

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

19 High Street, Aldreth, Cambs, CB6 3PQ

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck

Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on

Wednesday 6th December 2023

The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Bell – Chairman (WB), Saunders – Vice Chair (PS), Puddock (JP), Breen (SB), Kempton (LK)

79/23/24 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))

(a) To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies received Councillor Sharp and Councillor France (other commitments) – apologies accepted.

80/23/24 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

81/23/24 Open Forum for Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

82/23/24 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on November 21st 2023 were **APPROVED** unanimously as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

83/23/24 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

1. Update on Streetlight for Church Lane.

The Clerk advised connection instruction are still required by UK Power Networks. Contractor has chased. Streetlights with current failures will be fixed by 7th December 2023.

2. Update Pride of Place Grant

The council were disappointed that the application was declined.

Council agreed unanimously to use current budget to cut back area along car park from the metal clothing bin through the overflow car park, crown lifting trees where required and removing brambles. Crown lift trees along the tennis court area and any other trees on the recreation ground as time permits as quoted by RG Landscapes for the sum of £495.00 plus vat. Motion carried.

3. To budget and 2024-25 budget and precept

The budget for 2024-25 was set at £19294.57. An increase of 2.25% in the precept to £19294.57 for 2024-25 was proposed and **APPROVED** unanimously.

4. Request for an additional shed at The Ellesmere Centre

Council unanimously agreed to **APPROVE** the request. Motion carried.

5. LHI application for the signage and road markings on the railway bridge

WB to complete application before the deadline.

84/23/24 The Ellesmere Centre

No report was made.

85/23/24 District & County Councillors' Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – December 2023

Local Transport & Connectivity Plan

The Combined Authority (CPCA) Transport & Infrastructure Committee on 15th November, the Mayor, Nik Johnson, the County Council representative, and those parties who have been pushing the imposition of the Congestion Charge voted through the Local Transport Plan, which includes plans to impose Congestion Charging. This was confirmed at the CPCA Board meeting on 29th November.

CPCA Precept

The mayor is consulting on a 200% increase in the CPCA precept to £36 for a Band D property. The £36 annual charge will raise about £10.5m, which is planned to be spent on buses. However, this will not allow for much expansion, if any, of the network. We will have some parts of the County who will have no buses and will not be happy at paying for something that they do not receive.

County Council Budget

The ruling Lib Dem/ Labour Administration has advised that there is a £28m budget gap for 2024/2025 and the Leader of the Council on Radio Cambridgeshire stated that it is likely that the increase for the County Council's portion of the Council Tax will be 5%.

Highways & Transport Committee

The Highways & Transport Committee met yesterday, Tuesday 5th, and made decisions about permanently keeping the wands that help divide cars from cyclists along East Road, continuing with restrictions around the Trumpington Road mini roundabouts and Lensfield Road, which is causing massive issues for buses and other vehicles, where artificial congestion created.

Gully Cleaning

The County Council are claiming that they are clearing 50% of the gullies across the County. However, looking at the programme for this work, most of it seems to be in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council. Questions are being asked when East Cambridgeshire areas will have this work done.

Local Plan Climate & Natural Environment Chapter

Finance & Assets Committee approved the drafting of the chapter in respect of Natural Environment, and this will come out for public consultation towards the end of January and will form part of the new Local Plan, when that is adopted.

86/23/24 Finance - to approve accounts for payment:

(a)	Ref: Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total
	Paid Items October		
(1)	Staff costs, backpay, expenses (Oct)	BACs	£775.17
(2)	Philip Mahoney	BACs	£28.78
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting Oct)	BACs	£102.59
(4)	The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Nov)	DD	£30.00
(5)	M Wnymer (Grass Cutting)	BACs	£300.00
(6)	TBM – Microsoft 365 licences (monthly)	BACs	£12.72
(7)	RH Landscapes (Grass cutting Oct)	BACs	£288.00
(8)	St Peters Stetchworth PCC - Newsletter	BACs	£402.26
	Payments to be authorised November/Dec		
(8)	Staff costs and expenses (Nov/Dec)	BACs	£944.28
(9)	LHL – PCC Service Unit Charge	BACs	£38.40
(10)	RH Landscapes (Grass Cutting Nov)	BACs	£288.00
(11)	TBM – Logged update	BACs	£25.20
(12)	Scribe – Annual Subscription and Pro Services	BACs	£631.88
	Total payments for the month:		£3867.28
	Approved: Proposed WB, seconded PS. Motion carried		
(b)	To note monies received:		
	● HMRC VTR - NOTED		£525.55
(c)	To note consider bank reconciliations for October, November and December will be presented at January's meeting – awaiting Unity confirmation.		

87/23/24 Planning

- (a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -
- None
- (b) To consider planning applications received:
- 23/01296/FUL White Horse Stable, High Street, Stetchworth
Proposed horse walker
The Council had no objection to the application.

88/23/24 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- (c) Next steps for Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr Sharp – no further update was made
- (d) Handyman – no update was made.

- (e) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting.

89/23/24 Correspondence for Information

- a) National Highways – A11 Babraham to Six Mile Bottom resurfacing update
- b) ECCSP press release: White Ribbon
- c) East Cambs District Council - Parish & Community Forum Notes and Updates
- d) ECDC Planning Parish Conference - 29 November 2023, 2pm
- e) ECDC press release: Planning changes.

**90/23/24 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration
16th January 2024**

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Karen Peck
Clerk and RFO
Stetchworth Parish Council
16th January 2024

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Wayne Bell
Chairman
Stetchworth Parish Council