

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Sturry Primary School.**

**Present:**

Cllr Ashley Bubb, Cllr John Hogben, Cllr Steve Birch, Cllr Alan Mitchell, Cllr. Gill Betts, Cllr Anne Dekker, Cllr Kathleen Warner, Cllr Heather Taylor, Cllr Kathleen Warner and Cllr Chris Gartland  
Ken Dekker Clerk  
CCC Cllr Keji Moses.

1 resident in attendance.

**2025-1.** The Chair welcomed everyone present.

**2025-2. Apologies for absence**

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh who as of 25<sup>th</sup> April is no longer a Cllr.

CCC Cllr Harry McKenzie who was at the APM of Fordwich Council.

**2025-3.** The chair thanked the Clerk and the other members of staff for their hard work over the past year.

Centenary woodland has now been reopened, and a lot of the paths have been cleared with the help of the community payback teams supervised by Cllr Steve Birch. There has been a lot of ground clearance in the cemetery and Bakery Green and also, we have planted several new hedges in both locations.

We have updated some of the play equipment in the playpark along with new football goals and today two new pieces of adult fitness equipment have been installed.

There have been three new notice boards installed around the Parish.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May we will be lighting the beacon to remember Victory in Europe Day.

**2025-4. Casework:**

We are regularly receiving casework on all sorts of issues including housing disrepair and overcrowding, parking over dropped kerbs, overgrown vegetation and more. We are continuing to help people where we can and direct them to where they need to be if not.

**Shelford:**

Harry is on a community stakeholder group holding Valencia to

account over their handling of the Shelford Landfill Site (SLS) on Broad Oak Road. John Hogben is also on this group. The first meeting was nearly one year ago at a site visit in May 2024 and there have been two subsequent online meetings.

Together, KCC councillors, CCC councillors, Parish/Town councillors and members of the community from across Sturry, Fordwich and Hales Place are holding them accountable over issues including:

- Waste water seeping into the River Stour
- Traffic into and out of the site
- The size and visibility of the mound
- Public safety
- Odours
- The planning approval of their newly built recycling plant
- And more

At the last meeting, we discovered they had done nothing we had asked of them in a year. Harry was among the members who held their feet to the fire on this and demanded that progress should now be made and that we should be more regularly updated. At the next meeting, we will scrutinise their progress.

*(Please note that waste management (as opposed to waste collection) is a KCC matter and not a CCC one, so we are limited in what we are able to do)*

#### **New Aspendos Restaurant:**

Keji was delighted to attend the grand opening of the new Aspendos Restaurant on Mill Road. It is fantastic to welcome a new business to Sturry and we will support them as much as we can in any way we can to thrive in this parish.

#### **New Wastewater Treatment Plant:**

Keji and fellow councillors toured the newly unveiled water treatment plant at the Sturry development. Representatives from Barratt David Wilson Homes, EPS Water, and Icosa Water were present to introduce this pioneering facility.

Located at The Woodlands development in Broad Oak, Sturry, the plant is the UK's first fully operational water treatment works designed specifically for a housing developer to meet Nutrient Neutrality requirements. Officially named 'The Woodlands Water Recycling Centre,' this purpose-built facility was developed as part of a joint venture between Barratt David Wilson Kent, EPS Water, and Icosa Water to ensure compliance with the 'Habitats Regulations' for sustainable housing developments.

To ensure residents are well-informed, Keji has requested the developer to compile an FAQ document addressing key concerns. Additionally, she has asked residents to submit any questions they may have, and a list has been provided by SABORA for consideration. The UK's first-of-its-kind water treatment works unveiled at Sturry development/ London Daily News The Woodlands Water Recycling Centre (2024) |

#### **Annual Parking Review:**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, the Joint Transportation Board approved the officer's recommendations on the Annual Parking Review. As part of this, new double yellows were approved on Link Road and Meadow Road in Sturry. This will make it safer along that stretch of road where the school is -we have been ourselves to see the chaos at school home time.

Unfortunately, the double yellows, despite being supported by a majority of the responses in the consultation upset a lot of people living on Link Road. Harry took action, alongside a concerned resident who contacted him, to rectify the situation and Richard Jenkins agreed to reduce the length of the double yellows by 30 metres. The residents there are very happy with this outcome.

Another proposal for double yellows along The Avenue in Hersden was approved at our request following our inspection of the site with the Chair of Hersden Parish Council.

#### **Broad Oak Reservoir Advisory Stakeholder Group:**

Harry was invited by the Communications and Engagement Officer at Southeast Water to be on the Advisory Stakeholder Group

regarding the Broad Oak Reservoir application. Due to consistent clashes, he has not been able to attend either of the two meetings yet but has made arrangement to attend the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Please get in contact if you have any further questions on this.

### **Battery Energy Storage System:**

A planning application has been lodged for a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be built alongside the existing solar farm on Calcott **Hill**. The planning number is CA/25/00418.

Councilors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses are seeking the views of local residents on this application to help with decision making on this application and to ensure that local residents are well represented on this matter. Please fill out the survey below to share your views.

**2025-5.** Carl May gave a very informative talk on how the community Payback scheme works and the work that they have been doing around the village.

Micheal Whiteley introduced the gathering to the wonderful world of props and prop making for the stage and screen, he has worked on several blockbuster films such as Star Wars and Indiana Jones.

**2025-6.** The chair opened the meeting to the public for questions.

Meeting close at 20:15