

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at Sturry Social Centre

Present:

Cllr John Hogben (Vice Chair), Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell and Cllr Gill Betts.
Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker
KCC Cllr Alan Marsh, CCC Cllr K Moses and Community Warden R Lithgow.
3 residents in attendance and 2 Police officers
Cllr J Hogben welcomed everyone to the meeting.

222-24: Apologies for absence

Cllr. A Bubb family commitments, Cllr C Garland working and CCC Cllr. H McKenzie at another meeting.

Public questions.

There were no questions from the public

223-24: 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

224-24: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024.

Proposed by Cllr G Betts. and seconded by Cllr. S Birch. All in agreement.

225-24: Matters arising from minutes of the Parish meeting on Wednesday 9th October 2024.

None

226-24: To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

Proposed by Cllr. G Betts and seconded by Cllr. A Mitchell.

227-24: Matters arising from the minutes of the extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

None.

228-24: Chairman and Councillors' reports.

Cllr S Birch stated that he has been working alongside the payback teams and that they have requested that the Council purchase three sets of safety head gear for when they are working with the heavy equipment. It was agreed by the Council to purchase these items.

It was proposed by Cllr J Hogben to purchase these items on health and safety grounds, and it was seconded by Cllr A Mitchell. All in agreement.

Cllr C Garlands report was read out by the Clerk.

Good evening and apologies for my absence tonight. I am pleased to say that we now have a fully compliant external defibrillator outside Associated Care Centres in Hoades Wood Road. This was fitted on 7th November and is a welcome addition for the community to use in an emergency. I would like to put on record my thanks to Associated Care Centre, the staff and management for permission to install it on the outside of their building and for the donation of electricity costs for running the cabinet.

I am also pleased to confirm that Tesco's have agreed for us to put an external defib cabinet on the outside of the new Tesco's that is being built. They have agreed to share the cost so they will provide the defibrillator, and the Parish Council will supply the cabinet. This provides us with a good spread of accessible Defibrillators throughout the village. If anyone can think of any more suitable or needed locations for a defibrillator then please drop me an email.

229-24: County and District Councillors' reports.

CCC Cllr K Moses.

Goose Farm has just been validated and will proceed to a consultation phase before reaching the planning committee. Currently, there is no specific timeline set. Following the Government's recent proposal to amend the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), housing targets for local authorities are expected to change. The consultation for this amendment concluded in September, and a response from the Government is anticipated by year's end. This means that by the new year, local authorities may not meet their initial target requirements, as the criteria are being revised.

The local council will need to consider the "planning balance" against any identified harms, such as impacts on visual amenities or sustainability. These

factors must be weighed against the public benefits of the development. However, a decision cannot be made until the council has received all consultation feedback. A key input will come from the urban design officer, who will assess the design's impact and how well the development's layout and structure fit with the existing Broad Oak settlement.

For now, there is no further information available.

Shelford update

- On Thursday 5th September, there was a Community Liaison Group meeting with Valencia. Harry McKenzie, Richard Miller and Alan Marsh were present.
- The minutes of that meeting have been attached separately.

Sturry Relief Road delayed.

- The Sturry Relief Road has been delayed by another 18-months due to funding setbacks.
- This is a KCC project, so it is for Cllr Alan Marsh to update, we are just noting it as many residents are interested in this.
- This was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Joint Transportation Board; the footage of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FcEjCi2pnk>
- News article: <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/41m-link-road-project-delayed-again-314720/>

Please ensure to send any questions or casework to us at harry.mckenzie@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk keji.moses@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk

KCC Cllr A Marsh stated that he had information that he wanted the PC to decide on how to distribute it themselves. He explained to the meeting what was happening with the Sturry relief Road and why it is delayed by another 18 months. He also explained why the lights on the new roundabout on Herne Bay Road are not being switched on.

He also gave out information about several changes to bus services in the area.

The Chair introduced the two Police officers to the meeting and they explained that they are now the two officers looking after the Sturry Ward.

230-24: Community Warden report.

KCC Community Wardens Service have implemented the GAP (Geographical Allocation Policy) by informing all Community Wardens which new Wards they will be working in from January 2015.

Currently I am still covering Greenhill, Sturry, Hersden and Hoath.

