

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Asley Bubb, Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell, Cllr. Gill Betts, Cllr Heather Taylor and Cllr Kathleen Warner
Ken Dekker Clerk, Ken Bullock Cemetery Superintendent and Alan Webster Caretaker.

3 residents in attendance

22-25: Apologies for absence

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh, CCC Cllr Keji Moses who has a Civic Service to attend, Cllr C Gartland, work commitments, Cllr A Davis family commitments And Community Warden Roger Lithgow work commitments.

Public questions.

There were no questions from the public

23-25: 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

24-25: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

Proposed by Cllr G Betts and seconded by Cllr. K Warner All in agreement. These will be signed by the chair for the meeting Cllr Davis at the first opportunity.

25-25: Matters arising from minutes of the Parish meeting on Wednesday 15th January 2025

None

26-25: Chairman and Councillors' reports.

Cllr Betts stated that she had attended the monthly meeting of the new gardening club and that she also attended the opening of the new Tesco's She also stated that she has finished the first addition for the Link Up magazine ready for the next edition.

Cllr Warner reported that Cllrs Mitchel, Betts and herself are at present running the Café Hope every third Monday of the month whilst Linda is away.

Cllr Birch reported that he and the Caretaker had visited Centenary Woodland to identify which trees needed coppicing and which need to be cut down in line with the management plan. He also stated that Payback will be working in the dog walking area over the next three weeks cutting back some of the vegetation.

Cllr Hogben reported that there had been a problem with lorries getting into the tip,

27-25: County and District Councillors' reports.

KCC reported only that the Council Tax will probably be increased by 4.9% this year, no report from CCC.

28-25: Community Warden report.

I was allocated Sturry Ward and Nailbourne Ward initially to start from January 2025, but with KCC Community Service management's approval I have switched my second ward from Nailbourne to Little Stour, as a new colleague and I are driving through each other's areas to get to work.

My main base is at Sturry Library, and I have started using the Littlebourne Parish Council Office, as my second base on Little Stour Ward, while I visit the villages within the wards.

Between January and March, I am mentoring a new KCC Community Warden, who started last month. She is with me half the week, and I am helping her to understand the role of the Community Warden and she is shadowing me on visits. This is currently my main priority given by KCWS management.

I have been undertaking ward familiarisation on Little Stour and its villages. I frequently visiting Nailbourne Ward to assist my new colleague in getting to know her ward and familiarisation of neighbouring wards; to establish what community groups are on there, and with an aim to build up a network of contacts within these wards.

I am continuing with visible presence in Sturry, but I will be aiming to do more over the coming months where mentoring a new community warden permits.

29-25: Village Caretaker's report.

Alan reported that he had very busy this month having to wear many of his different hats. There have been no issues in the playpark, stated that he had

visited the Woodland along with Cllrs Davis and Birch and he has also helped in the Cemetery.

30-25: Cemetery Superintendent's Report

Admin Work:

We have dealt with numerous enquiries as usual.

Cemetery Database:

I have started work on the missing interment records (190) for which we have no recorded EROB. So far, I have been able to add 121 interment records.

The remainder (116) for which we do have the purchase in an old register I have found, will be added to the database under the appropriate EROB, once I have completed the above.

Once this work is all 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.

Cemetery Other:

Since my last report, we have had 4 full burials.

I currently have 1 further full burial booked.

I have visited the manager of Canterbury, Whitstable & Herne Bay Cemeteries. It was great to get an insight into the workings of a cemetery 10 times the size of Sturry. I have a further meeting booked to see how they make use of modern shoring equipment.

The repairs to monuments approved by the council (236-24) have been completed.

The new Rowan tree has been purchased as agreed at the last meeting and has been planted in the cemetery.

I have taken delivery of the new Cemetery regulations booklet, updated to the regs approved by the council last Nov (238-24).

31-25: Clerks Report

Usual admin duties throughout the month.

Working with Cllr Birch on the remainder of the work in the playpark. Two sets of large goals with nets ordered, these are going to be installed by ourselves. Two sets

of anti-vandal proof five aside goals ordered, and these will be installed by the manufacturer, and we have also managed to get two items of adult gym equipment, a rowing machine and a recumbent bike.

The new notice boards will be installed at Parkview and the Barret's estate when the weather improves, the one at the office has been installed and the window is now free of notices.

I have managed to get a better deal on our office gas supply for the next twelve months, it is only small but at least it is a saving.

I have been in contact with KCC regarding the direction signs indicating where the post office is situated now. KCC Roads have passed this on to another department and they will not let me have a contact for them to find out what is happening.

I have spoken with the solicitor looking into the ownership of the Social Centre and from what he said it does look like the Social Centre was transferred free of charge to the Council. He also stated the without going through the complete document face to face which of course would cost (between £300 to £500 + vat). Once it is all clear then the deeds can be registered with the land registry in our name. I have also been in contact with the original solicitors who are doing a search for the original deed document.

