

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
c/o The Ellesmere Centre, Ley Road, Stetchworth, CB8 9TS
Clerk: Mrs. Marilyn Strand
Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

MINUTES

Stetchworth Parish Council Full Council Meeting on
Tuesday 17th October 2023, 7:30pm
held at the Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room)

Present: Cllrs Wayne Bell (Chairman), Piers Saunders (Vice-Chair), John Puddick, Sarah Breen and Limara Kempton.

District Cllr James Lay was also in attendance.

Clerk: Mrs Marilyn Strand.

There was one member of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

53/23/24

Apologies for Absence

- a) To receive and approve apologies for absence.
Cllr Alan Sharp (other commitments) Alastair France (personal).
- b) To consider and approve leave of absence for Cllr Alastair France to the end of December 2023 – **AGREED**. Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Saunders.

54/23/24

To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests.

None.

55/23/24

Open Forum for Public Participation

A member of the public raised a few issues regarding maintenance of some trees and hedges and these will be taken up with the Council's grounds maintenance team by Cllr Bell.

56/23/24

To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September 2023.

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

57/23/24

Matters Arising including Reports from the Clerk.

- Streetlight for Church Lane – in progress with K&M Lighting.
- Additional grass cutting on recreation ground to facilitate football matches – RH Landscapes & Maintenance Services has suggested cutting up to the end of November.
- Local Highways Initiative – an expression of interest for 2024/25 for improvements to the railway bridge has been submitted.

58/23/24

The Ellesmere Centre

- a) Ellesmere Centre Report.
Cllr Sharp was not in attendance to give a report.
- b) Proposal to apply to the ECDC Pride of Place grant funding re: frontage of Ellesmere Centre. It was agreed to check the ownership of the area with HM Land Registry before proceeding.

59/23/24

District & County Councillors' Reports

NOTED – report from District & County Cllr Alan Sharp.

District Cllr James Lay reported on the decision by central government to scrap the northern stretch of HS2. This means that funding will now be made available for improvements to the Ely railway junction which will improve local train services.

60/23/24 FINANCE

a) To approve payments:

Ref:	Payee/Item	Chq. no	Total	Exc. VAT
(1)	Staff costs – Oct 23	BACs	£365.82	
(2)	Clerk's expenses Oct 23	BACs	£50.62	
(3)	Opus Energy (street lighting)	BACs	£35.16	£33.40
(4)	The Ellesmere Centre – room hire (Sep)	DD	£30.00	
(5)	RH Landscapes – grass cutting Sep 23	BACs	£288.00	£240.00
(6)	TBM – Microsoft 365 licences (monthly)	BACs	£12.72	£10.60
(7)	123 Reg – Archives domain (2 yrs)	BACs	£28.78	
(8)	Churchyard grass cutting	BACs	£300.00	
	Total payments for the month:		£1,111.10	

APPROVED. Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Saunders.

- b) NOTED - monies received: - ECDC precept (2nd instalment) - £9,435.00.
c) AGREED – Q1 and Q2 accounts and bank reconciliations.
d) AGREED – to set up a Direct Debit for Microsoft licences. Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Breen.

61/23/24 Planning Matters

- a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works.
23/00876/TPO 16 High Street – T1 Ash: reduce lateral branches on southern (road facing) side only by 3-4 metres to suitable pruning points. The property owner would like to reduce excessive shading inside the garden whilst not pruning the remainder of the tree unnecessarily. T2 Ash: reduce lower branches on southern side of crown by 2-3 metres to suitable pruning points to reduce excessive shading over the garden. **Approved.**
- b) To consider planning applications received.
23/00650/FUL Newmarket Equine Hospital, Cambridge Road – extension to accommodate CT scanner. NOTED with no comments.
23/00898/FUL 37 Strollers Way – first floor side extension and associated works. AMENEDMENT for information only: amended plans showing changes to the quantity of render and cladding, and an amended block plan now including vehicle parking. NOTED.
23/00898/FUL 57 Strollers Way – first floor side extension and associated works. AMENDMENT: removal of Dormer window. NOTED with no comments.

62/23/24 Community Matters/General Maintenance

- a) To consider request from St Peter's Church re: funding of public toilet, £38.40, production of the newsletter, £402.26 and additional gravel for the churchyard, £55-£75. **APPROVED.** Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Breen.
b) ECDC Polling District Review – to consider comments for submission. NOTED with no comments.
c) To consider and agree type and location of Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign. It was AGREED to proceed with the Westcotec Speed Indicator Device (SID).
d) Handyman update – the handyman will be asked to remove a concrete post from under the bench on the corner of Tea Kettle Lane.
e) Risk Assessments – to consider the need to carry out a risk assessment on any item discussed during the meeting: none.

63/23/24 Correspondence for Information

- a) Lucy Frazer KC MP re: Dept for Media, Culture and Sport, Youth Support Services – NOTED.

64/23/24 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration21st November, 7pm.**65/23/24 MOTION TO EXCLUDE**

It was RESOLVED unanimously under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, as publicity

would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

APPROVED. Proposed Cllr Ross, seconded Cllr Johnston.

66/23/24

Staffing Matters

a) Appointment of Clerk & RFO.

It was agreed to offer Mrs Karen Peck pay scale SCP18 on a 6-month probationary period. **APPROVED.** Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Breen.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Clerk & RFO, Mrs Marilyn Strand, for all her work over the last 7 years.

The meeting was closed at 8:20pm.

DRAFT