From January, I will be working only within the boundaries of: Sturry Ward and Nailbourne Ward; this is turn has required me over the last month, to do area familiarisation of Nailbourne, establishing what community events are on and while there, I have arranged to use Barham Village Hall 2.5 days a week on a rotational basis. For Sturry Ward I will be based at Sturry Library and use Hersden Community Centre when in Hersden. I will be covering Sturry, Broad Oak, Fordwich, Westbere, Hersden.

From January 2015 I will be attending the Parish Councils meetings within Sturry and Naibourne Wardens where possible on a rotational basis throughout the year.

Residents can contact me by phone or email if they have any community concerns and any appointments will be booked when I am next in the village.

Over this last month I have done the following:

Repeated Visible Presence in Sturry and attended Sturry Parish Council Office.

Spoken to occupants of an address in Meadow Rd about removing a vehicle off road for road repairs to go ahead. Vehicle has since been removed.

I have reported flytipping in Wasteland between Hillbrow Ave, and Copt Close, and in Heath Close.

I have attended St Nicholas Church Coffee Mornings and Franklyn House Coffee Mornings

I met with Cllr Gill Betts who wished to talk about new ways to promote community groups and I talked Next Door App, and Hoath's poplar Drop in Café event in the Prince of Wales pub, as an idea for Sturry.

231-24: Village Caretaker's report.

Most of my work has been involved with Payback regarding clearing out the locker in the cemetery and now I can now get the cages set up for the payback tool storage.

232-24: Cemetery Superintendent's Report.

Admin Work:

We have dealt with numerous enquiries as business as usual.

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 410 (339) Deeds and 603 (509) associated Interments.

Cemetery Other:

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

I currently have two burials pending.

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 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 any repairs will have to be borne by the Parish Council. The two quotes range from £1,800 to £4,380. I have so far not been able to obtain a 3rd quote (agenda item).

I have updated the cemetery regulations and bring this for approval (agenda item).

I have obtained a quote for stump grinding of Broad Oak Green (agenda item).

I have one quote for planting of the new hedge on the southern border, of the cemetery (approx. 80 metres). I bring this for discussion of the options to the meeting (agenda item).

I would like to formally record my thanks to councillor Birch, for all his help in organising the payback team at the cemetery.

Christmas Fayre

We have received the approval for the road closure notice from KCC.

I have drafted the road closure notice for residents.

We have the signs and barriers from Roger Casement Signs free of charge.

I have submitted a "Temporary Events Notice" application to CCC. The process has changed, and I had to re-submit an on-line application.

We have booked the cherry picker for both putting the lights up and taking them down.

We have notified residents of when the cherry picker will be in the high street.

I have contacted Kings who have given permission for the Swan car park to be used by stall holders.

I emailed out to 18 potential stall holders using all the contacts I had from last year, regardless of whether they booked a stall or not. So far, I have had 6 replies of people interested. Bar Runners, The Herne Bay Band and potentially 4 local stall holders (agenda item).

233-24: Clerks Report.

Dealt with numerous resident's queries.

Our new computer systems have been installed and they are making life much easier.

The Defibrillator at Hoades Wood Road has been registered on The Circuit.

Our two new police officers have visited the office in respect to the toilets being used by drug takers and they removed the evidence. They informed us that they would be keeping an eye on things around Sturry.

The car that has been parked in Meadow Road with one wheel missing has finally been removed.

I have received a letter from Valuation Office Agency, this is an Executive Agency of HM Revenue and Customs requesting details of rent, lease or ownership of the office.

This is used to set the rateable value of the property and then this figure is used to calculate business rates.

At the moment I assume that we are exempt from rates on the building as I have not seen any invoices for them in the time that I have been in situ.

This could mean that in the future we could be liable for business tax.

Our new notice boards have arrived, and I am working with Alan for the installation of these.

I have been working on the figures for the budget and I have supplied these to the Finance Committee. The budget will be completed and brought to the next council meeting for approval of the precept.

234-24: Outside Bodies members reports.

Cllr S Birch stated that he had attended the Broad Oak Village Hall AGM.

Cllr J Hogben stated his thanks to all who had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service.

235-24: Finance

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

£28.51	Mustang Washrooms	Waste removal
£100	M Richards	Trailer Hire
£15	P W Needham	Window Cleaners
£73.37	Amazon	Monitor Stands
£174	ICCM	Training Course
£1250.89	J Caddick	Grounds Maintenance

(b) Accounts for approval and signature. Two Councillors signed.

