

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at Sturry Social Centre

Present:

Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell, Cllr Gill Betts, Cllr Ann Davies and Cllr Kathleen Warner
Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh and CCC Cllr Keji Moses.

As no Chair or Vice Chair present the Councillor's voted Cllr A Davies to Chair the meeting.

3 residents in attendance

1-25: Apologies for absence

Cllr A Bubb apologises given through Cllr J Hogben who also could not attend due to illness.

Cllr H Taylor. Waiting to go into Hospital.

Cllr C Gartland Work commitments

Community warden R Lithgow Work commitments.

Public questions.

There were no questions from the public

2-25: 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

3-25: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Betts and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell All in agreement.

4-25: Matters arising from minutes of the Parish meeting on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

None

5-25: Chairman and Councillors' reports.

No report from the Chairman

Cllr Birch stated that the new equipment in the playpark is being used a lot.

He is keeping an eye on the dog walking area and that at the moment it is being kept clear of dog mess.

6-25: County and District Councillors' reports.

KCC Cllr explained to the Cllrs about Central Governments plans for Devolution. The White paper is a large document, so Cllr Marsh asked the Clerk to supply the links to the white paper to the Cllrs.

Cllr Marsh answered several questions from the Cllrs and residents on the subject.

CCC Cllr Moses stated that she would not elaborate on what Cllr Marsh had stated but went on to state that she will be going to review the new water treatment works and apart from the Devolution issues there are no other issues.

7-25: Community Warden report.

I have been undertaking Visible Presence on the Ward including Sturry, Broadoak, Calcott, Fordwich, westbere and Hersden and Calcott -- while finalising my work in Greenhill, before moving onto working in my two new wards of Sturry and Nailbourne in preparation for January 2025.

Sturry Parish Council referred a task to me, for checking for obstructions in alleyway between Heath Close and Deansway, no obstruction found, which was reported to Sturry Parish Council.

I previously connected with Sturry Pharmacy, and this month they rang me for advice about a concern for a resident. The matter was for police, and I advised they ring 101. I visited pharmacy the following day for an update. Outcome - police officers attended and spoke to the elderly female resident.

I am still working weekly with a young male just on the border of Sturry Ward near Hersden, helping him to get support though the KCC Positive Wellbeing Service, and assisting him to consider his future through setting small goals to help build confidence and direction.

Fly tipping – I have been checking the hotspots in the ward, checking online to see if they have been reported already and reporting any new fly tipping when found.

I attended the Xmas Hope Café and spoke to councillors and residents.

I attended St Nicholas Church Wednesday Coffee Morning and chatted to residents.

I have been attending community events in Nailbourne area as an introduction as their new community warden, and I have contacted the parish council clerks advising I will be working in their areas from January 2025.

I have been asked to mentor a new Community Warden and preparation has been made for her, including me finding her a base to work from in another ward. The mentoring will take priority and is expected to last up to a couple of months, involving working together at times on her allocated ward, and on my wards to gain experience and knowledge of the Community Warden role. Mentoring starts from 06/01/2025.

8-25: Village Caretaker's report.

The caretaker reported that it had been quite over the last month due to the weather and the Christmas break. He has been busy working in the office as there were several things that needed attention.

9-25: Cemetery Superintendent's Report

Admin Work:

We have dealt with numerous enquiries as business as usual.

Cemetery Database:

I have completed the work of adding into the database, all the EroB purchases (509) from the "Register of Purchased Graves" (7th June 1933 to 15th Jan 1987), along with all the associated Interments (716).

The next task is to identify all those missing interment records (307). Some of these do not have a plot purchased (190). These will have to be added to the database as "Public" burials. The remainder (116) will be added to the database under the appropriate EroB. This enables all the remaining interment details to be recorded and will aid investigations should someone present a deed at some point in the future and for general searches.

Once this work is complete (sometime in the next 6-9 months), we will finally be in a position where all the burial details we have will be in the database. But the work does not stop there. There will still be many items to be completed, including investigation and hopefully closure on known issues, addition of monument details, sanity checks on data sets and resolution of any issues found etc.

Cemetery Other:

The new hedge along the southern boundary of the Cemetery was planted just before Christmas.

Since my last report, we have had 4 full burials and 1 burial of cremated remains.

I currently have a further 4 full burials booked.

