

Minutes of the Sturry Parish Council meeting held on 14 June 2021 at the Sturry Social Centre at 7pm

The meeting was opened by the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Bubb at 19.00 hours. He welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first face to face meeting in approximately 18 months. He explained that the Clerk had been scheduled for an operation but due to complications she was off sick recuperating and he offered her the parish council's best wishes.

Present:

Parish Cllrs Ann Davies (elected Chairman at the meeting), Ashley Bubb (elected vice chairman at the meeting), Trevor Pilbeam, Sharron Hogben, John Hogben, Heather Taylor, Peter Wenham, Ben Davies.

District Cllr Louise Harvey Quirke
Sturry Parish Council village caretaker
Amanda Sparkes (Locum minute taker) and
2 members of the public

7123. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from parish councillor Carol Birch, Kent County Councillor Alan Marsh and Sturry Parish Council Clerk Anne Stevenson.

7124. Election of Chairman for Sturry Parish Council for 2021/2022

Cllr Bubb explained that due to time commitments he was unable to carry on as Chairman and he nominated Cllr A Davies which was seconded by Cllr S Hogben. With a show of hands this was supported by six councillors with one abstaining.

Cllr Bubb congratulated Cllr A Davies who then took over as Chairman.

7125. Election of Vice Chairman for Sturry Parish Council for 2021/2022.

Cllr A Davies nominated Cllr Bubb as vice chairman which was seconded by Cllr J Hogben and all were in favour of this appointment.

7126. Cllrs to sit on planning sub-committee 2021/2022.

RESOLVED five members to sit on the planning sub-committee: Cllrs A Davies, Bubb, S Hogben, Wenham and Pilbeam.

7127. Election of Chairman for planning sub-committee 2021/2022.

Cllr Taylor nominated Cllr Pilbeam who declined, Cllr Wenham nominated Cllr S Hogben who agreed to give it a try, this was seconded by Cllr Pilbeam, and five councillors were in favour and one abstained on the vote for this appointment.

7128. Election of Vice Chairman for the planning sub-committee 2021/2022.

Cllr Davies nominated Cllr Pilbeam and this was seconded by Cllr Bubb and **RESOLVED**.

7129. Cllrs to sit on the staffing committee 2021/2022.

RESOLVED Cllrs J Hogben, A Davies, Wenham and Bubb.

ACTION: Councillors resolved to ask Cllr Birch to join the staffing committee at the next meeting.

7130. Election of chairman for the staffing committee 2021/2022.

DEFERRED to the next meeting.

7131. Election of Vice Chairman for the staffing committee 2021/2022.

DEFERRED to the next meeting.

7132. Appointment on Cllrs to sit on outside bodies

a) Sturry Social Centre – RESOLVED representative to continue as Cllr Wenham.

b) Broad Oak Village Hall – RESOLVED Cllr Pilbeam to be representative.

c) Twinning Association – RESOLVED Cllr Taylor to be representative.

Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

A member of the public spoke about agenda item 7142 the grant for a defibrillator. He reiterated the importance of a defibrillator – there are 10,000 in the UK, with around 850 in the south east, and they make a big difference to survival rates. He explained that on calling 999 the operator will advise only of devices that are within a maximum of 500m distance from an incident.

He explained that the proposal is for a defibrillator in a heated cabinet outside of Broad Oak village hall, and the hall committee will take on the future maintenance and that he would also give training on how to use it, also CPR training. Fundraising has been undertaken with the villagers of Broad Oak for this item.

7133. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Bubb declared an interest in agenda item 7146 the planning application for Sweech Farm as the applicant is known to him.

Cllr Pilbeam now the representative on the Broad Oak Hall committee declared an interest in agenda item 7142 – the grant for a defibrillator.

Cllr Taylor questioned if Cllr A Davies should declare an interest in planning items due to a recent local newspaper article. Cllr A Davies confirmed she is a member of an informal working group – the Sturry and Broad Oak Action Group – but that it is not a formal committee.

7134. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held May 5th and all other minutes of meetings held virtually during the lockdown 2021

Minutes of virtual meetings have been approved after each meeting virtually but not signed. Cllr Bubb confirmed he now has the hard copies and will sign them all.

Cllr S Hogben proposed, Cllr Pilbeam seconded and all councillors agreed that the minutes of the 05 May 2021 meeting were a true record of the meeting.

7135. Matters arising not agenda items from May meeting

There were no matters arising to report.

7136. Chairman and Councillors' reports.

Cllr Bubb – Cllr Bubb explained that there was nothing significant to report. The usual goings-on in Sturry Park as the weather had been nice had occurred.

Cllr A Davies – Cllr Davies explained she attended an all-day virtual KALC workshop on changes to the planning system. No one in attendance at it was happy with the changes proposed; many seem undemocratic and developer biased. Parish Councils will have to input very early on in the Canterbury District Local Plan production. Affordable housing numbers appear under threat. The government's White Paper on planning reform with planning zones is still not clear.

