

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Present:

Cllr John Hogben (Vice Chair), Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell, Cllr Gill Betts and Cllr Chris Gartland.

Ken Dekker Clerk and Alan Webster Caretaker

4 residents in attendance.

197-24: Apologies for absence

Cllr. Davies is away, CCC Cllr Moses, Cllr Mckenzie is on annual leave and Community Warden Roger Lithgow is unavailable.

Public questions.

There were no questions from the public.

198-24: 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.

None

199-24: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Proposed by Cllr. Hogben and seconded by Cllr. Birch. All in agreement.

200-24: Matters arising from minutes of the Parish meeting on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

No matters arising.

201-24: Chairman and Councilor's reports.

Cllr Betts stated that she was in Chapters Coffee and Books when the inaugural meeting of a new gardening group, called SABORGS (Sturry And Broad Oak Residents Gardening Society) was taking place, and I was invited to join in in their discussion. This group is not a part of SABORA, but a new initiative creating its name by using the Sturry and Broad Oak

The group has been set up by Sarah Goddard who has recently completed a two-year course with the British Academy of Garden Design and is now a fully qualified Garden Designer.

She says:

In order to give something back to the community I was thinking of setting up a gardening club where people could meet monthly to discuss all things green! You don't have to be a keen gardener; it might be a case of getting some friendly advice on where to start. There will be no charge for the club. It would be good practice for me to provide practical design advice on the problems you may be facing and give my business 'design my garden' a bit of marketing! In the meantime, when you're tidying your garden ready for the winter, why not harvest some seeds. Together we can make our community beautiful!

The newly formed group would like to provide gardening opportunities for children and families as well as helping to improve the local environment. One of the areas mentioned for improvement was Forge Green, the land by the railway line, and it was suggested that Sarah might talk to the Parish Council about its development, initially most probably the planting of bulbs to provide a more attractive appearance.

It was also noted by the group that Centenary Woodland was greatly improved, and people were keen to be able to walk there again.

The group is aware that it needs both a constitution and insurance before applying to the Parish Council for a grant.

Cllr Birch stated that the payback team are still busy with work at Broad Oak Green.

He has been working on getting quotes for the new Goalpost for the playpark and this will be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Hogben stated that he had attended a meeting with Quinn Homes.

202-24: County and District councilor's reports.

KCC Cllr Marsh Stated that he had received an email from a representative from SABORA about the streetlights on the new roundabout, he stated that KCC have no responsibility with these lights as the developer under an agreement with CCC (278) and until this is closed KCC cannot do anything with the lights.

He also commented on the KCC budget being £85 million short.

He stated that there is a possibility for a defibrillator at a reduced cost, the Clerk asked if SPC could be considered for this.

Cllr Marsh left the meeting at 19:20

CCC Cllrs report was read out by the Clerk.

Harry and I have requested a briefing from the planning department regarding the Goose Farm development in Broad Oak.

We are currently waiting for a suitable date for the online meeting with the developer. Harry received confirmation from Stevie Andrews that TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) will be implemented on Pyes Wood. This is great news.

203-24: Community Warden report.

I am still covering the areas of: Greenhill, Sturry, Hersden and Hoath while undertaking any partnership and resident referrals in these areas including Canterbury.

During September, I have been undertaking visible presence around Sturry and dealing with any issues raised by residents.

One of the Coffee Mornings at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday between times of 1030-1200

Regular visits to Sturry Parish Council to see if there are any local issues to be resolved.

Issues raised:

Agricultural vehicles dropping cut maize on roads – I notified Sturry Parish Council who is believed to be the owner of the tractors

204-24: Village Caretaker's report.

There are no major issues at the moment, and he has been carrying on with his normal duties. I have worked with Cllr Birch clearing up after the payback team at Broad Oak Green.

205-24: Cemetery Superintendent's Report.

Admin Work:

We have dealt with numerous enquiries as business as usual, and I have covered key items for the Clerk during his leave.

I have as requested, raised the application for a **Temporary Traffic Regulation Order**. This to gain approval from KCC for the road closure for the Christmas Lights/Fayre. The process has changed, all applications now have to be raised online and the person from KCC who has greatly assisted us with previous applications has left. This means that we have to follow the same process as any other applicant and may have to pay the full cost of £910, rather than the reduced cost for a charitable event.

The Herne Bay Concert Band who we used last year have the 1st Dec penciled in for the Christmas lights switch on, subject to the council confirming arrangements.

Cemetery Database:

Work has continued on adding the interment records from Burial Register 1 (7th June 1933 to 15th Jan 1987) to the database. So far, I have completed 339 (258) Deeds and 509 (346) associated Interments.

Cemetery Other:

Since my last report, we have had no burials and no burials of cremated remains.

