



STRATFORD ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 14th September 2020.

PRESENT:

Cllr W Davies - Chairman
Cllr R Barrell – Vice Chairman
Cllr L Shead
Cllr B Such
Cllr G Francis
Cllr N Woodard

IN ATTENDANCE:

J O’Hanlon - Clerk

District Cllr John Ward
County Cllr Gordon Jones
Estimated 11 members of the public (joining and leaving)

DRAFT

01.09.20 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

Apologies received from Cllr Alexander. Cllr Davies had difficulty joining the meeting at first and the start was delayed by approx. 15 minutes. He then joined via the telephone and was able to fully join via Zoom after approx. 30 minutes.

02.09.20 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.

None received

03.09.20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th July 2020

Decision – the minutes of the Parish meeting held via zoom on 13th July 2020 were approved as a true record and will duly be signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Such and seconded by Cllr Barrell.

04.09.20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (1) **Drainage opposite the Swan Public House. Decision:** Drains were not satisfactory. Cllr Such confirmed he will provide photographic evidence next time rain occurs for Cllr Jones to pursue the matter with Highways. This matter remains ongoing

GJ/BS

05.09.20 PARISH COUNCILS PROPOSALS FOR ADDRESSING THE RIVER GARDEN AND PARKING/BEHAVOURIAL ISSUES IN LOWER STREET (3 minutes per person)

The Chairman firstly asked any Councillors for comments, the proposals have all been publicly displayed on our Website and residents had been invited to view our proposals via noticeboards, social media, and email. Cllr Woodard commented that there had been a bad accident on Lower Street by the Weir 2 days prior to this meeting. The public were then invited to comment and give their opinions on the Parish Councils proposals. Comments as follows: -

* The first resident commented that it was appalling that they were only given 3 minutes to speak, and that no Parish Councillor had personally come to visit them to discuss the issues. Would the new gate at the River Garden be padlocked? Cllr Such responded that the intention is for it to be padlocked open. There was then a discussion about licences and that only 1 in 10 people who use the river actually have a licence. The suggestion was made that only those that have paid for a licence should be given a code for a combination lock on the gates at both the River Garden and the Lock. Cllr Such confirmed that the River Stour Trust will not agree to padlocking their gate at the Lock. The suggested Double Yellow Lines are pointless and are not needed on that side of the road, they are needed by the Weir. Cllr Barrell advised that he had visited the suggested DYL points with Cllr Jones and Suffolk Highways and that they had advised against too many DYL as this will cause more issue for residents who need to park near their houses. A comment about Cllr Davies appearing on Radio Suffolk and the suggestion about a car park in Strickmere or at the school was also made.

* A second member of the public was then invited to give their opinion. They felt that the response from the Parish Council to the canvassing that had been done and the letter from Lower Street residents was poor and as elected representatives they had no respect for the Parish Cllrs. Why had there been no response to their letter and they were all fed up and confused as to no response. Cllrs confirmed that the response had been put onto our website in the form of our proposals for addressing the issues and that this was done for the whole of the village to see not just exclusive to Lower Street residents. Cllr Barrell confirmed that he did feel we should have written a direct reply to the Lower Street residents, but the decision was taken, by the majority, to put our answer and proposals on our website for all to see.

Cllr Such confirmed that regarding the antisocial behaviour, he feels the only course of action potentially available to the PC is to put in place a Public Space Protection Order and we were making enquires about doing so. The District Council will come back to us about the possibility of this. Cllr Such then went onto explain how a PSPO works. For anyone wishing to read more, this is on our website. Cllr Davies had encouraged and arranged for the Police to visit a Lower Street resident, and the police confirmed that it was up to residents to report antisocial behaviour, not the Parish Council. They were also trying to get more patrols. Cllr Ward confirmed that parking issues are no longer dealt with by the Police and dealt with by Babergh who have delegated their responsibility to Ipswich BC to enforce.

The Chairman asked whether everyone who wished to speak, had the opportunity to do so. He then asked the Cllrs how they wished to proceed or should we reconsider our proposals considering the discussion. Cllr Such proposed that we go ahead with our proposals of the experimental DYL as per the suggested map, pursue the PSPO, and make the alterations as per the plan to the River Garden including the gate. We can take a view as to whether or not to lock the gate shut in the future if the plans are ineffective. This was seconded by Cllr Barrell and all other Cllrs voted in favour.

