

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

19 High Street, Aldreth, Cambs, CB6 3PQ

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck

Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

MINUTES

Full Parish Council Meeting on

19th March 2024 at

The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Bell – Chairman (WB), Saunders – Vice Chairman (PS), Puddock (JP), Breen (SB) and District Councillor James Lay

115/23/24 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))

Councillor Sharp – work commitments

Councillor Kempton – work commitments

Councillor France – work commitments

Apologies accepted.

116/23/24 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

No Declarations were made.

117/23/24 Open Forum for Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

118/23/24 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2024 were **APPROVED** unanimously as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

119/23/24 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

1. Caravan Event

The Parish Council discussed the draft proposal. Council requested further detail on the event and requested that a meeting between all parties be arranged before a final decision can be made.

2. Recreation Field Hire Form

A draft form was circulated to all before the meeting. The hire form was agreed unanimously and will be sent to the Ellesmere Office.

3. Parish Council Insurance renewal

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to **APPROVE** the quotation for £644.88 from Ansva. Motion carried.

4. SARS Newsletter and Support Request

The Parish Council discussed the request and felt that it was not able to support it on this occasion.

5. Street Light Update – Church Lane

The streetlight has now been installed and Council await UK Power Networks to attend site to connect the light.

120/23/24 The Ellesmere Centre

No report was received.

121/23/24 District & County Councillors' Reports

County and District Councillor Sharp sent the following report:

East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – March 2024

County Council Budget

The ruling Lib Dem/Labour Administration have made a 4.99% increase for their portion of the 2024/2025 Council Tax. The Conservative opposition raised an amendment on how the money could be better spent, especially on road safety and roads, putting an extra £22.8m into road maintenance, using reserves that were very unlikely to be spent. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has over £300m of usable reserves. Without increased investment, the state of the

carriageways and pavements will remain in a shocking state.

Highways & Transport Committee

The Highways & Transport Committee met on the 5th March, to receive a report about the capital maintenance programme for 2024/2025. There are still huge gaps where no proposal has been made on which roads are going to be repaired, despite the new financial year starting on 1st April. We await further details from the administration. Only £2m has been allocated to soil affected roads for 2024/2025, which will do little to resolve the issue affecting those types of roads, which are prevalent around the county.

I will update when more details are known.

Buses

The Combined Authority is increasing the precept from £12 to £36 and using the extra funds for funding new bus routes and cheaper fares for under 25s. However, there is already pressure on the current bus services that needs addressing and that will eat into the extra funds raised under this 200% increase, so reducing the opportunity for the development of extra services.

I attended a meeting on 5th March at Long Road College organised by students and parents talking about bus services to get them to college. The CPCA Mayor and bus companies were in attendance, and I was the only County Councillor present.

I intend to pursue better services for our students.

Swaffham Heath Crossroads

The work on the staggered crossroads was due to start on Monday March 4th. On Friday March 1st, CCC officers advised that due to continuing legal issues, the start date would be delayed. The delay to this long overdue safety scheme is very frustrating and I am continuing to push to get the work started as soon as possible.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Budget

ECDC passed a nil percentage increase in the Council Tax for 24/25 and it is worth remembering that the East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) has generated over £6m of income and savings to the Council since 2016.

ECTC is responsible for grounds maintenance including an increasing tree works clientele, Ely Market which is going from strength to strength and the Building Company (Palace Green Homes) that has built 170 homes, including 44 affordable at nil cost to the taxpayer, and still building more.

District Councillor Lay gave a report:

- Anglian Venues continue to work effectively in the recovery of rates.
- Significant progress is now being made with Sanctuary Housing and communications channels have been opened.
- Newmarket CAB currently only opened 1 day per week are looking for someone who could volunteer 1 day per week at the Newmarket Citizen Advice Centre, full training will be provided. This will mean the valuable service can be opened for another full day per week if the volunteers are found. Please contact District Councillor Lay on 07922807711 or jameswlay@hotmail.com
- The Combined Authority are working towards an employment skills Apprenticeship Scheme
- Newmarket will also open a new cinema sited within the Kings Theatre from 29th March 2024

122/23/24 Finance - to approve accounts for payment:

(a)	Ref:	Payee/Item		Total
		To be paid on 25 th March 2024		
(1)		HMRC (Jan, Feb and March), Wages and Expenses	BACs	£660.94
(2)		SSE – Street Light Energy Jan and Feb	DD	£234.12
(3)		The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Feb)	BACs	£30.00
(4)		TBM – Microsoft 365 licences (monthly) and domain renewal	BACs	£14.86
(5)		Red Shoes Accounting – payroll Dec-March	BACs	£75.00
(6)		K&M Lighting – Supply and Install Church Lane	BACs	£1484.39

(b) To note monies received:

- None

(c) To accept bank reconciliations for March 2024

APPROVED: Proposed WB, seconded SB. Motion carried.

123/23/24 Planning

- (a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -
- **23/01296/FUL White Horse Stables, High Street, Stetchworth (Amendment)**
Proposed horse walker and relocation of muck heap (amended plans and description of proposal updated to include the relocation of the existing muck heap) – pending consideration.
- (b) To consider planning applications received:
None

124/23/24 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- (c) Update Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign – County Council bulk order placed awaiting.
(d) Handyman – no update provided.

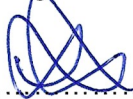
125/23/24 Correspondence for Information

- a) ECDC press release: Budget.
- b) ECDC press release: Business grants.
- c) Stetchworth Archives
- d) ECDC press release: Nature grants.
- e) Combine Authority - Electric Vehicles and Charging Points survey.
- f) ECDC Press release: Energy efficiency.
- g) Important roadwork information: A11 Babraham to Six Mile Bottom resurfacing update
- h) ECDC artwork competition
- i) ECDC press release: Electric Blankets
- j) EC CSP release: Stop Me Now stickers.
- k) EC CSP release: Shop Watch
- l) ECDC press release: Changing Places toilet for Soham.
- m) ECDC press release: Green lorry.
- n) ECDC press release: Hedgehog map.
- o) ECDC press release: Active for Health
- p) ECDC Press release: Coronation trees

126/23/24 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration

16th April 2024

Meeting closed at 19.29



.....
Karen Peck
Clerk and RFO
Stetchworth Parish Council
16th April 2024



.....
Wayne Bell
Chairman