

Minutes of Sturry Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm at Broad Oak Village Hall.

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Ann Davies (Chairman), Ashley Bubb Karen Isaac, Trevor Pilbeam and Peter Wenham

Dawn Hyams (Clerk to the Council), Ken Bullock (Superintendent), Alan Webster (Caretaker) Linda Hayes (Kent Community Warden)

Cllr Davies opened the meeting at 7.00pm and chaired the proceedings.

7587. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cerise Harriss, Cllr Ben Davies, Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Louise Harvey-Quirke and Cllr Alan Marsh.

Public questions

None

7588. To receive Declarations of Disclosure Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of other interest on any agenda items and a reminder to think of any changes to the DPI register held at CCC, such as change of job or home.

None.

7589. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022.

All councillors agreed the minutes. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Trevor Pilbeam.

7590. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting on 7th December 2022.

None.

7591. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Isaac and seconded by Cllr Davies

7592. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting on 14th December 2022.

None.

7593. Chairman and Councillors' reports.

The chairman reported that she has been busy dealing with specifications for tenders.

Dr Stephen Marsh submitted the accounts for the Stephen Bigges Charity to the Charity Commission by the deadline. The next step is to get people who are local and interested, to become Trustees.

This will be on next month's agenda.

The South East Water exhibition was very good. Lots of people attended. Southern Water had commented at the exhibition that water supplies only just meet the current demand. This is without the proposed housing developments. They are relying on residents using water more efficiently. We should all be collecting rainwater for watering gardens. The Chairman -said her personal concern_is that water bills will probably increase. The Chairman said that this exhibition will not be the end of the debate and there will no doubt be further consultation on the reservoir. Cllr Isaac asked for a

copy of the map from South East water for our website but Southern Water were unwilling to provide a map. Cllr Davies explained that this could be because they are expecting the map to change.

Cllr Pilbeam said that use of water meters is helping. Cllr Davies said that Southern Water explained that a significant amount of water usage is commercial and agricultural.

Cllr Isaac reported that the exhibition for South East Water had taken place on 17th January 2023 and 95 residents had attended this.

Cllr Pilbeam reported that Junior Kings under 14's football team has won the league already, which is a great achievement.

Peter Wenham reported on Sturry Social Centre. He said they were close to getting quotes in and will be putting in funding grants soon.

7594. County and District Councillors' reports.

Cllr Georgina Glover read out her report.

Belated Happy New Year to you all

BUDGET: -

The Canterbury City Council's Budget for 2023/24 – the consultation ended on Monday, January 9th.2023, the budget comes before members at Full Council on 22 February 2023.

CHRISTMAS TREES: -

Kerbside collection scheme continues during weeks beginning 16 & 23rd – the week in which recycling is collected – Sturry's will be the week beginning 23rd. If trees are put out at the edge of the property, crews will pick them up at some point that week. It will not necessarily be the same day as the recycling collection itself. This is a drive-by collection and routes will be fluid. This refers to real Christmas Trees. Any queries can be made via your local member or direct to CCC Contracts.

Waste Collection Issues: - Website to register complaints – Wastesupport@Canterbury.gov.uk
Canenco (Canterbury Environment Company) has reached its second birthday. Having travelled some 848 thousand miles, using the newest technology vehicles - Euro VI diesel engines to minimise the impact on the environment.

FULL COUNCIL – meeting held on Thursday, 6th January 2022

1. All agreed Council Tax base will be agreed by 11th March.
2. KCC meets on 9th February, Police meet on 1st February and the Fire Service on 21st February, notifications will be made available to Parish Councils shortly afterwards.
3. Increase in Electric Vehicle Charging points including clearer notification for residents and for visitors to the city.
4. Adoption of the New Parish Charter has already been agreed.
5. Comments on the Draft Local Plan Consultations – closed on 16th January 2023. This will leave residents and Parish Councils waiting until it comes before the relevant CCC committee.
6. Speeding up the replacement lighting to change all bulbs over to LED lights.
7. Council Tax under Band D will rise by 2.99%.

Canterbury City Centre Improvement Scheme – The St Georges Street in the heart of the city centre gets underway from Monday, 16th January – parts of the road will be closed during the next six months.

Public Consultations current: -

1. Electric vehicle and infrastructure survey.
2. Proposed changes to boat licence fees.
3. Proposed changes to scrap metal dealer licence fees.
4. Proposed changes to taxi and private hire licence fees.
5. Proposed changes to street trading licence fees.
6. Annual Parking Review.