06.09.20 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had previously circulated her report. There were no further comments received

07.09.20 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS

The Chairman advised that we had received notification from the Environment Agency about maintenance vegetation work due to be carried out on Higham Road and that he had noted the signs were already in place notifying the public, due to be done 24th September. He also commented on the Lowe Hill House wall having been again knocked down by a vehicle only 2 days after being rebuilt from the last crash. Cllr Jones already has actions in hand relating to this. Cllr Such suggested it would be useful to have an advanced sign ahead of the chevrons nearer to Higham warning of the bend, Cllr Jones will investigate this option. **GJ**

08.09.20 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk also commented on the letter from Environment Agency already mentioned in the Chairman's comments. A letter from Babergh Licensing Team had previously been circulated to the Parish Cllrs and comments need to be submitted by 16th September. It was decided not to submit any comments. An email had been received from a resident relating to the new fences and gates blocking paths by the River Stour. The Clerk had previously contacted the Langham Clerk about whether Langham Parish Council were aware of the new gates and fences in their Parish, no response had so far been received. The land owner had been spoken to by some of our Cllrs and we were advised that it is private land and that due to the high level of visitors, litter and disregard for their land over the Summer, they had been forced to protect it by fencing it in. Although it was believed the person who had written the email was present at the Zoom meeting, the Clerk will write to advise them of our findings so far.

CLERK

09.09.20 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

The Chairman confirmed that all Cllrs had received a copy of the report which was done earlier in the Summer and that there were no major issues to be addressed. New bark had been purchased and put down and weeding had been done. The Clerk commented that since reopening the play area after lockdown, it all appears fine and were the COVID warning signs still in place? Cllr Woodard advised that he had put the signs up again on a couple of occasions, but we may want to produce new ones.

CLERK

10.09.20 DEDHAM ROAD PARKING ISSUES-UPDATE FROM CROSS BORDER MEETING

Following lengthy meetings with all parties from Suffolk and Essex recently, SSM PC has come up with a proposal for extending the existing double yellow lines up to Whalleys and adding intermittent DYL, with blips to indicate no loading/unloading on the other side of the road to the same stretch of road. It was discussed that we had only agreed to Whalleys rather than Ravenys as on the map which Highways have recently commented on. Cllrs Barrell and Such suggested Ravenys would be a better option but this was overruled by the majority. Cllr Woodward commented that the new business development would add further pressure on parking due to the lack of spaces provided at the new site. This is an experimental TPO to be funded by Cllr Jones and was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Woodard and seconded by Cllr Barrell. All other Cllrs were in favour.

Cllr Jones confirmed he will be in touch with Highways about the DYL for both Lower Street and B1029 and will gain clarification on the gaps and blips. He will also discuss the design for the advanced "car park ahead" signs which will be funded by Dedham PC.

GJ

A member of the public who lives along Dedham Road wished to voice his concerns about the major issues faced along this road in terms of the HGV usage, the parking, the lack of safety for pedestrian using the pop up car park in the field and the new office development. He felt that DYL were needed all the way to Church and this is a SSM problem not just Dedham. Cllr Ward confirmed that following the meeting with our Essex colleagues this growing problem will not go away and we do need to accommodate the visitors as we will not deter them. DYL everywhere is not the solution and merely pushes the parking issue elsewhere. BDC need to work with the local landowners to try and find a suitable solution, toilets, litter bins, needed too. The farmer with the temporary car park had helped ease the pressure. He was within the rules not exceeding 28 days. The member of the public stated that there are issues with public walking from the temporary car park to the river in the road, a safer route to the river is needed to avoid a major accident here. Cllr Ward advised that this is a country wide issue with staycation and although the visitors have been rising over the last few years, this year saw a step change and all along the Stour there are issues. BDC will take some time to come up with longer term solutions, but we now have the winter coming in which to try to resolve these problems before next Spring when it will all start again.

Cllr Woodard commented that the Boathouse carpark being closed was adding to the issue also.

Cllr Jones reminded everyone that the road will be closed from 12th October to 29th November for essential repairs to the bridge of wear and tear.

Cllr Shead commented that there had been initial talks with Dedham PC about land available for a carpark. Cllr Ward to make contact to see if this is feasible.

JW

11.09.20 PROPOSED SURFACING OF VILLAGE INSTITUTE CAR PARK- update on CIL funding

Cllr Such advised that this had not been explored further due to the potential need of the funds for the issues in Lower Street. He will propose to investigate this further for the November meeting now that Cllr Jones has confirmed he will be funding the DYL from his budgets **BS**

12.09.20 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.

Councillors had submitted their most recent reports which had been circulated by the Clerk.

