

# STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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## MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

held at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room)

**Present:** Cllrs Lily Whymer (Chair), Sarah Breen, John Puddick, Wayne Bell and Alan Sharp.

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

**102/21/22 To receive & approve apologies for absence.**

Cllr Alastair France and Cllr Piers Saunders (personal).

The Clerk was not in attendance due to illness. Cllr Whymer recorded the minutes.

**103/21/22 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest**

Alan Sharp and Lily Whymer declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 107/21/22 (b) repair of MUGA fence – payment (Trustees of the Ellesmere Centre).

**104/21/22 Open Forum for Public Participation**

No public present.

**105/21/22 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.** The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**106/21/22 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)**

- (a)
- Unity Trust Bank account opening – this is now complete and Unity Trust has also completed the switch from the Barclays current account which has now been closed. Cllrs Breen and Whymer confirmed that they had been able to register and log in to the new bank account online.
  - Removal of soil in cemetery – Ben Pumfrey had been given Ron Gabain's contact number had not yet confirmed when he will carry out the work. It was agreed to contact Mr Pumfrey again as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made. Cllr Whymer reported that a tree in the churchyard needs to be inspected by a tree surgeon – it might need to be felled.
  - Dog fouling signage – the Clerk will liaise with Ron Gabain with regard to wording – the sign is needed for the Allotments and Stetchworth Estates would pay or contribute for the sign.
  - Annual play area inspection – notification had been received that this will take place in April.

**107/21/22 The Ellesmere Centre**

- (a) Ellesmere Centre Report  
Cllr Whymer reported that some areas of flooring were still to be replaced. There was to be an all-day café at the centre on 18<sup>th</sup> March, profits to Red Cross Ukraine appeal. Cllr Breen asked about problems with children. Cllr Whymer reported that a group of children were causing a nuisance for example by entering the centre and removing business cards on display and scattering them all along the road. Another incident had been kicking balls over the centre which could possibly damage the PVs and which were landing on cars on the other side. As a result, unaccompanied children had been banned from the centre.
- (b) To consider quotations for repair of MUGA fencing – One quote had been received from Simon Gale (Cambridge Courts) for £1,355 + vat. Two other firms had been approached but declined to quote. It was AGREED therefore to accept the quote from Cambridge Courts. Cllr Whymer said that a decision was needed with regard to paying for this. Should it be the responsibility of the Management Trustees from day-to-day maintenance, or from the joint account 'sinking fund' or should this be borne by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for this so long as there was sufficient funding in the budget.

**108/21/22 District & County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Sharp reported the following: -

- ECDC has frozen its share of the precept for the 9<sup>th</sup> year running.
- ECDC Street Scene has reorganised its refuse collection rounds to save diesel and reduce carbon. Details can be found on their website.
- CCC – the Transport & Highways Committee has set up a '20 mph' funding scheme separate to the Local Highways Initiative.



**109/21/22 Finance** - to approve accounts for payment.

(a)	Ref: Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total	Exc. VAT
(1)	Clerk's salary – Feb 22	SO	£323.05	
(2)	Clerk's expenses – Feb-Mar 22	BACs	£50.62	
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting) Jan 22	DD	£45.34	£43.18
	<b>Total payments for the month:</b>		<b>£419.62</b>	

Proposed by Cllr Whymer, seconded by Cllr Bell and AGREED. Cllrs Whymer and Breen will log in to the bank account and authorise payment

**110/21/22 Administration**

- (a) CONFIDENTIAL – staff salaries: NALC had updated the pay scales to reflect a 1.75% increase for 2021-22. The new hourly rate for the Clerk for pay scale LC1 (9) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 was AGREED.
- (b) CAPALC invitation to renew membership for 2022-23, cost £354.57 – AGREED.

**111/21/22 Planning**

- (a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works:
- 21/01828/FUL Greenwich Lodge, 59a High Street – demolition of existing utility room and sun room and extension with internal alterations. **Approved.**
- NOTED.
- (b) To consider planning applications received: -
- 22/00198/FUL The Weighing Room, July Race Course, Cambridge Road, Newmarket – proposed refurbishment of existing stand 1, weighing room and replacement of champagne bar – NOTED with no comments.
  - 21/00037/REFAPP Stetchworth Park Stud, Church Lane – detached stud manager's dwelling with associated double garage. **APPEAL.** The Parish Council wished to reiterate the comments sent in connection with the original application.

**112/21/22 Community Matters/General Maintenance**

- (a) Handyman – update: It was thought that Mr Evans was still off work. Cllr Whymer reported that she had received a complaint that the seat in the bus shelter was covered in mud, it was thought deliberately. Mr Whymer had attended and washed the seat. He thought that it was as a result of some people sitting on it wearing very muddy clothes. During half term some girl guides had been carrying out some sort of project whereby they had to report to a 'station' at the end of the allotments in wet weather and they had been covered in mud and might have sheltered in the bus shelter.
- (b) To consider opening a PC Facebook page - it was AGREED that a PC Facebook page should be started which could have PC news, minutes, agendas etc. However, it should be administered so that anyone wishing to make comments on it should have their content vetted before it appeared on Facebook. If the Clerk was able to do this, it should go ahead.
- (c) To consider request from PCC for support for newsletter and public toilets - The PC would look favourably on this, but were unable to make a firm decision as no figures or paperwork had been received.
- (d) Newmarket market – to consider writing to West Suffolk Council regarding the market's location - It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to West Suffolk Council and Newmarket Town Council deploring the move from the High Street back to the market square and stating that making the stalls more secure and weighted down in the High Street would be a much better option. The Market had been picking up with additional stalls but with the move back has even fewer stalls than when in that position previously. It was further agreed that a copy of that letter should be sent to the Clerks of all parish councils surrounding Newmarket stating that Stetchworth PC feel quite strongly about this, and asking if they would consider writing a similar letter in support.
- (e) High Street parking issues: Cllr Whymer had circulated an article which she proposed should go into the Stetchworth newsletter, giving the history of the school site, the parking issues and what had been done to try to alleviate the problems. This was agreed by all. Cllr Sharp said there were one or two small points that he would email to Cllr Whymer. It was agreed that a copy of the article should be sent to the Nursery with a letter from the Parish Council stating that many complaints had been made to councillors about the parking and the article was in an effort to let everyone know the situation, in the hope that the Nursery staff would feel able to park at the Ellesmere Centre to stop the current congestion in the High Street.
- (f) The Great British Spring Clean – 25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022: It was agreed that the village was fairly free of litter and that 'Rubbish Friends' do a good job collecting from roadsides around the village. It was agreed not to register for this.



- (g) Poppy Appeal 2022 – Lucy Acred, Community Fundraiser for the Royal British Legion, did not attend. It was agreed that the Council should write to her and let her know that there was a reason why no one had come forward for some years to sell poppies in Stetchworth. This was because of the way the British Legion had rode roughshod over the community, closed the club and sold the land leaving bad feeling in the village towards the Legion. Poppies were in fact sold in Stetchworth in 2021 by Mrs Vanessa Byam-Cook.
- (h) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting. Considered – no need for risk assessment.

**113/21/22 Correspondence for Information.**

- (a) ECDC re: bin day changes from 28<sup>th</sup> March – NOTED. Letters had been received by each household regarding the changes. Cllr Sharp said that this is the first time that the rounds had been reviewed for a number of years, and that a review had been necessary partly to take into account the numerous amount of new homes that had been built in the district. The new rounds would result in a saving of time and fuel.

**114/21/22 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration**  
19<sup>th</sup> April.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: Approved and signed by the Chairman

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> April 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