I currently have no burials pending.

I have processed 3 applications for monuments in the cemetery.

We have not carried out any further safety surveys of the monuments. However, I have obtained two quotes from Stone Masons for the repairs to the 20 monuments identified as needing urgent attention in our first survey. Due to the age of the graves and the fact most of the owners are buried in the plots, the cost of repairs will have to be borne by the Parish Council. The two quotes range from £1,800 to £4,380. I am seeking a 3rd quote so I can bring to the Council for approval.

I am in the process of updating the cemetery regulations and will bring this for approval at the November Council Meeting.

Since my last report, I have issued the access code for the cemetery to 2 more blue badge holders. In total, the code has been issued to 26 people (including 10 members of the public).

206-24: Clerks Report.

General residents' enquiries.

I haven't much to report this month as I have been on vacation.

Caught up with correspondence through emails and prepared Agenda for this meeting.

Cashbook brought up to date.

Second quarter VAT return submitted.

Reported to the police about drug usage in the public toilets over the last few days.

We have two new Bobbies on the beat who are PC 30838 Parkinson-Wellard and PC 30649 Fernandes who I hope to meet in the near future.

As we are now in October, I would like to ask the chair of the Finance Committee to call a meeting of said committee as there is the small item of the annual budget/precept that needs to be set, I would like this to on the agenda in December.

The S 106 monies have been transferred to our account for the upgrade work in the playpark. The contractor has confirmed that the order is being processed and will be in touch with start dates for the work,

207-24: Outside Bodies members reports.

No reports

208-24: Finance

(a) Payments for approval. Proposed by Cllr. Hogben and seconded by Cllr. Birch and all in agreement.

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| £48 | Canenco | Clearing blockage in gent's toilet |
| £78 | Mulberry Local Authority Services | Training course for Cllr G Betts |
| £8.99 | Cllr Birch | Mosquito spray for payback team |
| £49.63 | Cllr Birch | Paint and brushes for payback team. |
| £32.77 | Amazon | Suspension files for office. |
| £65.99 | Viking | Cleaning materials for toilets |
| £15 | P W Needham | Window cleaners |
| £1250.89 | J Caddick | Grounds Maintenance |
| £28.51 | Mustang Washrooms | Ladies waste bins. |

(b) Accounts for approval and signature. Two Councilor's signed.

209-24 To discuss and agree on new quote for purchase of payback team tools.

This was brought back from last month's meeting with a new quote for the reduced items required. The quote was accepted and proposed by Cllr. Gartland and seconded by Cllr. Betts and all in agreement.

210-24 To discuss and agree purchase of new computer systems for the office.

This was brought to the meeting by the Clerk, who at last month's meeting reported that the systems are now nearly eight years old and required replacing as they no longer can be updated.

Signed: Date: 13th November 2024

It was agreed that the quote be accepted, this was proposed by Cllr. Hogben and seconded by Cllr Birch. All in agreement.

211-24. To discuss and agree purchase of a chipper.

There was a discussion on why there is a need for a chipper, Cllr Birch stated that the payback team are doing a lot of work in and around Sturry and there is a lot of cuttings that require chipping and as there have been several complaints when the cuttings are burnt, this would be a more effective way of disposing of the waste.

From the four quotes obtain it was decided to go with County Mowers. Proposed by Cllr. Gartland and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell, all in agreement.

212-24 Update on the purchase of the Cricket pitch.

No update as yet.

213-24. Update on Defibrillators.

Cllr. Gartland stated that he has gained permission to mount a defibrillator on the wall between two of the shops Hoades wood Road, and Associated care have stated that they are willing to donate the electricity costs.

He stated that he has gained two quotes for the electrical installation which he will bring back to the next meeting.

He is still working on the new Tesco store to get one install during the fit out of the store.

214-24. Update on dog walking area signs.

It was decided to purchase two metal signs with the wording as follows.

PLEASE CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG OR THIS AREA WILL BE CLOSED

215-24. Update on helping in the community.

No update and will be brought back to next meeting.

216-24. Update on the arrangements for the Joint Parish Meeting.

There was an original date set of 28th October, but this has now been decided that this requires to be rearranged for a later date, possibly in January next year as this is a busy time for local Councils. The Clerk is to email all the relevant Councils to see when they would be available.

A budget of £200 was set for the refreshments.

217-24. Update on arrangements for the Christmas Fair.

The date has been arranged for the 1st December 2024.
The road closure has been submitted and is being processed.
It was suggested to look into getting an artificial Xmas tree.
The work group decided to meet and decide what needs to be done.

Date for next meeting.

13th November 2024 at Sturry Social Centre.

Meeting closed at 20:12