(1) **County Councillor Gordon Jones.** Cllr Jones also added about a Suffolk 2020 fund relating to electric vehicle charging points. SCC is in ongoing dialogue with the Police about ANPR speeding cameras.

(2) **District Councillor John Ward.** Cllr Ward also confirmed that he encouraged parish council and residents to respond to the current consultation documents relating to the proposed planning changes. BDC have concerns about the changes and are drafting their response to Government, he felt it will cause issues for communities.

(3) **Police/Neighbourhood Watch Report.** Chairman reported that there had been a low crime rate at this time.

Questions from Cllr Barrell to Cllr Jones, report of the missing "Suffolk" sign this side of Dedham Bridge. Cllr Jones will action. **GJ**

To Cllr Ward, confusion for the parking enforcement team about who is responsible for violations at the Dedham Bridge, Suffolk or Essex? Cllr Ward will feed this back to the IBC parking enforcement team. **JW**

13.09.20 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A member of the public raised an issue that he currently has ongoing with a neighbour erecting fences to enclose a paddock, but this has encroached onto his and other neighbours' land. Legal action has been threatened, trees removed without consent. This matter had previously been brought to the attention of the PC by emails with other neighbours and Cllr Ward confirmed that although they can sympathise, this is a civil matter and that legal advice needs to be sought. The member of the public confirmed that he has checked maps and title deeds and that he has already engaged legal advice. Cllr Ward will check out any planning restrictions on the type or height of the fencing and report back. **JW**

Cllr Woodard proposed that the PC council write to the resident responsible for the fence erecting, Cllr Shead seconded this, and Cllr Such raised his concerns as to whether to Parish Council should get involved. An open letter will be drafted by the Clerk and agreed by all Cllrs before being sent on behalf of the PC. **CLERK**

A member of the public raised their concerns about the issues on Lower Street, such as the bin. It was confirmed that we had already purchased a new much larger bin and were in the process of getting our maintenance person to fit it, the existing bin will be relocated to the River Garden. They also wanted to know why the proposed DYL do not extend as far as the Old Maltings. Cllr Barrell confirmed that he had met with SCC and Highways on site and they had expressed concerns that other residents will not be able to park outside their properties. A solution of large planters on the extended pavement, to stop people parking here had previously been suggested but had not been taken up by the residents. It was also suggested that installation a mirror to assist with visibility along the road, would be useful at this resident's location would greatly assist them in getting out of their driveway safely. Cllr Jones commented that these were normally installed on peoples own property but would investigate it as an option for them. **GJ**

The same resident thanked the PC for considering putting DYL on the side of the road by the river as this would help the matter significantly.

The Clerk had for the second time already reported the overgrown path by Matthews Close that day and Cllr Jones agreed to chase this matter up. **GJ**

14.09.20 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Such reported that there were posters in front of the chevrons by Lowe Hill House and in view of the latest accident at this spot how can we stop posters being put up here. Cllr Ward will investigate the legality of signs and report back to us.

JW

Cllr Woodard reported that the Estate Agents had erected a sign attached to our PC Notice Board at the Anchor site and had they got permission to do so. The Clerk confirmed not. He felt it should be removed. Clerk to contact Estate Agents.

CLERK

Cllr Such confirmed that he now had 3 quotations for the fencing work at the River Garden and these had been circulated to the other Cllrs this evening by email.

15.09.20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DC/20/03744 – Application to carry out tree work at The Gables, Dedham Road, SSM. Cllr Woodard proposed this work is necessary and should be approved, seconded by Cllr Shead, all in favour. Clerk to advise BDC

CLERK

16.09.20 FINANCE

(1) **To approve expenditure since last meeting:**

the expenditure sheets had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. proposed by Cllr Such and seconded by Cllr Woodard. **Decision** –expenditure of £3220.20 from 14.07.20 to 14.09.20, was approved

(2) **Monthly cashflow analysis against agreed Precept.** No comments

(3) **Monthly cashflow reserves.** No comments.

(4) **Consider applications for funding received before and after publication of agenda.** None received, but a comment that the firework display has been cancelled this year due to Covid-19 was made.

(5) **To consider the new pay rates published for Clerks and review the Clerks salary.**

Cllr Barrell confirmed that since our Clerk had been reinstated back in January, she had been on the same pay scale as she was before and in view of her experience he proposed she should go from SCP 10 to 11 and this be backdated to the 1-4-20 when the pay increase was effective from. This was seconded by Cllr Such and all in favour. £11.27 ph. effective 1-4-20. The Clerk thanked the Cllrs for this increase in her pay.

17.09.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance and the next meeting probably on Zoom again is on 9th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.13pm.

