

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 59 West Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambs. CB7 5SD

Clerk: Mrs. Marilyn Strand Tel: 01638 781286

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MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on

Tuesday 22nd September 2020

held online via online meeting platform Zoom

Present: Cllrs Lily Whymer (Chair), Wayne Bell, Sarah Breen, Alastair France, John Puddick, Piers Saunders and Alan Sharp. Clerk: Mrs Marilyn Strand.

There were no members of the public present.
The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

Under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held remotely using an online meeting platform. The meeting will be open to the public (including the press).

50/20/21 To receive & approve apologies for absence.

None.

51/20/21 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

52/20/21 Open Forum for Public Participation

None.

53/20/21 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th August 2020 (to be signed at a later date).

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th August were approved as a true record. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the original copy of the minutes will be signed at a later date.

54/20/21 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

(a)

- Tree in front of Stone Row – the fallen branch has been removed and the Agent for the property is awaiting further advice from an arboriculturalist.
- Grit bin on High Street (grit solid) – CCC had confirmed that all grit bins will be inspected before the winter and the grit renewed as necessary.
- Rusted bin on Jubilee Close – ECDC will replace this as soon as they receive a new stock of bins.
- Faulty street light on Coopers Close (permanently on) – K&M Lighting Services have been informed and will carry out repairs.

55/20/21 The Ellesmere Centre

(a)

Ellesmere Centre Report – Cllr Whymer reported the following: -

- The AGM will be held tomorrow evening – an update from this meeting will be given at the next meeting.
- MUGA lights – the new lights have made a great improvement but lux levels are not quite as good as quoted for and an adjustment is needed.
- The beauty salon has been updated and now has an extra room.

(b)

To note insurance information from Trustees – NOTED. This included an updated valuation of the building which had been requested by the PC's internal auditor.

(c)

Update on concreting triangle of ground and laying shed base near MUGA – it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting when the outcome of discussions at the Ellesmere Centre's AGM can be reported. Car park renovation and extension – it was agreed to keep this project on hold for now as funding has become difficult to obtain due to the coronavirus pandemic.

56/20/21 District & County Councillors' Reports

District Cllr Alan Sharp reported the following: -

- Richard Kay, Strategic Planning Manager, had given a presentation to District Councillors on the government's planning white paper. The paper is out for consultation until the end of October. The government wants to introduce the proposals by 2024. More information is available on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

- Bus Services, Walking and Cycling Routes Review – meetings are taking place to discuss how to improve these routes following recent public consultation.

57/20/21 Finance - to approve accounts for payment – it was proposed by Cllr Whymer and seconded by Cllr France that the following payments be made: -

Ref:	Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total	Exc. VAT
(1)	Clerk's salary – Aug 20	SO	£300.00	
(2)	Clerk's salary - underpayment	-	£14.56	
(3)	Clerk's expenses Aug/Sep 20	101512	£50.62	
(4)	RH Landscapes – grass cutting	101513	£120.00	£100.00
(5)	Opus Energy (street lighting) Jul 20	DD	£91.75	£87.38
(6)	Witham Oil & Paint (BMX track)	101514	£33.22	£27.68
(7)	Witham Oil & Paint (BMX track)	101514	£29.38	£24.49
(8)	Petty cash top up	101515	£28.85	
	Total payments for the month:		£668.38	

Underpayment of salary – a cheque had not been written for this amount and this will be corrected at the next meeting.

(b) To note monies received – none.

58/20/21 Administration

(a) To consider attendees to the Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference, Friday 23rd October (to be held online) – Cllr Lily Whymer will attend.

59/20/21 Planning

(a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -
None.

(b) To consider planning applications received:

- 20/01151/VAR Ashfield House, 20 High Street – to vary Condition 1 (Approved Drawings) of previously approved 18/01359/FUL for demolition and reconstruction of 20 High Street and construction of four new dwellings with associated gardens and parking – NOTED with no comments.

(c) PREAPP/00123/20 – CONFIDENTIAL.

As there were no members of the public present, this item was discussed without deferring to the end of the meeting. Councillors agreed the proposal would have no effect on residents and the PC would therefore have no objections if it were to come forward as a full planning application.

60/20/21 Community Matters/General Maintenance

(a) Covid-19 – volunteers & related matters – the SLCC and CAPALC are still strongly advising Local Councils to keep their meetings online. A thank you to all those who volunteered during the crisis featured in this month's parish newsletter.

(b) Bus shelter repairs – the handyman will be asked to look at the pot hole and brick work but, if he is unable to carry out the repairs, John Mingay (groundworks contractor) will be asked to quote.

(c) LED street lighting – update on quotation – it was proposed to accept option one on the quotation to disconnect existing control gear, supply and install 23 no.19w LED lamps for the sum of £1,725.00 +VAT – AGREED.

(d) To consider quotation and design for 'faulty street light' information stickers – it was AGREED to purchase the stickers for £75.00 +VAT (with amendments to the design). The Clerk's email address will be displayed as a point of contact for reporting faults.

(e) Update on PC planning applications to erect a directional sign (to the church) and a flag pole on the village green on Church Lane: Highways had said that the village green forms part of the highway and therefore the matter cannot be determined by ECDC. It was agreed to withdraw both applications and to seek further clarification from Highways. It was thought that the green had been formally registered but no evidence of this had been found. It was agreed that the green should be registered and further information on this will be brought to the next meeting.

(f) Speeding through village/Speedwatch team – a number of complaints had been received from residents about vehicles speeding along the High Street, and it had been suggested that a flashing speed sign might help reduce this. It was agreed to apply to the next round of the Local Highways Improvement Scheme

for this. Speedwatch is also able to resume now that restrictions around coronavirus have been eased and Cllr Sharp will look into whether team members are able to start up again.

Parking on the High Street is also a problem, particularly around the nursery school. Some time ago, nursery staff had been offered parking spaces at the Ellesmere Centre and it was agreed to write to remind them that these spaces are available. This would relieve congestion on the road caused by parking and volume of traffic at drop off and pick up times.

- (g) Proposal to ban the release of helium balloons and sky lanterns from all PC-owned land following ECDC's decision to do so – Cllr Sharp put forward this proposal and it was AGREED. This will apply to the QEII recreation ground field and village green and will be written into the conditions of use. The Clerk will write a piece for the October parish newsletter and PC website.
- (h) Handyman – Mr Evans had done a really good job of cleaning the spring toys in the play area and is going to trim back ivy which is encroaching into the play area from a neighbouring property. The bus shelter continues to be cleaned each month. Clearing the piece of ground between Coopers Close and Strollers way has been added to his monthly tasks.
- (i) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting – none.

61/20/21 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration

20th October; 24th November; 22nd December.

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm.

Signed: Approved.

Dated: 20th October 2020

Statutory powers relating to this month's payments:

- (1-3) Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s.112
- (4) Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10; LGA 1972, s.214
- (5) Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
- (6-8) LGA 1972, s.111