

## **Minutes of General Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Broad Oak Village Hall at 7pm**

### **Present:**

Cllr Ashley Bubb (Chairman), Cllr John Hogben (Vice Chairman), Cllr Karen Isaac, Cllr Peter Campbell, Cllr Ann Davies, Cllr Heather Taylor

Dawn Hyams, Clerk

Ken Bullock, Cemetery Superintendent

### **7723. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Peter Wenham and Alan Marsh

### **Public questions**

A gentleman Thanked us for addressing the issue with the allotments.

**7724. To receive Declarations of Discloser Pecuniary Interests and other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests 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

**7724. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Cllr Davies objected. Minutes will be amended.

**7725. Matters arising from minutes of Parish meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Deferred to next meeting.

**7726. To approve the minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Cllr Davies objected. Minutes will be amended.

**7727. Matters arising from the minutes of the extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Deferred to next meeting.

**7728. Chairman and Councillors' reports.**

Cllr Bubb – Chairman read out an email from a member of the public who requested it was read out to the council. –Cllr Davies said she had attended the Kalc meeting they looked into Functions Grants. Cllr Taylor had been up to the cemetery and had seen a group of 6 or 7 teens. She spoke with them, and they left. There have not been any further complaints.

**7729. County and District Councillors' reports**

Councillor McKenzie reported:

Bin Strikes:

- The bin strike dispute is still ongoing with GMB Members.
- GMB union working for our waste contractor Canenco rejected the Councils latest pay offer.
- The council has no more money to offer a higher pay deal without cutting back other vital services and cabinet members have made it very clear there is no appetite to cut back other vital front line council services.
- We do still have a number of crews out making collections and they are trying their hardest under the circumstances.
- Black bin or purple sacks should be put out as normal on collection day.
- If bins are not collected after 24 hours, it will have to be taken back in until the next scheduled collection day.
- Residents who have missed out on household waste and recycling collections so far will be able to put out 'side waste' – i.e., recycling in a suitable container (not in bin bags) and general rubbish in black bags.

- We want to assure everyone that the cabinet is not sitting on its hands but is working tirelessly in negotiations to come to a fair deal as quickly as possible to get this issue resolved and bins collected again.
- There are further instructions on the [CCC Website](#).

#### Dust problem:

- We recently met with the technical coordinator for the Broad Oak development site by Barratts and David Wilson Homes.
- He showed us the dust suppression bowsers and the hoses that they are using to wet the dust around the site and prevent as much as possible of the dust from exiting the borders of the site.
- He also reassured us that they are getting a geotechnical coordinator to set up a comprehensive plan for mitigating the dust problem, which we haven't received details of yet, but when we do, we will pass it on to you.
- We also raised concerns about noise, and they said they have to have loud machinery to keep their workers safe, but they only use loud machinery during the daytime and if residents are disturbed by noises from the site at inappropriate hours, then they can contact the site and report it and they assured us they'll look into it, if complaints are received.
- We understand though, that this problem is still persisting, and we will keep in communication with the site to flag up issues with them and give them a nudge if there are any further issues that could be resolved.
- We have been offered to return to the site at a later date to discuss progress and flag up issues.
- We are on the side of residents and will continue to speak on your behalf to the developers.

#### Proposed new development on Popes Lane:

- We are aware of the new development proposed for Popes Lane that is seeking planning permission.

- I am on the planning committee and this application may come before me at committee.
- Under the rules of the council, I am not allowed to take a predetermined decision on planning matters and am required to retain an open mind until the vote occurs at committee.
- I am not prepared to breach impartiality rules or jeopardise my integrity as a councillor, so I am not prepared to take a position on this new development until the committee meeting where this new proposed development may come before me and then I will make an informed decision through conversations with this parish council, the contributions at the committee, and talks with local residents.
- Something both of us want to do is look into setting up a public consultation on this development and speak with the developers, so we can obtain all the facts of the case and capture the mood of local people on the case.
- There will be more to come on this.

#### Rail ticket office closures:

- We are disgusted to hear that the government is planning to scrap nearly every rail ticket office in the country.
- The only ticket office to be left in the Canterbury area will be at Canterbury West.
- This will have a detrimental impact on people who struggle with technology and rely on in-person interactions.
- It will also threaten jobs in the railway.
- We are in conversations about setting up a campaign, based here in Sturry, to defend the local rail ticket office.
- More information to come.

#### **7730. Community Warden Report**

This month I have been working with Sturry Church of England Primary School with the parking issues, the enforcement team have been notified

and I have been in touch with KCC Safe Road User officer to arrange for some road safety learning for the children.

I have started proceeding with a memory/mind café. Café Hope, which will be a social gathering place for anyone living with mental ill health and their families and carers. This will take place in Sturry Social Centre one Monday a month to start with. I have received some funding for startup costs, and I am in the process of getting some volunteers, the Asda Community Champion has offered a startup bundle of refreshments and biscuits. So, if all goes well I would like this to be up and running in the next 6 weeks.

I have attempted to help the homeless man living in Sturry, however as he refuses to engage with services at the present time this will be ongoing.

I was notified of a possible rogue trader in the area after a post was put on Facebook about a guy who was waiting outside resident's homes and then booking appointments for a few days later, he had been reported to the police. I contacted the Canterbury City Housing Officer who confirmed that the guy was a contractor doing Energy Performance Surveys for the council. I posted a comment on Facebook and visited the lady who was concerned about him.

