

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk: Mrs. Marilyn Strand Tel: 01638 781286

Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

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 7:34pm.

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 was held remotely using an online meeting platform. The meeting will be open to the public (including the press).

113/20/21 To receive & approve apologies for absence.

None.

114/20/21 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

115/20/21 Open Forum for Public Participation

None.

116/20/21 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2021 (to be signed at a later date).

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January were approved as a true record. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the original copy will be signed at a later date.

117/20/21 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

(a)

- Website upgrade – the new website is now live and is being updated with information and pictures. Councillors were asked to send the Clerk a suitable photo of themselves for their profiles, and any photos of the parish they think suitable.
- Tree on recreation ground behind the Centre – work was completed on 25th February. The left-over chippings were spread over footpath no. 3 (Strollers Way) to help improve the surface for walkers. The PC thanked Mr Michael Whymer for doing this.
- Crushed stone for car park extension – Cllr Bell had spread approximately 4 tonnes of stone over the car park extension area which has vastly improved the surface. Cllr Bell had also tidied up the far end of this area, removing soil and unblocking the drain, and Councillors thanked him for doing this.
- Village Green registration – the application form is in progress.
- Village Spring Clean – Councillors were asked to come to next month's meeting with suggestions of areas that need to be cleared of litter, grass etc. Due to current restrictions on gathering, it was agreed to ask volunteers to take part as and when they can (and in their bubbles) to avoid a lot of people gathering at once.
- White Horse Stables – the property owner has begun to remove the height of the close boarded fencing.
- Street Lighting – the new inventory had been sent to UK Power Networks who should issue a new MPAN number which would reduce the electricity bills. This will be followed up as no reduction had occurred as yet.

118/20/21 The Ellesmere Centre

(a)

Ellesmere Centre Report – Cllr Whymer reported the following: -

- The Centre remains closed in line with government lockdown restrictions. The government's roadmap out of lockdown says that community centres can re-open on 12th April however, Trustees may decide to wait until May so that other limitations on groups and gatherings have also been lifted by the time of re-opening. The next Trustees' meeting is due to be held on 15th March and a decision is likely to be made then.

119/20/21 District & County Councillors' Reports

District Cllr Alan Sharp reported the following: -

- Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to raise its portion of the Council Tax by 2.99%. This equates to a 1% rise for adult social care and a 1.99% rise for general funds.
- The County Council has budgeted £4m per year over the next four years for pavement improvements.
- ECDC has frozen its portion of the Council Tax for the 8th year running. However, it will be increased by £5 per Band D property over the following two years in order to maintain services.
- ECDC is restructuring its Finance & Assets Committee. It has been agreed that the Operational Services Committee will take on some of the functions of the Finance & Assets Committee to reduce its workload.
- Haddenham Community Land Trust (HCLT) – the houses (some affordable) are for local people and, although built by ECDC, are being allocated by HCLT.
- Ashfield House, 20 High Street – parking issues around the site persist and Cllr Sharp is liaising with ECDC enforcement and the developer to find a resolution. An on-site car park had been planned for February but this had been affected by the weather.
- County Cllr Mathew Shuter will be standing down at the elections on May 6th.

Cllr Whymer asked why ECDC hadn't contributed to the legal costs of Newmarket Town Council in its fight to keep the Weatherby Crossing open, particularly as many East Cambridgeshire residents in villages south of Newmarket would benefit from keeping the crossing open. District Cllr Sharp said it was because ECDC is not a highways authority. CCC had been asked to contribute but they had provided officer support instead.

120/20/21 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 – Jan 20	SO	£323.05	
(2)	Clerk's expenses Jan-Feb 21	101535	£40.27	
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting) Dec 20	DD	£132.04	£125.75
(4)	Regent Construction – stone for car park	101536	£300.00	£250.00
(5)	Travis Perkins – shingle for car park	101537	£205.73	
	Total payments for the month:		£1001.09	

It was also AGREED to pay RH Landscapes and Maintenance Services £510.00 (£425 +VAT) for tree works on the recreation ground (cheque no. 101538). The invoice had been received shortly after this agenda was published. H

However, the quotation for this work had been previously agreed under the Clerk's delegated powers as urgent work.

- (b) To note monies received: -
- Cambridge Building Society interest - £8.91
- NOTED.

121/20/21 Administration

- (a) Risk assessments on PC assets – Cllr Whymer will carry these out and report to the next meeting.
- (b) Date of Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – both will be held on Tuesday 18th May in person at the Ellesmere Centre.

122/20/21 Planning

- (a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -
None.
- (b) To consider planning applications received:
- 20/01759/FUL 45 Strollers Way – first floor side extension. AMENDMENT: inclusion of additional windows within the gable side elevation of the proposed extension. – NOTED with no comments.
- (c) Report from Cllr Whymer from ECDC Planning Committee Meeting re: 20/01373/FUL Perryman's, 22 Ley Road - Change of use from detached Annexe to class 3 Dwelling, with minor alterations, new boundary wall, landscaping and associated access and hardstanding works. Cllr Whymer will attend tomorrow's Planning Committee Meeting to speak on behalf of the PC in full support of the application.

123/20/21 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- (a) To consider seeking permission from Highways for flag pole and church sign on village green – AGREED.
- (b) Handyman – jobs for the handyman were agreed as follows: --
- Clean up of area between Coopers Close and Strollers Way (this should be being done on a regular basis).

- Paint bus shelter lintel, notice board, boarding around the MUGA and the timber goal and crossbar on the recreation ground – costs to be obtained and agreed.

(c) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting – none.

124/20/21 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration

30th March; 27th April.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 18th May.

Village Spring Clean.

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm.

Signed: Approved.

Dated: 30th March 2021.

Statutory powers relating to this month's payments:

- (1-2) Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, s.112
- (3) Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
- (4-5) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(1)(b).