

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the village hall, Stambourne

PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair)

Mr Andrew Drysdale

Mrs Val Kerrison

Mrs Karen Grant

Mr Martyn Fall

Mrs Vanessa Young

Mr Michael Crago

In Attendance:

Cllr Richard van Dulken

Mrs Deborah Hilliard – Clerk

23/66 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from and Cllr Peter Schwier (ECC).

23/67 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

None.

23/68 Minutes of meeting held on 20 July 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed.

23/69 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None.

23/70 Report of District Councillor

Cllr van Dulken reported. Points noted were:-

- Garden Waste service – early bird discount. Councillors asked if the charge was applicable to the Church and Chapel. Cllr van Dulken will find out and report. Parish Councillors asked – If someone decided not use the service, were they able to keep the bin? You can keep it or BDC will take it back. Was there a risk that people would put garden waste in the black bin? It could happen but operatives will check. It was confirmed that providing a garden waste service was not statutory and charges were being introduced nationally.
- Wethersfield Airbase – The judicial review was due to take place on 30 and 31 October 2023. Representatives of BDC had visited the site and met some of the residents. It was noted that approximately £300,000 had been budgeted for this purpose.
- Rural England Prosperity Fund – a capital grant of £600,000 was available for community groups to refurbish natural and cultural assets, this included fitting solar panels.
- Great Yeldham Men’s Sheds – a planning application has been submitted and was likely to be successful.
- Food Bank, Sible Hedingham – A new scheme had started in Sible Hedingham which was part of the BDC Foodbank scheme.
- Fly tipping – For the quarter 1 April to 30 June 2023 BDC dealt with 209 incidents which were dealt with within 24 hours of the call.
- ECC consultation on bus services ends on 5 October 2023.

- BDC Community Grant – it was noted this could be applied for towards the cost of new chairs for the pavilion. Cllr van Dulken will send the form to Debbie.

There were no further questions and Cllr van Dulken was thanked for his report.

23/71 Pavilion

The Parish Council considered the proposed purchase of new chairs for the pavilion. After consideration it was agreed to purchase 30 Titan chairs at a price of £667.75 for 30 in Charcoal. It was noted that the cost could be offset by applying for the Councillors' Community Grant, noting that Cllr van Dulken will forward the appropriate form to Debbie. The remainder of the cost would be funded from the Bonfire night fund.

It was noted that Martyn had fitted a new hinge to the end door after it was damaged as a result of an attempted break in. He also had to repair damage to the door. Parish councillors thanked Martyn for his work.

23/72 Playingfield

Points noted were:-

- The footplates for the rocking horse and the new chair seat for the toddler swing had finally been delivered by Wicksteed and had now been fitted by Martyn. The poor service by Wicksteed was discussed and it was agreed that Debbie will raise a complaint with Wicksteed and seek some recompense before paying the invoice.
- Proposed new swing – Quotes had been sought from Caledonia Play £3,952, Wicksteed and Action Play and Leisure £3,941. It was agreed to not consider Wicksteed due to the poor service regarding the rocking horse repair. After consideration it was agreed to use Caledonia Play. The location of the swing will be agreed by parish councillors when they meet on the playing field.
- Tree maintenance – It was confirmed that the broken branch had been taken down. The trees had all been inspected and it was confirmed that some cutting back and trimming was needed at an approximate cost of between £100-£200 to complete. It was agreed to meet the contractor on site to discuss and agree what was needed. It was further agreed that the trimmed branches could be chipped and spread on the woodchip surface under the wooden play frame. Andy and Martyn will liaise and arrange this.

23/74 Highways

- VAS sign – Quotes had been received from Swarco £3,124.50 and Messagemaker £2,545.00. After consideration it was agreed to use Messagemaker. A purchase order will be issued.

23/75 Footpaths

Mrs Grant reported. She had a list of footpath issues which needed to be dealt with. It was agreed she will email the list to Debbie for action.

Andrew Drysdale left the room for consideration of application no 23/02167/HH

23/76 Planning

Application No 23/02167/HH - Cornfields, Dyers End – No comment

Andrew Drysdale returned to the room.

Application No 23/02032/FUL - 1 & 2 Revels Cottages, Cornish Hall End Road – No comment.

23/77 Bonfire Night

It was agreed that Bonfire Night would be held on Saturday 4 November 2023. A full meeting to consider details would be held at the end of the parish council meeting.

Cllr Van Dulken left the meeting.

23/78 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to consider. However, 2 items were noted:-

- *Defibrillator Awareness Evening* – It was noted that awareness evening took place on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 7pm in the village hall. There was a good turnout of people attending and the parish council thanked the Community Heartbeat Trust for running the evening.
- *Pill box in field opposite Dyers End* – Debbie had been approached by a member of the public regarding the pill box located in the field at the bottom of Dyers End. They wanted to clear the area of weeds and brambles and asked if the Parish Council knew who owned the field. However, since approaching the Parish Council the member of public had found out who to contact and now had permission to tidy the area.

23/79 Finance

Accounts Paid

Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£752.75
Mrs D Hilliard (expenses – printer inks/part cost)	£17.51
Daines-Lowe (ash removal)	£336.00
Michael Turner (grass cutting)	£430.77

Accounts to be paid

Saxon Fire Ltd (fire safety inspection)	£132.54
CD James Ltd (lawnmower)	£115.20
Mrs D Hilliard (expenses – to replace previous cheque)	£17.51
Mr M Fall (reimburse for pavilion shed lock & hinge)	£45.84

Monies to be Received

2 nd half precept	£4,558.00
------------------------------	-----------

Estimated balances at 20 September 2023

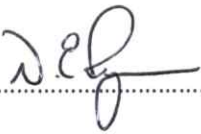
Balance of Current Account	£17,017.75
Balance of Business Reserve Account	<u>£ 4,102.89</u>
Total	£21,120.64
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£8,998.26</u>
Balance of General Fund	£12,122.38

External Audit y/e 31 March 2023 – It was noted that Stambourne had been selected for a review by PKF Littlejohn. This had now been completed and the accounts were agreed.

22/81 Date, time and place of next meetings.

Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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

Signed: 

Dated: 23/11/23