Kent County Council Community Warden Public Consultation has gone live today. This is available in hard copies and online for everyone to complete. All support for our services will be greatly appreciated.

### **7731. Village Caretaker's Report**

The caretaker went to 26 Broadlands and spoke to Marianne. She took him into the garden. It was very sunny but very little sunshine gets into the garden. The trees are sycamore and are located directly behind her fence. There are about 7 or 8 trees located in a clump around her garden. The trees are very mature and are extremely tall. He explained that he would report back to the councillors, and we would get back to her.

**ACTION:-** It was agreed that some councillors would go to centenary woods.

The Dog walking area temporary fencing was pulled down so this has now been put back up. Cleared rubbish dumped.

### **7732. Cemetery Superintendent's Report**

We have signed two of the IT contracts (Microsoft & Helpdesk). I have discussed the whole transfer with the new supplier and agreed a schedule. Our new and old suppliers have been in contact and started the transfer process. I have raised the order for our telecom's services with BT. There may be further small changes as the service is implemented. Current overall savings stand at £3,273 p.a.

Open Queries in hand: Cemetery = 12 Burials = 5 Council General = 11

*(excludes walk in, email, telephone enquiries resolved at the time)*

#### **Cemetery Database:**

There are 485 Interment records in the database. The 485 Burials are in 262 graves, a ratio of 1.8 per grave.

A manual count of the records in the Burial Register suggests there are 1,554 interments in the cemetery. Therefore, the database is missing circa 1,000 records.

A ratio of 1.8 would suggest we have circa 860 graves in use, out of a useable total of approx. 1,600. *(2,194, less obstructions, less area C, less half area D)*

We have circa 400 have deeds issued.

The details of all current burials have been added to the database, along with a few historic records, which I am updating as and when I come across missing or incorrect data.

The work continues.

### **Cemetery Other:**

We have a burial of cremated remains and a burial on July 19<sup>th</sup>, burial of cremated remains on July 22<sup>nd</sup> a burial of cremated remains on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> and a burial of cremated remains on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Cemetery Regulations booklet has been printed and is now available for anyone who needs a copy. The latest set of regulations have been uploaded to the website.

Five dead trees in the Cemetery will be cut down on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Cemetery Ongoing:**

Continue survey of cemetery plots/space.

Continue checking all documents & update grave records on database.

Respond to and resolve the ongoing resident enquiries.

Continue resolution of the outstanding "pending" items.

### **7733. Clerk's Report.**

Been very busy with dealing with the AGAR 23. This is now completed.

### **7734. Discuss Use of High Street Allotments.**

This is situated in the High Street and behind Franklin House. Resident had told the office that no-one has expressed an interest in it. He rang Canterbury City Council who said it was Sturry Parish Councils, as it was not on their records. The Plot of land only has footpath access.

**ACTION:** - Clerk to contact Lynne Moore of Canterbury City Council.

### **7735. Decision on quotation for replacing the Mesh in the Dog Walking Area from Firwood Fencing.**

Cllr Taylor and Cllr Isaac both feel this needs to be done, so agreed the quotation. Cllrs Hogben, Davies, Campbell and Bubb disagreed.

**Action:** - Cllr Hogben said he will take a look at the fence to see what materials would be best to use.

Ken Bullock will check with the insurance for claim.

**7736. Decision on quotation for replacing the Ledon See Saw Horse.**

Caretake took the broken part off, so it is safe at the moment. Very expensive to replace.

**Action:** - Clerk to check with the insurance company to see if claim can be made.

**7737. Discussion on Speed Camera purchase for Sturry Parish Council.**

It was decided that a Handheld Speed Camera should be researched.

**Action:** - Clerk to research prices and contact Lydden Parish for advice.

**7738. Discussion on Coronation Charity Money – Sturry King’s Junior football club. They are hoping to form a girls team and this donation will help towards kit and balls etc.**

Cllr Taylor said it was always put back into the pot to go towards the next event. They should put in a grant application for kit etc. It is not a profit, just what was taken on the day.

Cllr Taylor proposed for a simple grant process.

Ann Seconded. All in favour.

**7739. Discussion on Parish Council communications with the public including Parish Magazine, Questionnaire to residents about priorities, Surgeries, and social media.**

**ACTION:** - Ken Bullock to investigate the website to see if it makes it easier for people to contact us. Councillors to get some proposals for the next meeting.



## **7740. Finance**

### **a) Approval of payments.**

Cllr Bubb proposed.

All agreed payments could be paid.

## **7742. Approval of draft Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee**

Cllr Davies proposed. Cllr Taylor seconded. All councillors in favour.

## **7743. Review of the council's Financial Regulations**

Cllr Davies said they have checked and the regulations have not changed. Cllr Davies did not send this round, until just before the meeting so Cllr Taylor has not had time to read this. Deferred to the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC LEAVES**

## **7741. Discussion of Centenary Woodland Works at Finance Committee.**

Cllr Campbell has contacted both companies that have sent in tenders. References etc have come in and they are happy to recommend Owendens. Didn't use contract finder, but this was in good faith. The risk of collapse is far greater.

Cllr Bubb has contacted the owner of the property and updated him. We will hold an extraordinary meeting next week to make a decision. Meeting to be held Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the office at 7pm.

**7744. Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Meeting Closed at 9:03pm.

Signed .....

Date .....