

Minutes of General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at Sturry Social Centre

Present:

Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell,
Cllr. Gill Betts, Cllr Heather Taylor, Cllr Anne Dekker, 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 Harry McKenzie who arrived at 19:20
2 residents in attendance

46-25: Apologies for absence

CCC Cllr Keji Moses who was attending another meeting, and Community
Warden Roger Lithgow work commitments. Cllr C Gartland work
commitments

Public questions.

One member of the public spoke on item 59-25

**47-25: 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.**

Cllr Davies stated that she had an interest in items 59 and 60-25.
Cllr Warner stated that she had an interest in item 59-25

**48-25: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 12th February 2025.**

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

**49-25: Matters arising from minutes of the Parish meeting on
Wednesday 12th February 2025**

Cllr Taylor welcomed the new Cllr Anne Dekker to the Council.

50-25: Chairman and Councillors' reports.

There was no Chairman report.

Cllr Taylor stated that she was concern about the vehicle on Calcott Hill that
remains in the ditch at the side of the road.

The clerk stated that the driver could still be in hospital, and nothing can be done to remove the vehicle until such time that the driver is able to release the vehicle for insurance reasons.

She is also concerned about plans for double yellow lines in certain roads in the village. Nothing has been sent through from KCC or CCC.

Cllr Betts remarked on the Link Up magazine and would like the Cllrs to contribute in a stated what they have done during the month, also she has tried to ask about our contribution towards the printing of the magazine but to no avail.

Cllr Dekker gave her report on the meeting held at the Guild Hall by CCC on the Devolution Process, as this was a long and in depth report a copy of this has been circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr Birch reported that he has been working with the payback teams and that the areas for the new planting has been made ready and that work in Centenary woodland has halted for the time being.

Cllr Hogben stated that he had attended the meeting on Shelford tip and reported that work will still carry on for the next 10 yrs and it is going to get higher.

He also stated that there is an outline planning application by Bretts to build house on Island Road and to put in two football pitches for the use of Sturry along The Hoath Road. He is going to invite them to come and meet the council and explain exactly what they are going to do.

Cllr Davies stated that she and Cllr Warner attended the stakeholder meeting with Southeast Water regarding the new Reservoir. The Parish Council should have had an invite as they are stakeholders, the Clerk stated that no invite had been received, and he had been informed of this meeting after the fact and had contacted the relevant people who have now sent him the next meeting details for the recap meeting online.

51-25: County and District Councillors' reports.

KCC Cllr Marsh reported on what was happening with the relief road with this being held up with the actions regarding a CPO, he also talked on the Devolution process stating that the workload at Parish level will be a lot higher than now.

He also stated that this was his last meeting that will be attending as he is now stepping down after 20 years.

CCC Cllr McKenzie stated that Keji is collaborating with Cllr Chris Gartland and Ruth Goudie (from the CCC Transportation Team) to install a bench at the far end of the dog park. Ruth Goudie has confirmed that funds are available for this purchase.

Harry attended the regular stakeholder engagement meeting hosted by Valencia to hold them to account over the Shelford Landfill site – Cllr John Hogben was also in attendance. After a lengthy forum about the challenges on the site and the impact on residents (including broken fences, increasing size of the mound, etc.) and the ways in which Valencia are confronting them, Harry stressed the importance of acting and getting stuff done and pushed them on their task management and for more regular updates. Harry also requested updates to be sent to the Parish Council to be put on notice boards. We will send the minutes of the meeting to the Parish Council when we receive them from Valencia.

Keji met with SABORA to discuss various local issues. There has been a rise in fly tipping in our casework. 3000 leaflets will be created by SABORA to go out to residents to instruct them where to donate white goods instead of discarding them.

There has been an increase in requests for double yellow lines in our casework

- Harry received complaints from Chestnut drive that lack of double yellows was restricting parking and people were double parking and encroaching into the road which was unsafe and blocking bin collections. Harry requested new double yellows to be included in the Annual Parking Review and it went out for consultation – the outcome will be reported to JTB on 18th March.
- We have also managed to get double yellow lines in the APR for Meadow Road and Link Road (and other roads in Fordwich and Hersden), these have also been consulted on and will be reported in JTB on 18th March.