Update on the cricket ground I am still researching what we must do prior to making an offer, so far CCC planning have told me that there are no TPO's on any of the trees that have grown in the time of lack of use. We will have to get a tree survey done of the area of the cricket pitch as the trees are now well established, we would also have to do a wildlife check. As far as the woodland section is concerned, we do not need to do anything as we are not going to develop that piece.

Regarding the insurance claim, all the documents are with the insurer and the last update was that the handler is looking at the quotes for the fence repair and the replacement garage door, I did suggest that we would prefer the second quote for the security door but if they come back with a like for like answer I would like to suggest that we pay the difference for the more secure door.

I aim to set a date at the end of March for the group Parish meeting.

32-25: Outside Bodies members reports.

Cllr. Birch stated that he will be attending the Broad oak Village Hall meeting this month.

33-25: Finance

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

£40	David Hards	Mole Catcher
£132.85	Westleyhire	Toilet hire and cleaning Cemetery
£30.95	Amazon	Gate Springs for dog walking area

£26.97	Amazon	Wall clock for office
£28.51	Mustang Washrooms	Toilet refuge
£1250.89	J Caddick	Grass Cutting
£492	Up and Out Platforms	Taking down of Christmas lights

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

34-25. To Discuss and agree levelling of ground over St Anne's Plots for ease of grass cutting.

K Bullock explained this item and the reason for it, there was then a discussion by the Council on what to do and how to go about it. It was suggested for K Bullock to speak to the sisters about this and bring it back to the next meeting.

35-25. To Discuss and agree having a speaker at the APM in reference 'Cyber talk', this meeting will be held sometime in May.

There was a discussion on the speakers for this meeting and it was agreed to have the Cyber talk and to see if we could get the Police to give a talk as well. All in agreement. Date to be set and bring this back to the next meeting.

36-25 To Discuss and agree the defibrillator training as suggested by Cllr Gartland.

Cllr Bubb read out Cllr Garlands report on this item, there was a discussion about the logistics and what the training entailed. Venue and date to be confirmed with a max of 25 people on a first come first served basis. This to be posted on our Facebook page. Proposed by Cllr Bubb and seconded by Cllr Birch all in agreement.

37-25 To discuss and agree replacement tools for Payback team.

It was proposed by Cllr Bubb to wait until the storage has been made secure and the insurance claim has been settled before we decide on what we will purchase. This was seconded by Cllr Hogben with all in agreement.

38-25. To Discuss and agree what to do with the idea of new plants on Bakery Green.

Cllr Birch is to contact Green SABORG's to get final costs for the hedging and agree on what is to be done. It was suggested that the payback team could probable do some of the work. Proposed by Cllr Betts to accept the quote for Broad oak, Bakery Green and the toilets area this was seconded by Cllr Birch all in agreement.

39-25. To Discuss and agree hiring a tracked woodchipper suggested by Cllr. Gartland.

The Council agreed that as there is going to be further work in Century Woodland by a tree surgeon cutting down trees it was proposed to ask if they would quote for chipping the material that has already been cut. The cost of hire to be checked against the quote before decision made. Proposed by Cllr Bubb and seconded by Cllr Hogben and all in agreement.

40-25. To Discuss and agree extending Beech hedge in front of residents' property at Broad Oak green.

This was not agreed at any meeting of the Council so no further hedging will be installed. All Councillors in agreement with this.

41-25. To Discuss and agree if the Council are going to light the beacon for the 80th anniversary of VE day on the 8th May 2025.

Cllr Hogben stated that he has all the equipment to be able to light the beacon, the burner must be serviced and check for safety. The beacon needs to be registered, Clerk to investigate this. All Councillors in agreement to light the beacon on the 8th May.

42-25 To discuss and agree purchase of a chain saw for the caretaker to use for trimming of trees in centenary woodland and for the caretaker to go on a chain saw users coarse.

The Clerk stated that as the Caretakers line manager he is not happy with him working alone with this even with full safety equipment. It was decided to shelve this idea.

43-25 To Discuss Co-Option of a resident onto the Council.

There were several questions asked by the Councillors which the resident answered to their satisfaction.

44-25 Update on grounds maintenance contract, John Caddick is going to retire this year so we will be asking for tenders for our next meeting.

The Chair asked that could we give Mr Caddick our thanks for all his work over the years.

Date for next meeting.

12th March 2025 at Sturry Social Centre

Meeting closed at 20:35

Exclusion of the press and public pursuant of section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

45-25 To decide on Co-option as previously discussed at item 42-25

There was a discussion between all the Councillors regarding the application and after deliberation the Councillors voted on the co-option. The outcome was five Cllrs for and two against. So, the motion was carried. Mrs Anne Dekker was duly Co-opted onto the Council.

DRAFT