

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 15th February 2022

held at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room)

Present: Cllrs Lily Whymer (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.

89/21/22 To receive & approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Wayne Bell (personal).

90/21/22 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

91/21/22 Open Forum for Public Participation

None.

92/21/22 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr France joined the meeting.

93/21/22 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

(a)

- Unity Trust Bank account opening – supporting documents have been collated and are ready to submit.
- Local Highways Initiative – statement for panel meeting – NOTED.
- Queen's Green Canopy & Community Orchard – the PC was not successful in its application for trees for a community orchard. There might be a proposal coming forward from the community to plant a tree for the Jubilee as part of this year's celebrations. A suitable site for this will be considered.

94/21/22 The Ellesmere Centre

(a)

Ellesmere Centre Report – Cllr Whymer reported the following: -

- The corridor flooring has almost been completed and a heavy-duty mat for the main entrance is being considered.

(b)

To consider quotations for repair of MUGA fencing – Simon Gale £1,355+VAT: it was agreed to try to obtain at least one comparative quotation before proceeding, although suitable contractors had proved difficult to find.

95/21/22 District & County Councillors' Reports

District & County Cllr Alan Sharp reported the following: -

- CCC has agreed to raise its share of the precept for 2022-23 by 4.99%. Of this, 3% will be for adult social care with the rest going into the Council's reserves. This year's underspend was £11m and this will also go into reserves rather than being rolled over into the new budget year.
- There has been an increase of 82 police officers in the county. However, the county is outgrowing this increase.
- The Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough will produce a transport and connectivity plan for the region. However, the public consultation on this has been postponed until after the May elections due to the period of purdah. The consultation is now expected to start on 10th May and run for three months.
- Dullingham – a reserved matters planning application for 41 dwellings on the site of Clare Stables is expected to be called in to the Planning Committee. Twelve of the proposed dwellings will be affordable.

Cllr Whymer asked if PCSO numbers had decreased. Cllr Sharp said that there were 6 or 7 vacancies for PCSOs at present as several had decided to become warranted officers. These vacancies are not being filled immediately in case any of the newly warranted officers decide to return to their previous roles within their trial period.

- 96/21/22 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 22	SO	£323.05	
(2)	Clerk's expenses – Jan-Feb 22		£50.62	
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting) Dec 21	DD	£45.95	£43.76
Total payments for the month:			£419.62	

97/21/22 Administration

- (a) Asset Inspections – Cllr Sharp: some minor repair work will be carried out. It was agreed that inspections will continue to be undertaken each month.

The litter bin in the children's play area is being regularly used by dog walkers to dispose of dog foul as it is easy to lean over the fence and place it in the bin. A sign will be made for the bin asking dog owners to dispose of dog foul in the dog waste bin which is nearby.

Cllr Whymer will ask ECDC to sweep Tea Kettle Lane as hedge cuttings are still lying in the road and will block the drains when washed down by heavy rain.

- (b) CONFIDENTIAL – Clerk's appraisal completed on Friday 11th. There were no members of the public present and the Clerk left the room whilst this item was discussed. It was AGREED to raise the Clerk's pay to LC1(9) of the NALC pay scales from 1st April 2022.

98/21/22 Planning

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

- (b) To consider planning applications received: - None.

99/21/22 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- (a) Handyman – update – it is hoped the handyman will soon be able to resume work to complete painting of the MUGA fencing and other regular jobs such as cleaning the bus shelter.

- (b) To consider grounds maintenance contract renewal – it was agreed to continue the PC's contract with RH Landscapes & Maintenance Services for a further 3 years. The PC had been very pleased with the work carried out and a small price increase of £20.00 per cut, held for the next 3 years, was AGREED.

- (c) To consider quotations for removal of soil in cemetery – £1,560.00. The specialist nature of this work meant that efforts to obtain comparative quotations had been unsuccessful. Cllr France therefore proposed to accept the quotation and the proposal was AGREED unanimously. The contractor will be asked to liaise directly with Stetchworth Estates who had agreed to take the soil away from the site free of charge.

- (d) Correspondence from resident re: dog fouling – Cllr Whymer had spoken to Stetchworth Estates who agreed that this issue had grown worse recently. It was agreed to contact the Dog Warden at ECDC to see if they have signage that can be put up.

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

100/21/22 Correspondence for Information.

- (a) NALC – Open Letter to Town & Parish Councillors – NOTED.

101/21/22 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration

15th March.

PC Facebook page.

PCC – request for support for the newsletter and public toilets.

Newmarket market.

The meeting was closed at 8:45pm.

Signed: Approved and signed by the Chairman.

Dated: 15th March 2022.

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