Communications: -

Central Government have sent out to the CCC information on Street Parties – recommending the Sunday of the King’s coronation.

It has suggested that the Bank Holiday Monday should be a day of Volunteering – making a difference to your community.

Canterbury has been successful in gaining funding for the erection of a Large Screen in the Centre of Canterbury to enable all the residents to have an opportunity to view the service of the coronation.

Georgina Glover – Ward Councillor – 16th January 2023.

CCC Louise Harvey-Quirke gave her report to the Clerk, and she read this out.

Canterbury City Councillor Report - Sturry Parish Council, 1st February 2023.

Planning:

Following resident concerns, I called the following application in to committee: CA//22//02479, 6 High Street. There has not been any confirmation when this will be, however.

Like many others, I responded to the Draft Local Plan 2045 consultation, which has now closed. The feedback also included concerns brought to me by residents. These were: impact from the Eastern Bypass, Zoning, and the use of filters to control traffic flow, housing mix, the re-introduction of previously refused schemes, bus travel and Stagecoach, Broad Oak Reservoir, extending the platforms at Sturry Station, over-development, and access.

Waste:

I have reported some public bins to Sarah Randall and asked if we could possibly have some lidded bins for security reasons and to stop the spread of waste. This will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Waste.

Christmas tree collections have been completed now. If a tree has been missed, please report it to me in the first instance.

Other matters:

Double-yellow lines have been installed in Fairview Gardens, however, there continues to be issues with some vehicles. I am working on this with Richard Jenkins and have asked Kent Police to be included due to blocked access.

Finally, as we approach Purdah, we are being asked to use our Councillor Opportunity Funds. With that in mind, I would like to offer you a donation towards your Coronation Cups. I will send the application link to Dawn; however, this needs to be completed by the end of February,

Thank you, Louise.

Cllr Davies thanked Louise for the offer of a donation towards the Coronation cups. Also, Cllr Davies requested that Street Party be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7595. Community Warden report

Linda Hayes said that she had chased up the faulty streetlight reported on public pathway CB59 Grid Ref TR1746661001. This was originally reported by Sturry Parish Council in August 2022. This comes under Canterbury City Council. She has also reported the Pedestrian Traffic lights fault and this has now been fixed. She is setting up a Dementia awareness group with the help of Cllr Hogben and Debbie from Sturry Social Centre.

Cllr Bubb said that we need to advertise the Youth bus. Cllr Isaac said she would advertise this on our Facebook Page. Community Warden said TikTok would be the best for advertising to young people.

7596. Village Caretaker's report

The Christmas lights are down. Cllr Pilbeam assisted with this. Several contractors have been shown round the dog walking area and Centenary woodland. The caretaker had been clearing footpaths as residence had complained to him. Cllr Davies said that he must tell them to get in contact with Kent County Council, as this is not our responsibility. Several items of work on the parish council's property, reported a long time ago have still not been finished and we need to concentrate on looking after our own property. Cllr Bubb said that we need to be careful over our insurance as this will not cover staff who decide to work on other people's land.

7597. Cemetery Report.

This month, a lot of my time has been on Office Admin, assisting in finding suppliers and issuing quotation requests for all of the tender exercises under way. (Fencing in dog walk area, Grounds Maintenance contract, Safety work in Centenary Woodland, Path through dog walking area, Tree cutting in Cemetery, IT support Contract). I have also dealt with several walk in enquiries from members of the general public.

Cemetery Database:

I have created a blank map of the cemetery plots in excel. I have started to confirm the position of plots and all data related to the plots. Due to plots being sold randomly and egress of other plots or trees into some plots, not all grave spaces are available for use. This is a potential issue if someone presents a deed for any of those plots. The remapping exercise will help us identify the size of this issue and enable us to manage plots more easily moving forwards. However this is not a trivial task and will take some months to complete.

Cemetery Other:

Due to the issues we will inevitably have if someone has a deed of right of burial that we cannot fulfil because the space is not available, I propose we stop with immediate effect any further sales of plots, with the exception of imminent burials. *NOTE: This reflects what is already stated in our Cemetery Regulations!* There would need to be exceptions on a case by case basis e.g. family members being adjacent etc.

