

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk: Mrs. Marilyn Strand Tel: 01638 781286

Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on

Wednesday 28th September 2022, 7:30pm

held at the Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room)

Present: Cllrs Lily Whymer (Chair), Wayne Bell (Vice-Chair), 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.

41/22/23 To receive & approve apologies for absence

None.

42/22/23 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Saunders declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 50/22/23 (b) – planning application at 15 Tea Kettle Lane (lives next door).

43/22/23 Open Forum for Public Participation

None.

44/22/23 To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

45/22/23 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

(a)

- Encashment facility, Nat West – this has now been completed.
- Press reports – a round-up of PC meetings will be sent to the Newmarket Journal each month for publication.
- Submission of declaration of exemption for external audit – completed and posted on the PC's website.
- Felled tree branches in Strollers Way – these had been cleared by ECDC.
- Hedgerows on Tea Kettle Lane and adjacent to Mill Lane footpath – it is still not clear who is responsible for cutting the hedgerows in these locations. Cllr Breen will investigate the matter further.
- Hedgerow along the side and rear boundary of 5 Coopers Close – it was agreed to write to Sanctuary Housing to ask them to cut back the vegetation growing over onto the footpath from an empty property belonging to them.

(b)

Reports from Cambridgeshire ACRE AGM and ECDC Parish & Community Forum (verbal) – Cllr Whymer reported on the work on Cambridgeshire ACRE across the county which includes, recently, the Warm Hubs Initiative. So far, 53 venues in the county had offered to host Warm Hubs, including the Ellesmere Centre. They are also working on various other projects such as litter picking, ongoing tree planting and rural affordable housing. At the meeting, they had voted to raise their subscription fees for Parish Councils from £57.00 per year to £60.00.

Cllr Whymer had been unable to join ECDC's Parish & Community Forum as the link to the online meeting had not worked.

46/22/23 The Ellesmere Centre

(a)

Ellesmere Centre Report – Cllr Whymer reported the following: -

- The Centre has applied to become a Warm Hub and, if approved, can expect support from Cambridgeshire ACRE as well as grant funding to help expand on what can be offered.
- A new kitchen is being fitted this week.
- Grant funding has been invaluable in keeping the Centre afloat as hire income alone is not sufficient to cover all costs. The Centre is busy and back to pre-covid levels of business.

(b)

To consider request to remove wooden structure from tarmac area on the recreation ground and install two portable basketball hoops which were gifted to the Centre – this was not agreed due to concerns that the area is not big enough or suitably surfaced for basketball games. The existing fixed hoop at one end is sufficient for practising. The MUGA or indoor sports hall are more suitable for games and available to hire should anyone wish to.

- (c) To consider purchase of new pads for defibrillator – cost approximately £330 – AGREED. It was also AGREED that the PC will fund these going forward, as needed.
- (d) To consider request from 11-a-side football team to use recreation ground for home games on Sunday mornings – AGREED.

47/22/23 District & County Councillors' Reports

District & County Cllr Alan Sharp reported the following: -

- Following HM Queen Elizabeth II's death, Cllr Sharp had been honoured to be involved in the proclamation of HM King Charles III, and to have given a reading at the service of thanksgiving at Ely Cathedral in his role as Chairman of ECDC.
- Talks with a landowner regarding the acquisition of land for the Swaffham Heath junction on the A1303 are ongoing.
- There had been two fatalities on the A1303 this year (near the Wilbrahams junction) and discussions had taken place with CCC officers to investigate plans to improve safety. This is likely to include clearer signage because of poor visibility at the junction.
- HGV Policy – this is being put together by the Highways & Transport Committee to try to alleviate problems associated with HGVs using cut-throughs in towns and villages, particularly when there are severe traffic problems on the A14. This affects traffic through Woodditton, Cheveley and Stetchworth.
- Local Highways Initiative – current projects are being rolled out. The new funding round will open on 31st October and run until 6th January 2023. A 'fast-track' system for uncomplicated schemes, such as speed limit buffer zones and yellow lines, is to be one new feature of the funding scheme.
- It is hoped that an improved asset management system for reporting of pot holes and other highways issues will be rolled out next year. The system will allow for easier reporting by members of the public. It will also be possible for County Cllrs to pull up a report on the issues in their Wards so that they can report back to parishes on progress.
- Bus services – a proposal to match fund the Combined Authority's emergency funding of services of £1.7m will be put forward by the Conservative group at a meeting this Friday.
- Cllr Robin Sharp, Chair of Woodditton PC, has sadly passed away and Cllr Sharp has sent condolences to his family.

