

**Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Sturry Social Centre.**

**Present:**

Cllr John Hogben (Vice Chairman), Cllr Ann Davies, Cllr Peter Wenham, Cllr Heather Taylor and Cllr Steve Birch.

Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent, Alan Webster Caretaker, KCC Cllr Alan Marsh.

Five residents in attendance

**42-24: Apologies for absence**

Cllr Ashley Bubb, Cllr Karen Isaac and CCC Cllr Keji Moses

**Public questions**

There were no public questions.

**43-24: To receive Declarations of Disclosable 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.**

Cllr Davies stated that she had an interest in item 57-24.

Cllr Wenham also stated he had an interest in item 57-24.

**44-24: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Proposed by Cllr A Davies, Seconded by Cllr P Wenham and all in agreement.

**45-24: Matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

Cllr Davies stated that she had sent an email about using the Centre for our meeting but it might be a bit tight but that could be sorted out for the next meetings.

She also stated that as the Council are the owners of the building the management committee has agreed that we can use the hall for free.

**46-24: Chairman and Councillors' reports**

Cllr Davies reported that she had attended the speed watch meeting and that most of the attendees were from Sturry Court Mews.

She also stated that she had attended a Sabora meeting and they had asked if our HIP could be put on our web page so that residents could see what we are sending in to KCC.

Sabora would like to help with any events that we are going to run in the summer and also with the Local Plan.

Cllr Taylor stated that she had attended a meeting at the Social Centre regarding the work that has been carried out and she is happy to propose the payments for this.

## 47-24: County and District Councillors' reports.

KCC Cllr A Marsh stated the following.

He thanked the Council for setting up the meeting with speed watch and that the majority of the people attending were from Sturry Court Mews.

He also explained the situation with putting in pedestrian crossings.

He stated that he has had three complaints from residents about Sweechgate about speeding, he said that they are taking the developers to the cleaners for removing the speed signs and not replacing them.

He stated that we should be aware that any items on our HIP will have to be paid for by the Council.

CCC Cllr. Moses sent in the following report.

### Money Skills Workshop

- Having good money saving and budget skills is very important for life, and money can severely impact mental health! Harry McKenzie set up two money skills workshops for residents in Sturry Ward and Hersden with East Kent Mind!

Residents who need advice can attend and speak to an advisor who will help them free of charge.

Dates for your diary:


Tuesday 19th March at 18:00-19:30 in Sturry Social Centre


Tuesday 26th March at 18:00-19:30 in Hersden Community Centre


### Sturry Park & Ride

- Park and ride at Sturry Road returns – and it's cheaper for residents!

The countdown to the reopening of Sturry Road park and ride on Monday 1 April has begun – and Canterbury district residents will be able to use the service for just £3.20 a day.

 Park and ride offers cost effective and convenient parking, and the restoration of the Sturry Road route, after it stopped operating in July 2022, will see nearly 600 more parking spaces for the city come back into use.

 District residents with an ANPR parking account will receive a 20 per cent reduction on the cost of park and ride, making the daily price just £3.20 for a car with up to six passengers.

 And drivers who aren't district residents can still benefit by using the service regularly. Their fifth journey will be free of charge when they use park and ride five times in any calendar month, again through an ANPR parking account.

### Food Bank Project

- Food Bank Project: Harry attended a meeting with Hersden Parish Council to discuss ideas for the Food Bank Project. More information will be made available soon.

Signed: ..... Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Community Cafe

- Community Café: We attended the grand opening of the Chapters Coffee and Books Café in Sturry. It was spectacular in there with a lovely atmosphere, cheap and tasty treats, and drinks, and lots of books!

## Volunteers Needed

- Volunteers wanted for the Sturry Speed watch scheme. If residents are interested, they can email Sturry Parish council [Clerk@sturry-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@sturry-pc.gov.uk)

## Dog PSPO (Proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection order) 2024

The Dog PSPO was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on February 29th. The Cabinet will receive all recommendations and comments for consideration.

