

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 January 2024 at 7.30pm at the village hall, Stambourne.

PRESENT:

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

Mr Michael Crago
Mrs Karen Grant

Cllr Peter Schwier (ECC)

CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

24/1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Drysdale, Vanessa Young and Cllr Richard Van Dulken.

24/2 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

None.

24/3 Minutes of meeting held on 23 November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed.

24/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None.

24/5 Report of County Councillor and District Councillor

It was noted that Cllr van Dulken was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a written update which was considered and noted.

24/6 Pavilion

- Fire Risk assessment – Debbie confirmed that she was waiting for an appointment from Saxon Fire to complete the fire risk assessment.
- New chairs – It was noted that confirmation had been received of the £300 Councillors' Community Grant which it was agreed would be used to part-fund new chairs for the pavilion. It was proposed and agreed that the remaining £450.00 needed would come out of the Bonfire fund.

Cllr Schwier arrived at the meeting and was invited to submit his report.

Cllr Schwier reported. Points noted were:-

- Gritting update – it was noted that last year 21,000 tonnes of salt was spread by Essex County Council. With the current cold weather it was noted that crews who were gritting were the same crews who would normally be dealing with potholes and footpath issues, therefore pothole repairs necessarily slowed at this time.

- Potholes – An extra £5.7 million had been used by ECC towards highway issues including increasing the number of crews from 8 to 12. Pothole filling had increased substantially as a result.
- Storm Henk – The weather warnings for Storm Henk enabled ECC to have additional crews and tree surgeons available to deal with highway issues, including fallen trees, caused by Storm Henk.
- ECC Budget 2024-25 – It was confirmed that the budget would be finalised at the full council meeting on 12 February. The budget increase was expected to be 4.99% increase on the previous year with 2% ring fenced for adult and social care. It was noted that Essex Social Care had been Ofsted inspected and rated Outstanding for its services

Questions were invited:-

Councillors asked if Cllr Schwier was aware of the poor road condition at Kedingtonrd. Cllr Schwier confirmed that he was and he had been liaising with Highways and Kedingtonrd PC to try and resolve the issue. It was noted that the area had been resurfaced but the problem was water running across the road.

There was a discussion about the condition of Clare Bridge. Cllr Schwier confirmed he was aware of this and advised that discussions were underway.

There were no further questions and Cllr Schwier was thanked for his update.

Cllr Schwier left the meeting.

24/7 Playingfield

- Bonfire – It was confirmed that an individual had taken upon themselves to light the bonfire without the permission or sanction of the Parish Council. It was noted this could have had huge implications for the parish council and was an illegal act. Martyn and his son had attended when they became aware that the bonfire had been lit but the bonfire was well alight, and nothing could be done. The individual responsible for lighting it showed no remorse. Martyn circulated a statement which it was proposed and agreed would be included in the village newsletter. It will also include a request that nothing else be added to the bonfire site.
- Trees – It was noted that some of the trees had now had branches trimmed. Removed branches had been put on the remains of the bonfire. It was confirmed that the trees needed a thorough inspection by a qualified tree surgeon which was expected to cost approximately £600.00. Martyn will contact a local tree surgeon regarding an inspection and report. Martyn and Neil will liaise.
- Grass mesh matting – spare sheets will be put on the grass at the entry point for vehicles from the car park. Michael will obtain more pins needed to secure the sheets. Work to be completed in the spring.
- Cradle Swing – It was noted that Debbie proposed the cost of the swing could be funded from the remaining Covid grant and some surplus funds. Debbie will check that the quote from Caledonian Play has not changed. The final decision will be held over until the cost of work on the trees was confirmed to ensure sufficient funding was available.

24/8 Highways

The following points were discussed:-

- Potholes – There was 1 to report: Chapel End Way, near to the Birdbrook junction.

- VAS – It was proposed and agreed to purchase 2 backplates, 1 fixing set and another battery. Martyn will liaise with Stocksigns regarding the angle of the sign to the road, distances and triggers. It was noted the sign will be moved to Church Road.

24/9 Footpaths

Nothing to report.

24/10 Planning

No applications to report. It was noted that some councillors had received enquiries regarding potential use of land for sale near the village hall.

24/11 Correspondence

Debbie reported she had been asked to include a copy of the bin collection timetable into the village magazine. A copy had been sent to the editor.

24/12 War Memorial

Debbie reported she had contacted A C Clark Memorials re cleaning the war memorial and it was noted they would be sending a quote.

25/13 Defibrillator – Village Hall

It was noted that the defibrillator had been taken but was not needed to be used recently when a local resident was taken ill. It was confirmed that the defibrillator was back at the village hall and user-ready.

25/14 Budget and Precept for the Year 2024-245

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 2024-25 be £9,010
- The precept figure to be agreed for the year 2024-25 be £9,010

The budget form will be signed and returned to BDC.

24/15 Finance

- Bonfire Account – The accounts were considered and accepted.
- Ring Fenced sums – The ring fenced sums as shown on the appendix were considered and noted. It was further noted that accrued surpluses would be needed to cover the cost of the additional battery and fixings for the VAS sign, the war memorial cleaning. Debbie reported that the laptop keyboard was broken and needed repair or potentially the whole laptop might need replacing. It was agreed that she would take it to the computer repair shop in Haverhill and get their advice and report back.
- Financial Report:-

Accounts Paid

Wave	£54.61
BDC (Election fees)	£70.05
Mr Turner (Grass Cutting)	£603.08
M&N Pyman (2 nd verge cut)	£723.60
Mrs Young (expenses for bonfire goods)	£216.08
Stambourne Silver Link	£150.00
Stambourne Chapel (grass cut and electricity)	£260.00
Stambourne Church (grass cut)	£250.00
Paul Clark Printing (newsletter)	£32.00

Essex Pyrotechnics (fireworks)	£4405.20
Eon (electricity)	£12.78

Accounts to be paid

Wave	£54.63
Stambourne Village Hall Rent	£70.00
Mr R Wright – Pavilion Cleaning	£42.00
Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£802.13
Mrs D Hilliard (expenses)	£10.00
Eon	£3.23

Monies Received/to be received

Pavilion Rent	£70.00
Bonfire Night (2022)	£8.40
Bank Interest	£14.33
BDC Community Grant (for Chairs)	£300.00

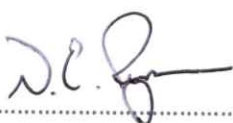
Estimated balances at 12 January 2024

Balance of General Fund	£10,481.14
Reserves Account	<u>£4,128.21</u>
	£14,609.35
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£ 4,123.74</u>
£10,485.61	

24/16 Date, time and place of next meetings

18 January 2024
 14 March 2024
 16 May 2024
 18 July 2024
 19 September 2024
 21 November 2024
 All are Thursdays at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise

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

Signed: 

Dated: