

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 7.30pm at the village hall, Stambourne.

PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair)

Mrs Vanessa Young

Mrs Karen Grant

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Mr Michael Crago

Mr Martin Fall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Clr Richard Van Dulken (BDC)

CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

23/18 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Drysdale, Val Kerrison and Karen Grant and Clr Peter Schwier.

23/19 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

None.

23/20 Minutes of meeting held on 19 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed.

23/21 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None.

23/22 Report of District Councillor

Clr Van Dulken presented his report. Points noted were:

- Wethersfield Airbase – It was noted that the government were now proposing to use the airbase to accommodate asylum seekers. The District Council were opposing this and will take legal steps to obtain a High Court Injunction to stop it.
- District Council Budget – The budget had been agreed. There were some difficult decisions made and Council Tax would increase by 2½%, equating to approximately £5.00 per year per household. It had been possible to give taxpayers a 25% discount by using funds set aside for the proposed Millenium sliproads but ECC have not included this project in its own plan for the financial year, so two thirds was being given back to residents and the balance would go towards projects and charities which support the homeless and cost of living increases. It was also possible to reverse the 33% cut in payments to parishes. Consideration was being given to introducing a charge for the green bin service and a final decision would be made in May and any charge introduced would take effect for summer 2024.
- Elections were due to take place on 4 May 2023 and Clr Van Dulken confirmed he would be standing for re-election.

There were no questions and Clr Van Dulken was thanked for his report.

23/23 Pavilion

Points noted were:

- A new padlock had been fitted to the main doors of the pavilion as a key had broken off inside the old one.
- A cleaner had been found who could cover the next few months. It was noted this was a temporary arrangement and a permanent cleaner would still be needed.
- Water leak in the store room – It was noted that the ceiling needed to be repaired. It was agreed that Mr Young would be asked to provide an estimate for the work.
- The door lock on the end door needs replacing – Martyn will do this.

23/24 Playingfield

The following points were discussed:-

- Cradle Swing – to be carried forward to the May meeting.
- The family of Mrs Seager have contacted the parish council to ask if a tree could be planted and a small plaque put up in her memory. This was agreed. Neil will liaise with the family to organise.
- Removal of bonfire ash – It was agreed this should be done when the ground was drier. Andrew will arrange.
- Lawnmower – The mower was being refurbished but it was unlikely it would be ready until after Easter. It was agreed that if a cut was needed before then Neil would use his tractor mower and cut.
- Gaps in safety surface – Martyn will complete repair when the weather permits.
- Accident Book – An accident book was needed for the pavilion. Debbie will order.

23/25 Highways

It was noted that although roads in the local area were badly affected by potholes, roads in Stambourne were in relatively good order. Two potholes, one near Warrens and the other by The Chestnuts had already been reported in to ECC.

It was also noted that the volunteer litterpickers had been out again in the parish. A thank you will be put in the next newsletter.

23/26 Footpaths

Karen was not present to report any issues. A new footpath marker had been put on the path near Park Wood.

23/27 Planning

It was noted that the planning application for 2 properties on the site opposite the village hall in Church Road had been refused.

23/28 War Memorial

It was confirmed that the deposit for the repair to the memorial and work would commence in the next few weeks.

23/29 Defibrillator – Village Hall

The original date for installing the defibrillator had to be postponed as the electrician's van was broken into and their tools stolen. A new date had been arranged for 13 April 2023.

23/30 Coronation

There had only been one volunteer come forward after the request went out in the newsletter. It was agreed that no event would be organised unless more volunteers came forward. This would go in the newsletter.

23/31 Correspondence

None.

Cllr Van Dulken left the meeting.

23/32 Finance

Accounts Paid

Mrs V Young (reimbursement for teatowels for pavilion)	£32.82
Donation to funeral of Mrs Seager	£50.00
Eon	£35.14
A Clarke Memorials (deposit for repair to war mem)	£540.00
MW Electrical (pavilion)	£266.83
Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator)	£2,490.00
Paul Clark Printing (Newsletter)	£64.00

Accounts to be paid

Nil

Monies Received

ECC 2 nd Verge cut	£602.99
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Estimated balances at 16 March 2023

Balance of Current Account	£18,738.16
Balance of Business Reserve Account	<u>£ 4,089.28</u>
Total	£22,827.44
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£9,234.26</u>
Balance of General Fund	£13,593.18

23/33 Date, time and place of next meetings

18 May 2023 (APA and AGM)
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 8.40pm.

Signed: 

Dated: