



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 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; Roger Barrell (Vice-Chairman), Hilary Cairns and Jenny O'Hanlon (Clerk)	
	Gordon Jones (County Councillor) Sue Carpendale (District Councillor); Fenella Swan (District Councillor) arrived at approx. 8.20pm	
	13 Members of the Public:	
	Apologies: - none	
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 Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th July 2018.	
	The Minutes having been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Shead, seconded by Cllr Pearce and approved unanimously.	
3b	To review and if appropriate to approve, the minutes of the Planning meeting held at the Anchor Inn on Saturday 1st September 2018.	
	The Minutes having been circulated to those Councillors present at the meeting were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Such, seconded by Cllr Shead and approved unanimously by those present on the 1 st September.	
4.	Matters arising from the minutes	
	<p>1. Land at former garage site Lower Street – The Chairman opened a discussion about the Parish Council paying for expert legal advice from adverse possession solicitor (Wilson Browne) to see whether it is worth the Parish Council pursuing the claim over the land. Cllrs Pearce and Cassell did not agree with the funds being used for this purpose. The Chairman opened up the discussion for public comment at this time and one resident offered financial support in the future if needed to help us pursue the issue. After discussion the consensus was that as this was our final attempt, after years of this ongoing matter and was also the first time that public funds would have been spent on the cause, we should proceed. It was felt that as parishioners would benefit from regaining access to the river at this point that we should make this final effort, but limit the funds used to £1000.00. Cllr Barrell proposed that we employ the services of Wilson Browne limited to the £1000.00 spend, and this was seconded by Cllr Cairns and 7 Councillors were in favour and 2 against. The Chairman will contact the solicitors this week.</p>	Chairman
	2. Drainage opposite the Swan PH: Once Cllr Jones arrived at the meeting this	

	item was returned to and reported that there has been no progress on this issue. Cllr Jones asked the Clerk to let him know the name of the water company who owns the land here when she has established who it is	GJ/CLERK
	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 previous reports have stated this is an issue for the homeowner but if photographic evidence of any future flooding can be produced he will look into this matter again.	Ongoing
	5. Post Office/ Village Shop: The Clerk had contacted the Post Office about the issue around undelivered parcels having to be collected from Manningtree. They have confirmed to her that this is a Royal Mail issue and given her contact details for them. She will now approach Royal Mail on the matter.	CLERK
	6. Overgrown trees and shrubs outside the Gables on approach road to A12: Cllr Davies and Cllr Jones met at the site two weeks ago, it has now been reported online and we await the work to be completed.	Ongoing
	7. Tree update – The tree stump at Kenyon place has been chased up again by the Clerk on 30 th August. Cllr Such had now obtained 3 quotes to replace the Cherry Tree that was damaged on Millennium Avenue. The cheapest option was from Hedging Plants for £446.53 ex VAT. Cllr Such will supply the clerk with the details who will then contact the contractor to advise and gain payment to enable the new tree to be purchased. Cllr Such also advised that two other trees along the avenue have died and we need to consider replacing them.	Cllr Such CLERK
	8. Public Footpaths – Cllr Davies has spoken to the residents of Priests House, who are aware about the broken footpath sign and once the work is completed here they will arrange for the contractors to repair it.	
	9. Playground Inspection and issues – Cllr Baker had contacted Hags about the issue with the zip wire raised in the report, he is waiting to hear from them and will chase them up. The level of bark needs topping up in the play area and it is suggested that a cubic metre be purchased for this. Cllr Davies and the clerk will liaise to purchase a new large bag of bark from our previous supplier. The donation of £1000 from the firework committee to be used for any work needed here. Cllr Such raised the point that we need to be doing and recording a weekly visual inspection of the playground to adhere to the T&C of our insurance policy. The Clerk, and Cllrs Such and Shead will ensure that this happens going forward. The issue of should we have warning signage at the park “use at own risk etc” was raised. Cllr Baker to contact Hags to see if they can supply us with options.	SB WD/Clerk Clerk/SB/ LS SB
5.	Clerk's Report.	
	The Clerk had circulated her report prior to the meeting and this was reviewed and accepted unanimously. The nettles by the Talbooth were cleared on 7 th September and the pathway along the side of A12 has also now been cleared.	
6.	Chairman's Comments.	
	The Chairman commented that he is forwarding the Highways weekly update and checked that everyone is happy for this to continue, all Cllrs were happy with this. He also commented that the Speedwatch team still need more volunteers and that again SSM has had the most reported speeding vehicles in the period Jan to August.	
7.	Road Signs - The Row/Higham Road/School Lane	
	BMSDC had changed the signs in Higham Road and School Lane without consultation of either the residents or the PC. The resident who had initially contacted the PC and then BMSDC about issues he was experiencing with parcels being delivered to The Row, spoke briefly about his reasons for contacting BMSDC and also to say he was disappointed that they had taken this action without notifying the residents. A discussion around the problems that the change of road names will now cause continued and people had concern about their property deeds and notifying every one else of their “apparent” change of address. One resident (HG) had already been in contact with BMSDC and they had agreed that the road signs will be changing back and we needed to notify them what should be the correct signage. After much discussion it was agreed that the road signs should state, Higham Road by the Kings Arms end and again at the other end by School Lane. The sign “The Row” should be relocated outside the row of bungalows that it actually relates to. Cllr Shead suggested it should also say 1-6 The Row on it. Another resident of	