48/22/23 **Finance** - to approve accounts for payment – it was proposed by Cllr Whymer and seconded by Cllr France that the following payments be made – AGREED.

(a)

Ref:	Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total	Exc. VAT
(1)	Clerk's salary – Aug & Sep 22	SO	£670.36	
(2)	Clerk's expenses Aug/Sep	BACs	£57.37	
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting) – Jun	DD	£34.97	£33.30
(4)	Opus Energy (street lighting) – Jul	DD	£35.54	£33.85
(5)	The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Jul) PAID	BACs	£25.00	
(6)	RH Landscapes – Jul 22 – PAID	BACs	£288.00	£240.00
(7)	RH Landscapes – tree works - PAID	BACs	£480.00	£400.00
(8)	RH Landscapes – Aug 22	BACs	£288.00	£240.00
(9)	Roger Evans (handyman) – PAID	BACs	£405.00	
Total payments for the month:			£2,284.24	

(b) To note monies received: - none.

49/22/23 Administration

(a) To agree Annual Parish Council (APM) minutes, 17th May 2022 (to approve at next year's APM) – AGREED.

(b) To approve updated Standing Orders (2022) – AGREED.

(c) To consider joint purchase (with the Clerk) of a printer/scanner/copier, cost approximately £120.00 – it was AGREED to pay half each.

50/22/23 Planning

(a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -

- 22/00640/FUL July Lodge, London Road – proposed single-storey car garage for private use. **Approved.**

NOTED.

(b) To consider planning applications received –

- 22/00894/FUL 16 High Street – proposed single-storey rear extension, exterior alterations and associated works – NOTED with no comments.
- 22/00896/TPO 16 High Street – T1 Ash – fell (roots have caused significant damage to the driveway affecting its use and it is not possible to lift and relay block paving without removing the

tree due to the extent of root growth) – NOTED with the following comments: - the PC disagrees that the tree should be cut down as it is not causing damage to the foundations of the property. The pavers on the driveway should be moved to accommodate the tree.

- 22/00979/FUL 15 Tea Kettle Lane – extension and conversion of garage and pitched roof over, front dormer extension and front open porch – NOTED with no comments.
- 22/01081/FUL July Race Course, Cambridge Road – erection of an extension to an existing maintenance building to serve as a rest area, equipped with kitchen – NOTED with no comments.

- (c) STNN/22/72 – naming of The Old Estate Office – NOTED.
- (d) 22/00875/OUM Land south of 112 Station Road, Dullingham (erection of 160 dwellings) – to consider request from Dullingham PC to support their objection to this application: it was agreed to write to the planning officer in support of Dullingham PC's objection regarding the scale of the proposed development.

51/22/23 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- (a) Handyman – update: the handyman has been able to carry out all repair and maintenance duties around the parish.
- (b) To consider & approve cost of movable, lockable post near MUGA – Cllr Whymer will investigate further with a local contact.
- (c) To consider application to Local Highways Initiative 2023-24 (movable vehicle activated sign) – Cllr Sharp will bring a proposal to the October meeting.
- (d) Asset inspections – to be carried out by Cllr Bell.
- (e) To consider invitation for Community Safety & Projects Support Officer (ECDC) to attend a PC meeting to discuss issues affecting the parish (low-level crime, anti-social behaviour) – this is not an issue in Stetchworth at present.
- (f) Dog fouling – Cllr Sharp said this had been particularly bad over the summer, possibly mostly from people from outside the village visiting the area. More signage will be placed in areas of particular concern.
- (g) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting – none.

52/22/23 Correspondence for Information.

- (a) Lucy Frazer KC MP re: offer of support on local issues – NOTED.
- (b) ECDC re: street trading licencing on private land – NOTED.
- (c) Cambridgeshire ACRE re: warm hubs – NOTED.
- (d) Mrs Julie Spence OBE KPM re: thank you for the work undertaken following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II – NOTED.
- (e) Anglian Water re: Fen Reservoir project – NOTED.

53/22/23 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration 18th October.

The meeting was closed at 9:15pm.

Signed: Approved and signed by the Chairman

Dated: 18th October 2022