

# STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

19 High Street, Aldreth, Cambs, CB6 3PQ

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck

Email: [clerk@stetchworth.org](mailto:clerk@stetchworth.org)

## MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council – Full Council Meeting on

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm

Present – Cllr Bell – Chairman (WB), Saunders – Vice Chairman (PS), Puddock (JP), Breen (SB), Kempton (LK), Alan Sharp (AS)

**91/23/24 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))**

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor France.

**92/23/24 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest**

No declarations were made.

**93/23/24 Open Forum for Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**94/23/24 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **APPROVED** unanimously as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**95/23/24 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)**

1. Update on Streetlight for Church Lane.  
The Council await the quotation from UK Power Networks.
2. LHI application for the signage and road markings on the railway bridge  
WB updated council that the works listed were not supported and therefore no application had been made.
3. To agree to adopt General Power of Competence; to agree that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility (two thirds elected members and CiLCA qualified Clerk)  
Proposed by WB, seconded by LK to adopt General Power of Competence. Motion carried unanimously.
4. To approve a new Internal Auditor  
It was agreed unanimously for the council to use S & J Accounting as the Internal Auditor with immediate effect.

**96/23/24 The Ellesmere Centre**

There was no update to report.

**97/23/24 District & County Councillors' Reports**

AS gave a brief overview of County matters.

AS gave a brief overview of County and District matters:

Noting the passing of Councillor Mac McGuire.

The County Council weed spraying consultation results will be discussed at Committee, further update will be provided in due course.

The counties "soil affected roads" require extra investment desperately to tackle the impact of climate change on our roads. These roads are those where the stability of the road is affected by the movement of the soil through wet and dry cycles as the seasons change. Where the soil is very peaty and gets very wet the road expands and when they dry out in the summer it shrinks. In a "normal" road, construction can flex enough for it not to be an issue. Where the

expanding and contraction is a lot the roads construction can't flex enough so the road cracks and deforms. More to follow in the coming months.

A positive meeting with the new Regional Director of Sanctuary Housing had taken place, with future meetings scheduled quarterly. Statistics from the meeting outlined their current nationwide stock being 70,000 homes nationally, 200 in East Cambridgeshire which are currently empty.

Sanctuary has a plan to start bringing empty homes back into use, over an extended period.

**98/23/24 Finance - to approve accounts for payment:**

(a)	Ref:	Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total
		To be paid on 25 <sup>th</sup> January		
(1)		HMRC, Wages and Expenses	BACs	£472.14
(2)		Unity Bank – Service Charge	BACs	£18.00
(3)		Opus Energy (street lighting Oct)	BACs	£386.27
(4)		The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Nov/Dec)	BACs	£60.00
(5)		M Whymer (Pea shingle)	BACs	£76.20
(6)		ICO (Data Protection)	DD	£35.00
(7)		TBM – Microsoft 365 licences (monthly Nov and Dec)	BACs	£25.44
(b)		To note monies received:		
		• Unity Bank Interest	BACs	£47.02
(c)		To accept bank reconciliations for October, November, and December		

**Approved:** Proposes WB, seconded PS. Motion carried.

**99/23/24 Planning**

- (a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -
- **None**
- (b) To consider planning applications received:
- **23/01392/ VAR July Lodge, London Road, Newmarket**  
To vary condition 1 (approved Plan) of previously approved 22/00640/FUL for proposed single storey car garage for private use.  
The Parish Council discussed the application and have no objections.

**100/23/24 Community Matters/General Maintenance**

- (c) Update Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr Sharp.  
AS to chase progress and copy the Clerk
- (d) Handyman – no update given.
- (e) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting.

**101/23/24 Correspondence for Information**

- Bus, Cycle, Walk Update from East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Dog fouling on High Street and allotments
- EC CSP: Shop Watch launch
- ECDC Press release: Business boost.
- Parish Forum - 29th November 2023
- Important roadwork information: A11 Babraham to Six Mile Bottom resurfacing update
- Parish & Community Forum Updates PLUS Volunteer Recruitment!
- ECDC December Newsletter
- East Cambridgeshire Road Safety Volunteer Scheme Update
- Local Transport and Connectivity Plan approved.
- Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (Replacement) - Consultation commenced.
- East Cambridgeshire Community Meetings 2024
- Parish & Community Forum

**102/23/24 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration**  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Meeting closed at 19.38

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Karen Peck  
Clerk and RFO  
Stetchworth Parish Council

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Wayne Bell  
Chairman

20<sup>th</sup> February 2024