



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman
Roger Barrell

Clerk to Parish Council
Faye Hall

**Extraordinary Meeting of Stratford St Mary Parish Council held on
Monday 7th October 2024, at the Parish Room, Upper Street at 1930hrs.**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cllr R Barrell - Chairman
Cllr W Davies
Cllr G Robinson
Cllr M Pearce
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr N Wright
Cllr L Shead

IN ATTENDANCE:

F Hall - Clerk
Member of the public - 5

01.10.24 Present and apologies for absence.
Apologies received from District Cllr Ward

02.10.24 To accept members declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's code of Conduct. Cllr D Robinson and Cllr W Davies are trustees of the Village Institute Committee.

03.10.24 Public Forum

The following was raised by members of the public:
Slow down posters in Dedham – will SSM school be doing something like this. The Chairman requested that the slow down posters be made an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

Weir Bridge – is there any update on ownership. Cllr Pearce advised that he had established with the Public Rights of Way team at Essex Highways that the Weir bridge is on their system. Public Rights of Way go over land that's not owned by them but where they're responsible for maintenance of the surface. Essex Highways have advised that they will arrange for someone to come out and inspect the bridge.

04.10.24 Planning Applications

To discuss any planning applications that have been received:


11/11/24

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/02317

Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion of vacant offices (Class E) to Class F.1 Educational Use (Day school, SEN teaching provision); Creation of ramped access, covered cycle stands, bin storage area, sensory garden, multipurpose games area and boundary security fencing.

Location: The Old School, School Lane, Stratford St Mary, Colchester Suffolk CO7 6LZ

Reason(s) for re-consultation: Transport Statement received on 16.08 and amended drawings received on 24.07.

Extension to the commenting date received from Planning to the 11.10.24.

Members of the public present expressed support for this planning application and commented that SEN provisions are greatly needed. Cllrs discussed and agreed to write a letter supporting this application and to ask that urgent consideration be given to reducing the speed limit outside the school to a 20mph zone. The traffic survey submitted on the planning website found that 85% of vehicles along School Lane were found to be going over the 30mph speed limit. Cllr W Davies proposed, Cllr Shead second, all in favour. **Clerk**

05.10.24 Millennium Garden

At the PCs last meeting it was agreed to find a contractor to undertake maintenance at the Millennium Garden. Cllr D Robinson has found a lady called Alison O'Reilly who can undertake the work at £20 per hour and can offer monthly services. Cllr G Robinson proposed to use Alison O'Reilly, Cllr Wright seconded, all in favour.

06.10.24 Village Institute play area

Play area repairs – works to the hall playing field: under the bench and in the goal mouths. Topsoil and seeding required and one of the goalposts is wobbly & needs concreting in. The works to restore the ground were not included in the play area repairs that the PC agreed to cover before handover, but the Trustees have asked if the PC would be willing to pay. Cllr D Robinson has obtained 2 quotes for the work - £100 and £300. All in agreement for the PC to pay for these costs, Cllr G Robinson proposed to accept the quote of £100 from the gardening and maintenance lady Alison O'Reilly, Cllr Shead seconded, all in favour. Cllr D Robinson and Cllr W Davies abstained from the discussion and vote due to declarations of interest. The goalposts have been inspected by Alison and have been found to be fine so no work required on them.

All in agreement for the Chairman and Cllr G Robinson to discuss the handover of the play area with the Village Institute Committee.

07.10.24 New Defibrillator pads

Cllr G Robinson proposed to accept the expenditure for the new defibrillator pads x 2 @ £140.40, Cllr Wright seconded, all in favour.


08.10.24 The River Garden

A new agreement for the River Garden has been received from Savills acting on behalf of NWL. Cllr D Robinson has compared this to the current agreement and advises that it has had a major rewrite. Agreement terminates 31.07.25 no indication of continuation, commercial operations by any party expressly prohibited – how does the PC police this, maintenance of site including trees is for PC, premises to be secure – how is this possible if the gate is unlocked – would locking the gate and installing pedestrian access be a better solution than a bollard, installation of a bollard is now a precondition, prevention of dogs straying onto neighbouring property – not new but is the PC to include livestock fencing, installation of warning signs – is a notice on board sufficient. All in agreement to put the installation of the bollard on hold and for the Chairman, Cllr D Robinson and the Clerk to draft a response to Savills with questions. **Clerk/RB/DR**

09.10.24 Weir Bridge

Update on ownership of the bridge received under agenda item 03.10.24. The PC have contacted their insurance company and been advised not to put up the caution slippery when wet signs that were agreed at the last meeting as the PCs insurance does not cover this.

10.10.24 Community action plan


11/11/24

Cllr D Robinson advised that PPG has been received from Suffolk County Council which includes high viz jackets, hard hats, safety glasses and some manual tools. An action plan now needs to be created with jobs to be done like clearing footpaths, cleaning signs etc then volunteers from the village are to be recruited and dates and times arranged for work. Cllr Shead will set up a central spreadsheet which will then be publicised to recruit volunteers.

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the PC will be held on Monday the 11th of November.

Meeting closed at 2020hrs

R. Shead
11/11/24