

# STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

19 High Street, Aldreth, Cambs, CB6 3PQ

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck

Email: [clerk@stetchworth.org](mailto:clerk@stetchworth.org)

## Minutes

### Stetchworth Parish Council – full Council Meeting on

20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm

Present: Cllr Bell – Chairman (WB), Saunders – Vice Chairman (PS), Puddock (JP), Breen (SB), Kempton (LK)

#### 103/23/24 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))

District/County and Parish Councillor Sharp – work commitment

District Councillor Lay – work commitment

Councillor France – work commitments

Apologies accepted.

#### 104/23/24 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

No declarations were made.

#### 105/23/24 Open Forum for Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### 106/23/24 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were **APPROVED** unanimously as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 107/23/24 Matters Arising including reports from the Clerk and Councillors (for information only)

1. Update on Streetlight for Church Lane.

The clerk updated that fund had been made available to UK Power Networks to instigate the necessary work and the council's contractor awaits completion before installation can take place.

2. Newmarket 10k.

The Parish Council had received a request form Newmarket Joggers to hold the event in June 2024. The Parish Council agreed in principle to the booking and details had been passed to the Ellesmere Centre to confirm the booking. The Parish Council requested Ellesmere Office provided the council with proof of Public Liability Insurance and any relevant risk assessments one month before the event was due to take place.

3. Cycle event parking.

The Parish Council agreed to the request in principle and noted that as the weather was poor parking would not be possible. The Parish Council requested Ellesmere Office provided the council with proof of Public Liability Insurance and any relevant risk assessments one month before the event was due to take place.

4. Highways Operational Standards relating to weed control.

The Parish Council had no comment to make.

#### 108/23/24 The Ellesmere Centre

AS was not in attendance, so no report was made.

#### 109/23/24 District & County Councillors' Reports

##### East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – February 2024

##### **Cambridgeshire District Council**

##### **More traffic restrictions**

The GCP are now looking at road classifications throughout Cambridge, which will restrict traffic even more and, in my opinion, cause more congestion.

CCC have a stated aim of getting people out of their cars and use public transport, which is admirable, but it must come with reliable services otherwise that will not happen.

A complete rethink is required, but the ruling administration refuse to listen to constructive comments. The ruling administration voted down at a County Council meeting last year, a Conservative group proposal to have a cross party working group to look at the issues and try to resolve them. Working together for all residents. They refused that.

At the February 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of County Council, I stated that the ruling administration continued to ignore sensible proposals from our group and seem hellbent on pushing their own ideology at the financial expense of residents, as well as ruining the City, where people are going elsewhere to shop rather than put up with the congestion.

I have ideas on how we can solve traffic issues within and outside the City and will continue to put those forward and welcome any suggestions from residents because there needs to be collaboration to get the perfect solution.

### **Buses**

The CPCA mayor is increasing the mayoral precept by **200%** from £12 to £36 for a Band D property, which will apparently be spent on bus transport including Demand Responsive Transport, one scheme that will be in East Cambridgeshire towards the east of the district, with no change to the services within the Village Voice catchment.

There is a potential proposal to move to a franchising model, which will mean that the Combined Authority (CPCA) as the transport authority could dictate where and when buses run, rather than the bus operators, as at present.

Franchising costs a lot of money and there is no evidence that the money will be forthcoming from Government, which is the main source, based on previous poor bids that the CPCA have made.

There will be a public consultation on this later this year once the Business Case has been published. I will update once more details are known.

### **CCC Budget**

The CCC decided at a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February to increase their portion of the Council tax by 4.99%, which is the maximum allowed.

Our group put forward proposals to spend the money differently and put over £20m more into repairing our roads, but that was rejected. The County Council has nearly £300m of reserves so this was achievable.

### **Swaffham Heath/ A1303 Crossroads – Staggered Junction**

I have some great news. After a very long wait due to legal issues purchasing land around the junction, construction is due to start on March 4<sup>th</sup> and last for 15 weeks.

This has been a long time coming, but I hope that this finally improves road safety at this important junction.

### **East Cambridgeshire District Council**

#### **ECDC Budget**

East Cambs District Council are proposing at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February a NIL % increase in their portion of the Council tax. This is for the eleventh year running.

#### **Waste Services**

Government is looking at changing the way that waste is collected and there will be a uniform system across the country, where at the present each Council can choose their own method. More detailed proposals will be issued over the coming months, with an implementation date likely to be 2026.

#### **Bereavement Centre**

The Full Council of ECDC are discussing a proposal to open a Bereavement Centre in Mepal, which will offer a service that is currently unavailable within the district. The Business Plan has been through many iterations and undertaken many challenges.

### **110/23/24 Finance - to approve accounts for payment:**

(a)	Ref:	Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total
		To be paid on 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2024		
(1)		HMRC, Wages and Expenses	BACs	£472.14
(2)		UK Power Network – Church Lane	BACs	£1464.00
(3)		R.H. Landscapes – Cut back	BACs	£594.00
(4)		The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Jan)	BACs	£30.00
(5)		TBM – Microsoft 365 licences (monthly) and domain renewal	BACs	£52.06
(b)		To note monies received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>		
(c)		To accept bank reconciliations for January 2024		

**Approved:** Proposed WB, seconded SB. Motion carried.

**111/23/24 Planning**

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

- **23/01392/ VAR July Lodge, London Road, Newmarket**

To vary condition 1 (approved Plan) of previously approved 22/00640/FUL for proposed single storey car garage for private use - Approved.

(b) To consider planning applications received:

- **23/01296/FUL White Horse Stables, High Street, Stetchworth (Amendment)**

Proposed horse walker and relocation of muck heap (amended plans and description of proposal updated to include the relocation of the existing muck heap)

The Parish Council had no objection to the application.

**112/23/24 Community Matters/General Maintenance**

(c) Update Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign – awaiting update

(d) Handyman – no works had been requested to date

**113/23/24 Correspondence for Information**

a) ECDC - Bus, Cycle, Walk Update from East Cambridgeshire District Council

b) ECDC – Community Funding

c) ECDC press release: Littleport Leisure

d) ECDC – Newsletter

**114/23/24 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Meeting closed at 19.20.

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Karen Peck  
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
Stetchworth Parish Council  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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Wayne Bell  
Chairman