for the upkeep of the carpark and the PC should put away funds from the precept to cover the cost of future expenses of the car park, as the VI committee are only responsible for the Hall and fences. Cllr Davies attended the Babergh Alliance of Town and Parish Councils meeting.

7. **Pavements – Strickmere Estate**

The pavements continue to be a source of complaint from residents and these need to be raised again with BDC. We need to continually push the Council or nothing will be done to resolve this issue.

CLERK/
FS

8. **Precept Referendum**

Due to the size of Stratford St Mary we should not be subject to the 2% limit. Clerk is waiting to receive the information from BDC about this year's precept and we will decide the amount at the January meeting.

9. **Proposed removal of BT public phone boxes**

52 phone boxes within the BDC area are to be closed due to lack of use. The one in Upper Street is the 3rd most used on the list, which is surprising and maybe due to the lack of mobile phone signal in the area. The Parish Council feels that we should fight to keep the one on Upper Street, in case of emergencies, but are not concerned about the one of the A12. This was proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed unanimously. Suggestion of a WI-FI hotspot. Clerk to contact Mel at BDC to advise of the PC views on the closures by 4/12/16

CLERK

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

Cllr Swan had sent out her report prior to the meeting and added that they now have a new Chief Exec in place who comes from Suffolk Coastal DC and a new website is to be launched end of December.

Cllr Jones commented on Matters Arising points 4(2 and 3) already. With regards to the flooding at Magnolia House it's been agreed that a watching brief is appropriate here, but he thinks an order for the works should be put in place now.

An issue with the pavement outside the church has been logged and Cllr Jones will report this also.

GJ

The Chairman then asked if any members of the public would like to speak or ask the Cllrs any questions. It was mentioned that in the past the trees on Strickmere has always been pruned regularly but they had not been done for several years and that they were becoming dangerous, especially some large Cherry Trees. Cllr Such will contact BDC particularly with regards to Kenyon Close and the Strickmere estate.

BS

The pavements on Strickmere Estate were again brought up at this point and Cllr Swan will look into this for us.

FS

The Fire work display was excellent but spoilt by the loud music which continued during the display and was unnecessary. Other Cllrs had had similar feedback and this would be passed onto the Firework Committee.

11 **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Baker confirmed that he would arrange a meeting for a Saturday morning to decide about the location of the zip wire.

SB

Cllr Davies reported that BDC has admitted responsibility for the overgrown trees and vegetation on the footpath between Tally Ho and Spanbies and that they promised this will be dealt with by Christmas.

Cllr Pearce reported that one of the church bells is being repaired, so there will be no bell ringing for the next 2 months.

Cllr Such volunteered to become the village archivist at the next meeting. Remove the advert from Quartet.

CLERK

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Planning

No other applications have come through but approval for 33 Strickmere had been circulated.

13

Correspondence

One email had been received by Daniel Bowman asking to quote for grass cutting and hedge trimming. Clerk to send a thank you and keep on file for future reference.

CLERK

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Finance

- (1) To approve the expenditure since last meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Such and seconded by Cllr Pearce. All Cllrs unanimously agreed.
- (2) Monthly cash flow analysis against agreed Precept. Request to break down the budgeted reserves and playground figures by Cllr Baker.
- (3) To consider applications for funding – None, Precept to be agreed at the January meeting and discussion had about the Firework funds. Cllr Shead to speak to the firework committee about how funds spent.
- (4) Approval of the BDO audit – two items that had been raised by BDO, HMRC registered for Clerks salary and S137 correctly recorded are now being actioned. Audit proposed by Cllr Such and seconded by Cllr Cairns. All Cllrs unanimously agreed. Clerk to publish audit on the website.

CLERK

LS

CLERK

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm after wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.