

## STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 at 7.30pm at the village hall, Stambourne.

### PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair)  
Mrs Val Kerrison  
Mr Martin Fall

Mr Michael Crago  
Mrs Vanessa Young  
Mrs Karen Grant

Cllr Peter Schwier (ECC)  
Cllr Richard van Dulken (BDC)

2 Members of the public

### CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

Mr Pyman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the 2 members of the public to speak. The 2 members of the public stated they were from the Finchingfield Guild of Business and had attended to raise awareness of Essex County Council proposals for the bridge in Finchingfield. The Finchingfield Guild had raised serious concerns about the proposal pointing out the length of time the bridge was to be closed and the impact this would have on local businesses. They were encouraging everyone to look at and comment on the plans. It was agreed that the parish council would circulate the information. The 2 members of the public thanked the parish council for their time and left the meeting.

### 23/1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Drysdale.

### 23/2 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

None.

### 23/3 Minutes of meeting held on 23 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed.

### 23/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None.

### 23/5 Report of County Councillor and District Councillor

Cllr Van Dulken presented his report. Points noted were:

- Wethersfield Prison – Cllr Van Dulken had made public his opposition to the plans. It was noted that Stambourne, as a council, had not made a decision on the plan.
- BDC Budget 2023-24 – It was likely that a charge would be introduced for green waste collections. Staff pay increase was 6% with the lower paid receiving £1900 payment.
- Recycling calendars would not be issued as printed copies but will be available online. Printed copies would be issued by request only.

*Cllr Schwier arrived at the meeting.*



- Highway Rangers would no longer be funded and any matters referred to ECC.
- Councillors' Community Grant – Cllr Van Dulken's outstanding balance was going to Great Yeldham Mens' Shed.

Cllr Schwier presented his report. Points noted were:-

- Council Tax – To be increased by 3½% to cover social care and keep up with inflationary pressures.
- Although costs have increased the Council's budgetary position was healthy.

Councillors asked Mr Schwier regarding the blocked footpath 2 on Finchingfield Road. It was understood that the landowners would be applying for a diversion but there appeared to be no progress. It was agreed that the Clerk would send Cllr Schwier the previous emails.

There were no questions and councillors were thanked for their reports.

*Cllr Schwier left the meeting.*

### **23/6 Pavilion**

- Cleaning – Debbie confirmed that the cleaner had resigned as they had got another job. After discussion it was agreed that a local professional cleaner would be contacted to see if they could cover the role.
- Debbie had been contacted by a local toddler group enquiring about using the pavilion on a regular basis. Debbie had informed them that it was not heated and therefore might not be suitable and awaited further contact.
- Electrical work for new socket – Neil advised the electrician would be carrying out the work on 30 January at 8am. Vanessa will attend to open up.

### **23/7 Playingfield**

The following points were discussed:-

- Cradle Swing – to be carried forward to the May meeting.
- Play Equipment inspection – it was agreed to get this booked in. Debbie will also ask about site inspection for the proposed cradle swing.
- Lawnmower – It was noted it requires some maintenance work before the cutting season. Neil will arrange this.

### **23/8 Highways**

The following points were discussed:-

- VAS sign – it was agreed to proceed. The Clerk will order the VAS as previously agreed. Martyn proposed that 3 posts be made to be placed at different locations in the village so that the sign can be moved to different parts of the village. Martyn will organise the posts.
- The 30mph sign on the Birdbrook Road is missing. The Clerk will report this in to ECC.
- Pothole on Birdbrook Road near Warren Farm – The Clerk will report this to ECC.

### **23/9 Footpaths**

- *Footpath 2 – Finchingfield Road – see above.*
- *Bridge Repairs – it was noted that the various bridge repairs reported in were being dealt with by ECC.*

### **23/10 Planning**



Nothing to report.

### **23/11 Correspondence**

- *Children's Christmas Party* – it was noted that the organiser had decided to postpone arrangements due to the number of illnesses circulating at the moment. They will make a decision whether to hold an Easter event later in the year. Debbie advised that the cheque had been drawn and she would hold it over until a decision was made.
- *Silver Link* – The Silver Link thanked the parish council for the donation which would be used towards a belated Christmas lunch to take place in March.
- *Church Road Telephone Box* – Debbie advised she had received a request from a local resident who wanted to start a book share in the telephone box. It was agreed this could go ahead. Debbie will notify the resident and publicise in the newsletter.
- *Village Newsletter* – Louise Rawlinson and Ian Argent, who have kindly delivered the newsletter in Dyers End and Finchingfield Road for a number of years, had given notice that they would step down. The parish council thanked them for their contribution over the years. A call for volunteers will be placed in the newsletter.

### **23/12 Coronation**

The date of the Coronation was noted as 6 May. It was agreed that a village event could only go ahead if enough volunteers came forward to help with the organisation. A note will be put in the newsletter asking for volunteers.

### **23/13 War Memorial**

Two quotes had been received from A Clarke Monumental Ltd to lay slabs around the war memorial to protect the plinth:

- Hard core base - £483.33
- Poured concrete base - £708.33

After consideration it was agreed to proceed with the quote for the hard core base at a cost of £483.33 together with the previously agreed repair quote of £416.67.

### **23/14 Defibrillator – Village Hall**

It was noted that Debbie had today submitted the order for the defibrillator and awaited a response from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

### **23/15 Budget and Precept for the Year 2023-24**

The budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council considered the figures and unanimously agreed:-

- The budget figure to be agreed for the year 2023-24 be £9,116
- The precept figure to be agreed for the year 2023-24 be £9,116

The budget form will be signed and returned to BDC.

*Clr Van Dulken left the meeting.*

### **23/16 Finance**

- Online Banking – Debbie advised she would be proceeding to change the mandate and register the parish council for online banking. It was agreed that in addition to the current signatories of Michael Crago and Martyn Fall, Neil Pyman would also become a signatory.
- Finance Report





<u>Accounts Paid</u>	
M&N Pyman (2 <sup>nd</sup> verge cut)	£723.60
Paul Clark Printing	£64.00
Reimburse Mrs D Hilliard for Nicom Services Ltd (laptop service)	£110.00
Essex Pyrotechnics Ltd (fireworks)	£4,078.80
Reimburse Mrs D Hilliard for part cost printer Inks	£19.26
Paul Clark Printing (newsletter)	£64.00
Stambourne Silver Link (Bonfire night donation)	£100.00
Stambourne Children's Party	£150.00
Stambourne Chapel (Grass Cut Grant)	£260.00
Stambourne Church (Grass Cut Grant)	£250.00
Eon Electricity	£33.06
Eon Electricity	£33.28
Paul Clark Printing	£64.00
Mr M Fall (reimburse for glowsticks)	£94.93
Stambourne Village Hall rent	£90.00
Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£782.84
Mr M Turner (grass cutting)	£990.77
Wave	£52.64
Eon Electricity	£35.11

Accounts to be paid

None.

Monies Received

Bonfire night takings (barbecue & other)	£616.00
Bank interest	£2.28
VAT reclaim	£2,637.82

Estimated balances at 11 January 2023

Balance of General Fund	£21,613.96
Reserves Account	<u>£4,089.28</u>
	£25,703.24
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£11,724.26</u>
	£13,978.98

**23/17 Date, time and place of next meetings**

23 March 2023  
 18 May 2023  
 20 July 2023  
 21 September 2023  
 22 November 2023 (Wednesday)  
 All are Thursdays at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.50pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