### **48-24: Community Warden report.**

No Report

### **49-24: Village Caretaker's report.**

As the weather has been bad not a lot has been going on, I have managed to get the two bikes to the Canterbury bike depot.

I had to change a wheel on the minibus, I checked at Whatling tyres for the puncture to be repaired (£30). Cllr Hogben asked him to get a replacement inflation bottle to replace the one he used.

Cllr Taylor asked when the Xmas tree was going to be removed. It will be removed as soon as possible.

### **50-24: Cemetery Superintendent's Report**

#### **Admin Work:**

I have updated the councillors page on the website, where details were out of date. We still need to add the names of the new councillors.

#### **Cemetery Database:**

In between other jobs, work continues on updating the database.

#### **Cemetery Other:**

The new cemetery email address has been set up [cemetery@sturry-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@sturry-pc.gov.uk) I have informed everyone I can think of about the change.

The new fencing has been installed along the west side of the cemetery drive. The contractors did a thoroughly professional job and I am very happy with the outcome.

Three cherry trees have been purchased as agreed at the last council meeting and planted along the west side of the cemetery drive.

I received a "Request for information" for "Non-Domestic Rating" from "the Valuation Office Agency". Part of HMRC, giving us (to avoid a £100 penalty) 56 days to provide them with details of the cemetery. As far as I am aware we do not pay rates on the cemetery? I have

provided the information required, but as nothing existed in our records, this entailed a new complete survey of the cemetery.

I have been informed that a BBC film crew were seen in the cemetery filming. I believe it was with the family of a young man who is buried in the cemetery. No permission was sought by the BBC for the filming.

The Clerk stated that they had been in contact with the Parish office to ask if it was

Since my last report, we have had one burial.

I have two further burials and one burial of cremated remains booked for March.

The "Cemetery Improvement Plan" has been uploaded to our website. I have written a note with which I shall do a letter drop to all residents who boarder the cemetery, informing them of the plan; so they can understand what we are trying to achieve and comment if they wish.

I have been approached by a member of the Canterbury Gurkha Nepalese community, who believes there was an agreement with the Council, to set a side an area of the cemetery for the Gurkha community. I can find no record of such an agreement?

#### **51-24: Clerks Report**

I have set up a meeting with CCC at the playpark for 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30. This is to find out what we can spend the S106 monies on. It would be good if most if not all the Councillors could attend.

Cllr Davies and I have been working on the budget figures for next year and setting the Earmarked reserves as these have been the same since 2019 when the transfer from our account to Hersden PC should have come out of these reserves.

As you will see there are four outstanding invoices from PKF Littlejohn, I will explain these during the finance section.

I have researched some gate closers for the dog walking area and playpark. The two that I have found cost £150 each including VAT. I believe there are five gates that need these fitting.

We have dealt with several enquiries over the last few weeks ranging from waste, fly tipping and parking issues to prostitution.

I will be off next week on annual leave. I will have access to my emails so if anything, urgent comes in I will be able to forward it on to the relevant Councillors.

## 52-24: Finance

### a) Payments for Approval

The following invoices were submitted for approval:

£924	Hart and Lee	Tree work in Centenary Woodland
£312	Hart and Lee	Pollarded Willow tree on Bakery Green
£80	KCC	Rent for library x 2
£8.83	Amazon	Password book
£24.09	Viking	16 x 1 <sup>st</sup> class stamps
£12144	Coombs Brothers	Building work at SCC Invoice No 2515
£540	Coombs Brothers	Building work at SCC Invoice No 2516
£5226	Coombs Brothers	Building work at SCC Invoice No 2517
£3318	Southgate Electrical	Electrical work at Sturry Social centre
£4875	Clarks Ltd	SCC Kitchen new flooring
£4587	Kingswood Fencing	New fencing in the cemetery
£60.44	Viking	Cleaning materials and Toilet paper
£1250	John Caddick	Grounds Maintenance
£132.85	Westley Hire	Cemetery toilet hire and cleaning.
£1920	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Outstanding invoices x 4 at £480 each

Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Davies and all in agreement.