	School Lane asked if a new sign could be put up in School Lane, as there is only one presently at the other end of the lane. HG agreed to contact BMSDC on the Parish Councils behalf to advise them what the residents have agreed. She will also contact the Sat Nav companies to update accordingly too. Cllr Davies will keep in touch with her to follow this through.	WD
8.	Parish Neighbourhood Plan	
	Cllr Such reminded everyone about the meeting next Tuesday 18th at 7.30pm and asked if as many of those present this evening could try and attend and bring their neighbours and friends from the village. Paul Bryant from ~BMSDC will be attending to deliver information and give his views on the importance of Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Such was pleased with the meeting in July but reiterates the need for more commitment from the residents as only 21 were in attendance. Clerk to advertise again on Facebook and Cllrs to spread the word as much as possible.	CLERK
9	Land next to the Village Institute	
	A letter had been sent to Richard Thompson and a reply received accordingly, expressing our interest in the land. Cllr Barrell suggested that a meeting needs to be arranged to take things further in due course.	WD
10	Car Parking issues Lower Street	
	There continues to be major issues over the parking in Lower Street particularly by those wishing to make use of the river. There was an incident on the 5 th August. As it appears to be the only option to look at potential car parking at the pumping station to alleviate this issue, the Clerk to again approach the water companies here and establish who owns this piece of land. A suggestion was made to ask for assistance from the River Stour Trust in the matter. When the company is established clerk to let Cllr Jones know to assist him with the Swan Flooding issue, see previous minute.	CLERK
11	Overgrown Hedge – School Field	
	The issues here were looked at by Cllr Jones and Cllr Davies when they met on site. The problem is the overgrown hedges between no's 17 and 18 Tally Ho Corner and Babergh DC are responsible for this area. Cllr Carpendale will look into resolving this issue for us.	SC
12	Public Discussion, including County Councillor, District Councillors and Police/NHW reports	
	Cllr Jones previously sent in his reports for both August and September and added that he has now been appointed governor for East Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex NHS trust which covers the two main hospitals at Colchester and Ipswich and serves 800,000 people. Cllrs Swan and Carpendale had both submitted their reports but had nothing further to add. No further questions from the present public.	
13	Councillors Reports	
	Cllr Davies mentioned the potholes on Lower Street between Riverside Chimes and Valley House have still not been dealt with and will send the report reference number onto Cllr Jones to chase. Cllr Davies also asked for an update from Cllr Jones as to the work to be carried out at the Kings Arms corner. Cllr Jones confirmed that the work has been approved and the operators have a 12 week time line to complete the work. Cllr Barrell wanted to raise the parking issues that are occurring at Dedham. A discussion was then had about whether people are choosing to park here because the car parks are full or whether it's just more convenient. Cllr Jones agreed to go back to Dedham PC to find out what the capacity of their car park is and will report back to SSM PC. Cllr Such felt that the issue of parking in the whole of Dedham Vale needs to be addressed with a joined up solution. By putting yellow lines at Dedham will only move the problem to a different area, namely SSM. The fallen down sign at Tally Ho Corner still remains unfixed, Clerk to chase. Cllr Such reported that a tree planted at the Millennium Garden has died and should we replace it? He recommends that it is removed with no suggestion to replace it due to its location. Clerk to contact BDC for its removal. He also reported that the hedge at Lowe Hill House, Higham Road will need to be cut back as it's encroaching onto the road. Clerk to write a polite letter to the residents requesting this. Cllr Such wanted to know what was happening with the handyman. Cllr Davies confirmed that he had done the benches at the Millennium Garden and would next complete the repair on the bus stop bench. Cllr Davies also confirmed that the handyman had attempted to cut the grass at Millennium Garden, but had advised that someone had cut it already. Cllr Such confirmed that a volunteer had done it as it was so overgrown.	WD/GJ GJ CLERK CLERK CLERK

	<p>Cllr Cassell raised his concerns about the risk of travellers moving onto the Playing Field and the difficulties that this would cause to the village. He suggested we consider lockable and movable bollards to reduce this risk happening. It was agreed for Cllr Cassell to research the costs involved and report back at the next meeting to see its viability.</p> <p>Cllr Davies reported that the grit bin situated next to the Millennium Garden will need to be replaced. Clerk to sort this and arrange for a new one.</p>	<p>KC</p> <p>CLERK</p>
14	Planning	
	No planning applications to discuss	
15	Correspondence	
	The Clerk had received a letter from BDC about the new Gambling Act but it was felt that this was not an issue to affect the PC.	
	The Clerk had received the final review of the new proposed boundaries from BDC and this was read out and is to be circulated amongst the Cllrs for their information. Cllr Carpendale commented that the boundaries are unlikely to change from this proposal and that after the next election SSM will be served by one District Councillor rather than two and it was unlikely to be either Cllr Swan or Cllr Carpendale.	noted
16	Finance	
	(1) To approve expenditure since last meeting.	
	The expenditure sheet had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the amount of £1410.10 was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Tilbrook, seconded by Cllr Such and the vote was carried unanimously.	
	(2) Monthly cash flow analysis against agreed Precept.	
	No comments	
	(3) To consider applications for funding.	
	Firework Committee had written to Cllr Davies requesting funds to support the display in November. It was proposed to donate £500.00 by Cllr Baker and this was seconded by Cllr Cairns and all Cllrs were in favour. Clerk to prepare a cheque.	CLERK
	A member of the Firework committee thanked the PC and asked for us to consider options for where donations can be made for worthy causes within the village from the profit made at the event.	
	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next meeting is on Monday 12 th November 2018 commencing at 7.30pm	
	There being no further comments to make the meeting closed at 9.05pm	