We had 13 Burials in 2024, which is average. We already have 8 in 2025.

Other:

The tree stumps at Broad Oak Green, left when “payback” cleared the site have now been ground away, this will allow planting of the new hedge (Agenda item).

10-25: Clerks Report

The new equipment in the playpark has been completed and the extra work to make safe the matting under the large swings and the roundabout next to the swings will be done this weekend.

The second Defibrillator is now registered on the Circuit and the third at Tesco will be in services as soon as the shop opens for business.

I have been busy inputting the budget for next year into the cashbook and, I have had the Earmarked Reserves updated (see sheet circulated this evening)

Unfortunately, the garage at the cemetery was broken into just before Christmas and all the power tools that we had purchased for the Payback team were stolen. The police have been informed and the insurance. On the downside our insurance only covers us for equipment in the garage to the sum of £800 less our excess of £100. I am gathering all the evidence required for the insurance company regarding the fence and garage door plus original purchase receipts for the tools.

I chased the Police to see what was being done and I was told that as they did not have any suspects or CCTV evidence, they had closed the case. I contacted one of our Bobbies on the beat to see if he could do anything, he could do but as of yet I have not had a reply from him.

I have secured our internal auditor for the 23rd April this year.

I contacted CCC regarding the PSCO in the playpark regarding people taking their dogs into the park. They are going to deploy some Council officers to give advice and if that does not work, they will direct Council and contracted officers to patrol and start issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where appropriate.

11-25: Outside Bodies members reports.

The Clerk reported that the Committee of Broad Oak Village Hall thanked the Parish Council for the grant application.

12-25: Finance

(a) Payments for approval. Proposed by Cllr. Betts and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and all in agreement.

£20.88	Amazon	Circuit breakers for Defib at office
£28.98	Amazon	Office year planner
£19.25	Amazon	A4 Notice frame
£42.97	Amazon	Sharps box and safety gloves for cleaner
£15	P W Needham	Window cleaning
£1250.89	J Caddick	Grounds Maintenance
£45674.50	Proludic	New playground equipment
£27.51	Mustang washrooms	Toilet refuge
£504	Mazars	External audit fees
£102.85	Westley Hire	Cemetery Toilet hire and cleaning (Dec)
£132.85	Westley Hire	Toilet Hire for November

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

13-25. To Discuss and agree replacement support for the Sturry sign at Bakery Green

It was decided to replace both the Sturry and Broad Oak signs with new oak posts.

Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Warner to get quotes for the work. All agreed.

14-25. To Discuss what further action is to be taken regarding the Cricket pitch.

There was a discussion on what is required to return this land into a sports field again. It was suggested to get in contact with CCC on what we would need to do prior to purchasing the land. The Clerk to write a letter to CCC.

15-25. To Discuss an idea by a resident who would like the opportunity to beautify Bakery Green and the area by the toilets with flowers.

A resident spoke about what would be a good idea to freshen up both areas, it was decided to have a walk around the areas and to bring this back to the next meeting.

16-25. To Discuss and agree on an article to go into the Link-Up magazine.

Cllr Betts explained what this means the Link up Magazine produced by the Church who will let us have a page in the magazine. These items need to be in before the issue on the 8th February.
This will be a monthly item.

17-25. To Discuss and agree purchase of a Rowan tree for the cemetery.

K Bullock explained what was required by this as it is to replace a tree that has been removed and to see how this looks before the rest of the Yew trees are removed.
Proposed by Cllr Betts and seconded by Cllr Birch and all in agreement.

18-25. To Discuss and agree if Payback are to carry on working for us.

Cllr Birch explained the reason for this considering the break-in, they have been doing great work for us, and he would like them to carry on.
It was proposed for them to carry on by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Warner and all in agreement.

19-25. To Discuss and agree if we replace the tools for payback.

There was a long discussion on this, and it was decided to bring this back to the next meeting to see where we could store the equipment in a secure lock up and also what tools to replace.

20-25. To Discuss and agree quote for beech hedging at Broad Oak green.

It was decided to go ahead with the quote, and this was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Mitchell all in agreement

21-25 The clerk would like to know if the Council is going to host the Local Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk to arrange a date for this get together and let the Councillors know when so that they can arrange for speakers and refreshments.

Date for next meeting.

12th February 2025 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Meeting close at 20:47