Without going into too much detail because of GDPR, we are continuing to help every resident who contacts us to ask for help. We have been dealing with all kinds of issues. Harry is currently dealing with two very serious housing issues.

Both of us attended the Parish Engagement meeting at the Guildhall on 11/03/2025 where we were pleased to see many parish councillors from across the ward and district in attendance. It was based around the local government reforms that are pending for us, and it was great to go around the different workshops and listen to what parish councillors and concerned about and wanting from these changes. It is useful for us to hear that.

Sturry Road Park and Ride still has some way to go in terms of performance, but we are seeing month on month improvement. There was a recent dip in usage but that is seasonal and is normal after Christmas. Before Christmas, usage was getting bigger and bigger each month. This shows the scheme is successful (albeit still in early days).

52-25: Community Warden report.

Sturry Ward

I am continuing to mentor a new colleague who covers Nailbourne Ward, and we are undertaking Visible Presence in the Ward Villages of Sturry, Little Stour including Adisham and Nailbourne.

Summary of Key Issues:

Sturry - Text from concerned resident about ongoing parking issues outside Primary School, Parkview, Sturry. I attended the school reception about the issues raised, and they said they have not jurisdiction off school premises. I have texted parent back with update and gave the parent a link to CCC for reporting legal parking.

Sturry Parish Council Referral to find out who owns the Street Lights in the alleyway off Coppice Close, behind the houses away from Sturry Hill end. Outcome: owned by KCC, rather than CCC. Sturry Parish Council updated for chasing up existing reports they submitted to KCC.

Sturry - I attended the Tuesday Coffee Morning and Art/Craft Group in the Sturry Library and spoke to attendees.

Sturry - Possibly witnessed a shoplifting of alcohol in Coop, reported to staff who will review the CCTV.

Sturry - I attended the St Nicholas Church Coffee Morning 10:30-12:30 and spoke to residents.

Sturry - Flytipping reported on wasteland between Hillbrow Ave and Copt Close – a fridge and freezer – Reference:FLT016268.

Sturry - Info from public - ASB by youths near Sturry Railway Station – intel report submitted to BTP.

53-25: Village Caretaker's report.

Working as normal in the parish, Cllr Birch and I have stated to install the new goal posts in the playpark. General clean up duties and driving the shopping trips on a Thursday.

54-25: Cemetery Superintendent's Report.

Admin Work:

We have dealt with numerous enquiries as usual.

Cemetery Database:

I have completed work on adding the missing interment records (190) for which we have no recorded EROB.

I have started work on the remaining 116 interment records, for which we do have the purchase in an old register I have found.

Once this work is all complete, 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 1 full burial.

I currently have 1 further full burial booked.

I have updated the Cemetery Improvement Plan. Version 6 is now on the website with 9 of the projects completed.

I visited Canterbury Cemetery, where I watched them make use of modern shoring equipment in the preparation of a grave plot for a burial.

As you are aware, we have had an incident of damage by contractors in the Cemetery (Agenda Item).

I attended a course run by Rialtas, the providers of our Cemetery software.

55-25: Clerks Report.

Usual admin duties throughout the month.

The large goals have been delivered to Cllr Birch and he and Alan have been installing them today.

I stated last month regarding the solicitor's charges for working on the conveyance and trust document regarding the ownership of the Social Centre, as you will notice I have included this as an agenda item for approval.

I attended the meeting at the Guild Hall last night along with Cllr Dekker

We have received the insurance claim for the stolen tools unfortunately the amount insured did not cover the cost of the tools stolen. £799

The insurance has said that they will pay like for like for the garage door which means for us to install the better secured version we will have to make up the difference will come to £ 883.

The fence repair is being paid in full; this will be in our bank account within 3 to 5 working days the full figure is £1324.50 this is of course less the £250 excess.