I was asked last meeting "what do our cemetery regulations say about upkeep of the plot". The regulations state "**All memorials (monuments, gravestones, etc.) and all places of burial shall be kept tidy and in good repair at the expense of the owner of the Deed of Grant.**"

Chartham Parish Council issue to any person seeking a "grant of exclusive right of burial" a small booklet containing all the terms & conditions for the cemetery. I believe SPC would do well to follow this model and I will with the Councils agreement, seek quotes etc. for the production of such a booklet.

Other:

I have written to the 18 residents of Meadow Road, who own the garages adjoining the cemetery. I have stated that we will be seeking to cut back the cemetery Laurel trees overhanging the driveway leading to the garages and that our contractors will be using the driveway for access. I doubt we will receive any objections to the work proceeding.

Cemetery Ongoing:

Complete review of Register of Burials (done, with the exception of any unknown documents appearing)

Continue remapping exercise for cemetery plots/space

Continue checking all documents & update grave records on database.

7598. Clerks Report.

She said that the broken tiles on the office roof had been replaced by the caretaker on the day we hired the cherry picker for the Christmas lights. Spent lots of time with Ken on the Tenders. Spent time on the accounts.

7599. Report from Finance Committee

Cllr Harriss was unable to attend the meeting.

7600. For decision – Purchase of coronation mugs for the primary school children

Cllr Pilbeam said he had checked on the internet for prices and this was the only company that gave discount for quantity. He explained there are no allocated funds for this but felt it was something the parish council should do. It would be best that the school is given the mugs and they can then distribute them to all the children. Cllr Pilbeam said that there are 420 children, and 12 boxes were needed but Cllr Davies said this should be increased to 13 boxes. Cllr Pilbeam proposed this, and Cllr Bubb seconded this. Agreed.

7601. Fencing quotations – To decide on acceptance of quotation for arranging the fencing in the dog walking area.

Cllr Bubb asked if we need to move the path in the dog walking area. Cllr Davies said the area is very much a social meeting area for the dog walkers. Cllr Bubb said we should only do the fencing work that was strictly necessary to enlarge the dog walk area. Cllr Davies said that the clerk could get quotes for this option. Cllr Davies proposed this, and Cllr Wenham seconded this. Agreed

7602. Update on Local Plan

The consultation has now been done and closed. Cllr Davies said that Sturry is not classed as one of the 6 areas lacking in space. The field beside Popes Lane is now allocated for housing. The comments from residents show that they are very unhappy about this. The traffic will increase. Our submission in response to the Local Plan consultation was late due to injury, but the city council confirmed it would be looked at. We have done what we can, and our concerns have been stated.

7603. Update on Centenary Woodland.

The electricity cable exposed by the recent collapse of the cave roof is not live and not connected. Patrick does not want the gas board contacted yet over the expose gas main. He will be kept up to date. Run off from the road may be causing erosion. Four contractors are interested in the work, we are waiting for the engineer to come back to us. Cllr Davies may call an extraordinary meeting. To agree quotation the engineer's quotation for the work.

The mayor of Canterbury asked whether there was budget provision for the work in the woodland. She also said that the situation in the woodland should be explained to the community. Cllr Davies said that we have funds to cover this. She agreed that it was right to inform the community. Cllr Isaac said that she could put this on our Facebook Page. Cllr Davies said she would give Cllr Isaac information of items of interest found at Centenary Wood to encourage interest.

7604. Update on Ground maintenance tender

The Tender went out to four contractors on the 13th January 2023 and are to be opened on Friday 24th February 2023 at 12.00 Noon.

7605. Update on Footpath in dog walking area.

Cllr Hogben will donate the top layer of the path and Tenders will be sent out soon.

7606. Appointment of signatories for new bank account

Cllr Pilbeam and Cllr Isaac were asked if they would be signatories for the Unity Trust Bank Account. They both agreed.

7607. Appointment of Finance

a) Accounts

Cllr Davies explained that there is still a problem with the way cost codes have been entered into the system. Therefore, the expenditure and income account by cost code was incorrect. The cash book and bank statement agree and Cllr Wenham had checked the entries on the cash book against the bank statement.

B) Payments for Approval

One invoice for the Cherry picker from 'Up and out Platforms' but this showed the date from November 2022. The clerk will ask them to correct this.

7608. Date for next meeting.

Wednesday 1st March 2023.

Signed 

Date 