236-24. To Discuss and agree Quotation for monument repairs.

The cemetery superintendent explained that it is a requirement to test all head stones in the cemetery and any that are dangerous are to be laid down. It would then be up to the deed holders to have them repaired but as most of the deed holders are buried in the graves it would then be up to the Parish Council to decide on doing the repairs. The PC are under no obligation to do the repairs, but it would make the cemetery look good. There was a discussion on which of the quotes to take up. Cllr J Hogben proposed to use Kent Stone Masons, and this was seconded by Cllr S Birch all in agreement.

237-24. To discuss and agree quotation for stump grinding in cemetery.

The Clerk apologised for the mistake in the agenda item, this should have read Broas Oak Village Green. There was a short discussion on this and it was agreed that the green was looking a lot better now and the stumps need removing. Proposed by Cllr J Hogben and seconded by Cllr S Birch all in agreement.

238-24. To discuss and agree changes to Cemetery Regulations.

Ken Bullock explained why there are updates to the regulations any why there needs to be changes. Proposed by Cllr J Hogben and seconded by Cllr S Birch. All agreed.

239-24. To discuss and agree options for hedging of cemetery south border.

To be brought back to next meeting.

240-24. To discuss and agree changes to Grant application form.

The Clerk has drawn up a short and much easier form that requires to be filled in by prospective Grant Applicants.

This was proposed to be used by Cllr J Hogben and seconded by Cllr G Betts all in agreement.

241-24. To discuss and agree purchase of keyboard.

Cllrs Mitchell and Betts discussed the possibility of the PC purchasing a keyboard for use at Café Hope meetings to entertain the residents that attend and that this could develop into something bigger.

A resident stated that she has one that she would donate to them.

242-24. To discuss and agree a Councillor to take on the Link – Up magazine contribution.

The Church have asked the PC if they would like to have a page in the monthly magazine that is produced by the Church. Cllr G Betts stated that she would be willing to do this on behalf of the Council.

This was proposed by Cllr J Hogben and seconded by Cllr S Birch and all agreed.

243-24. Update on Defibrillators and to discuss and agree a free training session for the residents.

Ms Maria Dyer-Santos has volunteered to run a basic CPR/Defibrillator training session for the residents of Sturry. Maria is a fully qualified first aid trainer and has a wealth of first-hand knowledge and experience in this field. This I feel is an invaluable offer that we cannot refuse. With the new Defibrillators in the village, I feel it is appropriate to offer this training through the Parish Council.

Having spoken to Maria, she aims it at all families, children included and aims to give some basic principals in CPR on adults and Infants. She has stated she will provide all the training material and dummies to practice on. Again, with the defibrillator, I am sure there are many people who have not even touched or looked at a defibrillator before so this training will give people that opportunity to have a go on a training module.

I would like to hold this training session in February 2025 and would like for the council to agree to pay the fee for hiring either Sturry Social Centre or Broadoak Village Hall.

I will be looking to hold this training around February time. The reason for this is I would like at least 1 month to advertise the training on social media

/ website / notice boards etc to get a good response. I believe in December the uptake for participants would be low due to Christmas and parties etc and in January we have our own Parish event that we will be holding. I hope this agenda item can be agreed but if you have any further questions please drop me an email.

All agreed to go ahead with this.

244-24. To discuss and agree if the Christmas fayre is going ahead and if so to agree the budget.

There was a discussion on this and Cllr J Hogben stated that so far, we have the band, bar runners and five stalls, he stated that he has organised for a couple of children's rides and a food outlet. Chapters coffee shop is going to open and will not clash with any other stalls.
All in agreement for it to go ahead.

The budget was set at £5000, this was proposed by Cllr S Birch and seconded by Cllr J Hogben. All in agreement.

245-25. Planning Application CA/24/01940

Erection of single-story building for use as storage. Calcott Hall.

No objections

Planning Application CA/24/01935

Outline application for the erection of up to 26 dwellings and up to 1880 sqm of business space with matters reserved except access. Goose Farm Broad Oak.

No objections

Date for next meeting.

11th December 2024 at Broad Oak Village Hall.

Meeting close at 20:38