We had an enquiry for the hire of the minibus for a trip to Holland by a football team, I had to check to see if our insurance covered overseas travel. On contacting the agents I was told that it would only be for 3rd party cover and the hirer would have to pay for a week's fully comprehensive insurance, but on further investigation we have now found out that we can only hire the minibus in accordance with the Transport Act 1985 Section 19 which is a Standard Permit which states that only passengers of the following classes shall be carried:

- A. Members of the body holding the permit
- B. Persons whom the body exists to benefit, and assisting them
- C. Disabled persons or persons who are seriously ill and persons assisting them.

This means that we can no longer hire the minibus out for private trips only ones that benefit the Parish.

If we wish to carry on hiring it out for private parties, then we will have to increase our insurance to around £5000/yr. and take out a full PSV permit at a cost of £300 rather than the £11 we pay now.

We have been requested by Contemporary Flowers to attend their opening on Saturday at 10 and they would like one of the councillors to cut the ribbon.

56-25: Outside Bodies members reports.

No reports

57-25: Finance

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

£40	David Hards	Mole Catcher
£15	P W Needham	Window cleaner
£58.56	Viking	Printer paper
£112.55	Viking	Toilet cleaning materials
£28.51	Mustang Washrooms	Toilet refuge
£1250.89	J Caddick	Grass Cutting
£202.80	Rialtas	K Bullock Training

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

Signed: Date: 9th April 2025

58-25. To Discuss and agree DBS checks on all Councillors and staff.

It was decided that the Clerk will set up a schedule for the Cllrs to come into the office and complete their DBS checks before the end of the month. This was proposed by Cllr Hogben and seconded by Cllr Mitchell and all in agreement.

59-25 To Discuss and agree Family Summer Event being organised by SABORA

There was a discussion on how the Council would be represented at the event and how the monies would be distributed, it was proposed to get SABORA to apply for a Grant for the cost of the performer on the Friday night. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Dekker all in agreement.

60-25 To Discuss and agree Bequest from Kinn McIntosh.

It was decided that more information was needed and that this item be brought back to the next meeting as an update item. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Birch all in agreement.

61-25. To Discuss and agree date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Council agreed that the APM would be held on 30th April at the school, all arrangements to be made in the usual manner, with the agenda being published on the 17th April.

62-25. To Discuss and agree Payback agreement.

There was a discussion on the recent events with the payback team and it was proposed by Cllr Hogben and seconded by Cllr Birch that payback would be kept on. All in agreement.

63-25. To Discuss and agree next steps to be taken regarding the damage in the cemetery.

Ken Bullock explained what had happened when the stone mason's lorry had delivered a double monument to the cemetery. The size of the lorry was against the cemetery regulations, but the driver still proceeded. It was proposed by Cllr Hogben to get two quotes for the repairs and then to get the lorries registration and use their insurance. This was seconded by Cllr Davies and all in agreement.

64-25. To Discuss and agree costs for the solicitor to go forward with the explanation of the deed document for Sturry Social Centre.

It was decided that to finalise this we should go ahead and take on the solicitor. This was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Hogben all in agreement.

65-25. Update on lighting the beacon for the 80th anniversary of VE day on the 8th May 2025.

Cllr Hogben stated that he would arrange for the burner to be gas checked.

Any vegetation near the beacon to be cut back.

Letter to be sent to the residents near the beacon letting them know what will be happening.

Try and arrange for a band and a dignitary to light the beacon on the day.

66-25 To Update on Link up Magazine.

Cllr Betts stated that this was going to schedule, and she would welcome any items for forth coming editions.

67-25 To Update on Group Meeting of Parishes.

The date for this will be 28th March to be held in the Social Centre, a budget of £150 was agreed for the refreshments. £100 for food and £50 for drinks. The Cllrs decided who was to do what regarding the refreshments, Cllr Taylor stated she would get M&S sandwiches and Cllr Dekker said she would get the drinks, Cllr Mitchell stated that he could do background music.

68-25 Update on grounds maintenance contract, John Caddick is going to retire this year so we will be asking for tenders for our next meeting.

Cllr Davies stated that the contract has been updated and will also need the new planting regime to be implemented into it, this will be discussed at a Finance meeting to be held soon and the outcome to be brought to the next meeting for approval.

Date for next meeting.

9th April 2025 at Broad Oak Village Hall

Meeting close at 21:45