Cllr A Davies explained she will prepare a report for the Annual Parish Meeting for voters and this will also include an update on the Canterbury District Local Plan.

Cllr Pilbeam questioned whether the consultation on boundary commission boundary changes would affect planning. The boundary commission proposal is for Sturry and Fordwich to move from the Canterbury district to Thanet. Cllr A Davies confirmed that the parish, district and county boundaries will stay the same, this would just change the MP, and it would not affect the Canterbury District Local Plan.

7137. County and District Councillors' reports.

Canterbury City Councillor Report – Sturry Parish Council Meeting, 14th June 2021.

Good Evening,

As the previous meeting didn't take place, I will use some of my previous report for this meeting, to ensure it's minuted.

Firstly, congratulations to Ann Davies on her new position as Chairman, and also to other councillors for their new roles this forthcoming year.

You may be aware that recently there was a fire at the Canterbury City Council offices on Military Road. A lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to assess the damage, and what cleaning and reinstatement work was required.

This has now been finished and officers estimate it will take around five to six weeks to complete. Therefore, officers are aiming to have the offices back open for general access by the end of July. Until then, staff have been asked to continue to work from home unless they are part of a team where special arrangements have been put in place.

Locally, several cases of anti-social behaviour have been brought to my attention. I have passed these on to PCSO Todd, who I believe has investigated.

I have been liaising with several residents regarding parking issues in the area. In all cases, I have been in contact with CCC Officer, Richard Jenkins, and have been updating said residents with the relevant information.

It was reported to me that there were some abandoned vehicles in the Parish. In all cases, I have liaised with Enforcement to locate the owners.

In relation to the building work at Goose Farm, I have been made aware of a potential breach in Planning regulations. I have been liaising with both Enforcement and Planning at CCC, and, in addition, I have contacted Southern Water in relation to the alleged drainage issues.

The new Council year is now under way and physical meetings have resumed at both the Westgate Hall, for larger meetings, and the Guildhall for others.

I have been placed on the following committees for this Council year: Planning, Joint Transport Board, Community, and Decision Review Committee.

In addition, I have been placed on the following working groups: Waste Collection Arrangements, Concurrent Function Funding, Youth Activity Councillor Working Group

Finally - As a result of the Bank Holiday last week, there were some bin delays. In addition, I have also been made aware of bins which were missed from the latest collection. This was brought to the attention of Canenco, and I believe those bins were subsequently collected.

Thank you.

Louise Harvey-Quirke, Sturry Ward Councillor

Cllr Bubb drew attention to the overgrowth at the bottom of Woodside on the grass area belonging to CCC, and Cllr Harvey-Quirke agreed to address this to get it cut back.

Cllr Pilbeam queried the University's planning application with 1000 halls of residence, and whether these were included in the CCC housing numbers. Cllr Harvey-Quirke agreed to check this with the Head of Planning.

Cllr J Hogben queried ownership of five benches in Homewood Road, Sleigh Road and Cedar Road which are in need of clearing of lichen and bracken. Cllr Harvey-Quirke agreed to check.

7138. Community Warden and Police Officers' reports.

None.

7139. Village Caretaker's report.

The village caretaker commented that it was good to see everybody. He explained that some of the essential maintenance had been delayed by bad weather. He is working through the list and will do more hours than normal to catch up. He will keep councillors updated.

7140. Cemetery Report

None. There have been 2 or 3 funerals recently.

7141. Clerk's report.

There was no Clerk report. Cllr A Davies explained the Clerk was signed off for two weeks. She wished her a speedy and restful recovery.

7142. Application for a small grant from Broad Oak Village Hall Management Committee.

This is a request for £1,133.28 towards costs and maintenance of a defibrillator to be based at Broad Oak Village Hall. This is the 10- year cost and approximately half of the unit/cabinet/battery/pad

replacements and electricity as detailed in the application. The defibrillator cost on its own is around £1133. The Broad Oak village hall committee is to contribute the same amount.

Cllr Bubb commented that defibrillators are important and one is needed in the parish but in a more central position.

There is one at ASDA and Hersden school.

Cllr Harvey-Quirke explained that KCC Cllr Alan Marsh is looking to fund one at Dengrove and Bluebell parks at Broad Oak. And that the Hersden Neighbourhood Centre has one.

Cllr A Davies commented that other venues have been looked at previously, along with funding Packages, but venue owners have to be willing. Broad Oak Hall is the first venue owner being willing. She felt a second one should be considered perhaps at the Social Centre or Parish Office.

Cllr Pilbeam felt defibrillators were a good idea and he would support anyone who wants to put one in.

Cllr A Davies felt the parish council should proceed with one at Broad Oak or look at different locations and defer.

Cllr Bubb commented that Dengrove and Bluebell parks were very close to Broad Oak Hall and that Cllr Alan Marsh should be asked for an update on any provision for the parks.

