**STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall, Stambourne**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Martyn Fall (Chair) Mr Michael Crago

Mrs Val Kerrison Mrs Vanessa Young

Cllr Richard van Dulken

**CLERK:**

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

**20/15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs Karen Grant and Mr Neil Pyman.

**20/16 Declaration of Interests, personal or prejudicial**

None.

**20/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

**20/18 Matters Arising**

None.

**20/19 Report of District Councillor**

Cllr van Dulken reported, with the following points noted:-

* The Councillors’ Community Grant will be continuing for the next financial year.
* VE Day celebrations
* The installation of Britain’s first all-electric forecourt for charging electric vehicles which will have 24 points.
* Feedback received from other parish council re the disruption caused by County Broadband road closures.
* Braintree District Council have agreed a £42m investment within Braintree covering 3 main aspects:-
  + Manor Street refurbishment to provide a hotel, surgery, parking, apartments and bus station.
  + The High Street to be pedestrianised.
  + Horizon 120 – a 64 acre area to be developed as a business park.

It was also **agreed** to try and set up a date for the next Network meeting.

**20/20 Pavilion**

* Councillors’ Community Grant – grant now received to go towards the proposal to expand the hardstanding area of the verandah to improve disabled access. The parish council will need to endeavour to obtain 3 quotes. It was agreed to invite quotes from Andy Gill, Danny Smith and Glynn Waters. Work to commence in the spring/early summer when the ground has had chance to dry out.
* EALC micro-grant – cheque for £339.00 now received. Debbie will liaise with Karen regarding the purchase of fridge and freezer. The chest freezer can be disposed of.
* Martyn has put the water back on and eased the door which was sticking. The large benches have been put out on the verandah.
* Work is to take place on the windows of the church in July. It was agreed that the contractors could have access to the pavilion to use the toilets.

**20/21 Playing Field**

* Play equipment inspection – the inspection report had shown no “high risk” items. One item to consider was the expansion of the surface area underneath the swings. After consideration it was agreed to defer this item.
* Playing field entrance gates – a price for replacement is being obtained by a local resident who has offered to pay. The Parish Council considered whether it would be appropriate to replace the wooden fencing either side of the gate at the same time. It was noted that the fence posts were in good order and only the rails needed replacing. This element to be paid for by the Parish Council.
* The Parish Council discussed installing the remaining grass protection mesh. Areas to cover would be the far end behind the pavilion and the access gap between the oak posts.More pegs to secure the mats are needed. It was agreed that Andy will notify when he has a suitable day free and a working party will attend to carry out the work.
* Benches – the two large benches are in need of painting/oiling. Martyn will do this. He will also look at the picnic tables.
* Neil will contact the new grass cutting contractor to ensure grass cutting takes place soon.
* Bonfire ash – Debbie will make enquiries about the ash removal.

**20/22 Highways**

The following points were noted:-

* Water running over the road at the junction of Birdbrook Road/Cornish Hall End Road, possibly as a result of ditch infill from Gigaclear works. Debbie had reported this to ECC Highways but the response was that it was not a priority. A councillor has cleared some of the ditch to help alleviate the problem.
* Potholes – a number of potholes have appeared in and around the village, probably as a result of the extremely wet winter. An item will be put in the newsletter about how these can be reported.

**20/23 Footpaths**

The footpath items reported at the last meeting have been reported to ECC. Again responses from ECC are that the issues are “not a priority”.

**20/24 Planning**

Nothing to report.

**20/25 Correspondence**

The following were noted:-

* RCCE Village of the Year 2020 - noted
* Village Hall Accounts 2019 – noted.
* Eon – contract renewal – It was agreed to change to a fixed deal and move to pay by direct debit. If the costs are significantly different Debbie will refer back to the PC.
* County Broadband box at bottom of Dyers End – following discussion between the owner and tenant of the field at the bottom of Dyers End and County Broadband regarding the box blocking the historic access to the field, County Broadband have agreed to move the box. County Broadband have approached the Village Hall Committee and reached an agreement to site the box on the village hall car park. In return this will give free wi-fi to the village hall.
* VE Day celebrations – Various ideas have been tabled about a suitable event, both at the village hall and the pavilion. It was agreed to review the situation in April, given that the Corona virus outbreak may impact on social gatherings and public events.
* Newsletter – Karen Crago, editor of the newsletter, has been approached by residents of Cornish Hall End with a request to advertise in the newsletter. After consideration it was agreed to permit this with the following provisions:-
  + No charge to be made.
  + Only adverts for non-commercial and community events permitted.
  + The arrangement to be reciprocal for Stambourne events.

**20/26 Finance**

Accounts Paid

Village Hall Rent £70.00

Paul Clark Printing £52.00

Mrs D Hilliard (wages) £725.00

Accounts to be paid

Paul Clark Printing £52.00

Monies Received

Cash paid in (bonfire night/ladies’ group) £97.50

Councillors’ Community Grant £500.00

Micro-grant (cheque received – to be paid in) £339.00

Estimated balances at 6 March 2020

Balance of Current Account £ 8,788.97

Balance of Business Reserve Account £ 4,081.73

Total £12,870.70

Balance of Bonfire Fund £5,019.55

Balance of General Fund £ 7,851.15

**20/27 Date, time and place of next meetings**

Thursday 21 May 2020 (AGM and APA)

Thursday 23 July 2020

Thursday 17 September 2020

Thursday 19 November 2020

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at approximately 8.30pm

Signed: ………………………………………… Dated: …………………………..