#### a) Accounts for approval and signature.

#### b) Finance Committee.

Cllr Davies stated that the Financial Plan would be brought back to next meeting. Cllrs agreed to read the documents and vote by email before the next meeting.

## 53-24. To agree for Minibus service and MOT.

Proposed by Cllr Davies, Seconded by Cllr Hogben all in agreement.

## 54-24. Co-option candidates Q & A

There were two candidates for co-option both were asked a series of questions by the Cllrs and the decision will be made at the end of this meeting.

## 55-24. To discuss and agree (a) Quote from Hart and Lee for extra of work in Centenary Woodland and (b) Quotations for the Management Plan.

A discussion was held between the Cllrs and (a) was proposed by Cllr Davies and Seconded by Cllr Hogben all in agreement.

(b) After some discussion it was agreed to go with Adonis Blue, this was proposed by Cllr Hogben and Seconded by Cllr Davies, Cllrs Birch and Wenham agreed, Cllr Taylor refused to vote.

## 56-24. To discuss and agree what is to be done with the borders and raised bed at Forge Lane

This was decided to bring back to next meeting.

**57-24. Update on Sturry Social centre.**

Cllr Davies explained that they are going to use Howdens for the kitchen and Canterbury sheet metal for the sinks and then get a kitchen fitter to install. We will need to open an account with Howdens.

She explained that it could come in under budget.

**58-24. Update and breakdown on Christmas Event.**

There was a discussion about who has to pay for the xmas tree, this was to be paid by the Council.

There was also a discussion of who was to pay for Father Christmas. No one informed the office on who and how this was to be paid.

**59-24. To Discuss and agree on the date and location for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

It was decided to use the school and to contact both speakers to see if they are available on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**60-24. To discuss and agree to change code on Cemetery gate.**

The Cllr discussed this item and it was proposed that the situation be monitored.

Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Wenham all in agreement.

**61-24. To discuss and agree an events Committee.**

Bring back to next meeting.

**62-24. To discuss and agree on Printer contract quote.**

There were two quotes for replacing the printer in the office due to the fact that we do not have a service contract at the moment. The Cllrs reviewed the quotes and selected Managed Technology.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Birch all in agreement.

**63-24. DPI forms to be updated.**

The Clerk stated that CCC are doing checks on all DPI's and that as it is the Councillors responsibility to make sure that their DPI's are correct, that they should all check them on the CCC website and if they need to be updated to come into the office so that the forms can be filled in and sign before sending off to CCC

**64-24. Update on speed watch meeting.**

Cllr Hogben gave a short report on the meeting and is now only looking for a couple more volunteers.

**65-24. To discuss and agree to set up a new Facebook page.**

This is in progress and the Clerk is waiting on Cllr Isaac to come into the office so that the switch can be made.

**66-24. To discuss our response to the Local Plan.**

It was decided to set up a meeting with Sabora and the ward Cllrs so that the workload for explaining this could be split and then the responses put together for submittal.

**67-24. To discuss and agree Highways Improvement Plan items prior to sending to KCC.**

The Cllrs decided that there are no new items to be included, so the Clerk will complete the form and submit to KCC.

**Date for next meeting.**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Meeting ended at 21:27

**Exclusion of the Press & Public, pursuant of section 1 of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) act 1960**

**68-24 To Discuss and agree on co-option.**

A discussion was had between the Councillors regarding one candidate, and all agreed to ask them to take up office.

The discussion on the second candidate was a bit longer as this candidate is new to the Parish and one councillor thought they might need more time to get acquainted with the surroundings. All other councillors agreed that they should be asked to take up office.

It was agreed that the Clerk would inform them tomorrow.