Cllr Taylor queried insurance for a defibrillator and it was confirmed that the Broad Oak Hall committee would add it to the insurance policy.

Cllr Taylor commented that the parish council should spend equally in the two villages and proposed that the parish council should buy two – one for Broad Oak and one for Sturry and that the parish council take future responsibility for them, and insure and pay for sundries as appropriate.

RESOLVED to defer the decision on the grant request.

ACTIONS Add the item to the next agenda to revisit with new information – Clerk to ask Cllr Marsh for latest information.

Cllr Bubb to make enquiries with the Co-p at Sturry and the farm shop as potential Sturry locations.

An advert appeal to run in the next newsletter.

Cllr Taylor thanked the members of the public and confirmed their ongoing support. All councillors resolved the above with a show of hands.

The members of the public left the meeting at this point.

7143. Quotes for CCTV to cover the public toilets.

Cllrs had been sent 3 quotes for consideration – all three firms agreed six cameras are needed, with a hard-wired monitor and screen to be provided in the storeroom. All quotes were given on a like for like basis and range from £1420 to £2375. One included a £7.90 maintenance contract to make the app available on a smartphone anywhere in the world, although it was agreed that this was not required. The toilets are cleaned daily so any vandalism occurring would have a 24-hour window for checking the monitor.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bubb proposed the Guardian quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr J Hogben and resolved by all with a show of hands.

ACTION: Advise the insurance company of the new provision.

7144. Purchase of new Christmas lights for the High Street

This item had been previously deferred for councillors to consider options. Cllr A Davies commented that some are simple, and some are quite complicated designs. She felt that other property owners should be asked if they are happy to change.

ACTION: Cllr Taylor and Cllr Bubb explained they had not received the email – Cllr A Davies agreed to resend it.

RESOLVED to defer to the next agenda and present options.

ACTIONS: The village caretaker explained he had taken down 60% of the lights down but the rest need a cherry picker. Cllr Taylor gave the Chairman a business card of a friend with a local cherry picker company and Cllr A Davies agreed to seek a quote for the next meeting. She asked the village caretaker to look through the options too with a view to finding lights that could stay up all year to save costs of putting them up and down each year.

Cllr Taylor felt that other shops and business in Sturry and Broad Oak should also be looked at.

All Councillors to look at options.

Cllr A Davies invited Cllr S Hogben to chair the following planning section and Cllr S Hogben introduced each item:

7145. Planning application CA/21/01249, 20 Rowan Close, Sturry, CT2 0JB.

Two-storey side extension

RESOLVED no comments and no objection.

7146. Planning application CA/21/01018, Sweech Farm, Herne Bay Road, Sturry, CT3 4FZ.

Erection of detached garage to Sweech Farm-House and 3 No. two-storey detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping following removal of hard standing area.

Cllr Bubb left the room as previously declared an interest in this item.

Cllr A Davies commented that it detracts from a listed building; however councillors agreed the Application is better than the previous application and not over-development.

RESOLVED no comments and no objection.

7147. Planning application CA/21/01371, 100, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak, CT2 0QH.

Single-storey rear extension.

No neighbours have objected.

RESOLVED no comments and no objection.

7148. Planning application CA/21/01377, 16, Babs Oak Hill, Sturry, CT2 0JR.

Dormer window to front and change of roof tiles from plain to fibre cement slates.

RESOLVED no comments and no objection.

Cllr A Davies resumed as Chairman of the meeting.

7149. Finance

Cllr A Davies explained she had sent two bank statements to all councillors that day for information.

a) To approve payment of accounts presented at this meeting

John Caddick May invoice - £1,155.98. Cllr Bubb proposed and Cllr B Davies seconded and all councillors were in favour of approval.

b) To report on monies received

Cemetery fees £1,250.00 – NOTED.

7150. Any other matters of an urgent or special nature

Cllr Taylor asked for an update on the surround for the cemetery toilet. The village caretaker explained he is still sorting this out with the admin assistant and that coconut matting to hide the toilet is to be arranged.

Cllr Taylor commented that communications within the parish council were not good enough and there is a need for all councillors to be better informed about what is going on. She commented that the previous Clerk used to give a list of correspondence and conversations with residents etc at the end of each week. Cllr A Davies said it was fine for a councillor to speak to a resident as an individual to collect views and do research etc but anything on behalf of the parish council requiring a decision or statement position from the parish council must come to full council. Cllr Taylor commented that there is admin cover in the office but without a Clerk there. The admin role should be clarified and no decision making undertaken. Procedures need some tightening.

7151. Date of next Parish Council meeting and planning sub-committee meeting.

RESOLVED to revert to the first Wednesday of each month for Parish Council meetings – the next meeting therefore to be 07 July at 7pm.

The planning sub-committee meetings to be every third Wednesday if required.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

Dated: