

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd APRIL 2023 AT FAIRSEAT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:	Cllr Polly Falconer	Vice Chair
	Cllr Tom Brooker	
	Cllr Daren Sefer	
	Cllr Kevin Sparkes	
	Cllr Yvonne Tisson	
	Mrs Melita Gandolfo	Clerk
	Mr David Rice	Assistant Clerk
	KCC Cllr Harry Rayner	(for part of the meeting)
	TMBC Cllr Martin Coffin	(for part of the meeting)
	Four members of the public	

Item *Action point*

Minute no

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bott and Cllr Saunders and were accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Falconer, seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 be signed as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Harry Rayner and Cllr Coffin to speak.

Cllr Rayner reported that for the last financial year KCC had over-spent its budget by around £50m and this would impact the level of social services it would be able to provide in the current year. KCC was continuing to work with the NHS in Kent to enable it to provide an integrated care strategy. KCC continued to provide assistance for Ukrainian refugees and had placed 350 primary and 275 secondary children in local schools.

KCC Cllr Martin Coffin reported that permission for the proposed lorry park at Wrotham Heath had been refused, as it was near an area of outstanding natural beauty and water courses and it would encourage lorries to come off the M2 to stop and potentially cause gridlock in the local area.

Cllr Coffin noted that fly-tipping was down by 17% although KCC were requesting that a fee be payable of between £300-400 for the siting of each CCTV camera.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Rayner and Coffin and reconvened the meeting.

5 BERRY HOUSING TRUST – Payment of Grant

It was noted that following the Parish Council meeting on 6th February 2023 it had been agreed to make a grant of £20,000 to the Berry Housing Trust towards the cost of new roofs for the four cottages. It was confirmed by Mr Goddings that following the contract having been signed with the contractor the payment of £20,000 needed to be made. The payment was proposed by Cllr Falconer, seconded by Cllr Sparkes and it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange payment.

Clerk

6 ASH DIE-BACK AND BROWN’S FIELD COPPICE

It was noted that Nick Connell Tree Surgeons had completed the coppice work in Brown’s Field. Cllr Brooker noted that some of the remaining stumps were too high but that an oak tree removed in error had been replaced. An initial invoice of £9k had been settled, however, a further invoice would only be paid when Cllr Brooker was happy that the work had been completed satisfactorily.

TB

7 HIGHWAYS

a Traffic Plan, Highway Improvement Plan, Signage

The broken signpost on South Ash Road at the junction with Hatham Green Lane was discussed and it was decided that given the proximity to the road it was likely that if the sign to Wrotham was replaced it would simply be damaged again and so it was agreed to remove that finger post.

TB

Cllr Falconer reported that a meeting had been held with Nigel Rowe from KCC Highways on 30 March 2023 and that a response to the specific project requests was awaited.

The gates to be sited at the six entrances to the parish had been delivered and it was agreed that one would be erected under supervision before they were all put in position.

b Other Highways issues

There were no other highways issues to report at the current time.

8 PLANNING

a Applications

(i) There were no new applications at the time of the meeting.

b Decisions

(i) Decisions as listed on the agenda were noted.

23/00095/FL | First floor side extension, single storey rear extension and balcony to first floor above | North Down Plaxdale Green Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PB

Decision: Refused

c Appeals

There were no new appeals at the time of the meeting.

d Enforcement

There were no enforcement updates at the time of the meeting.

e Other Planning matters

None.

9 FINANCE – Appendix A

a Bank Balances

The bank balances as listed on Appendix A and as shown on the bank statements were noted.

b To approve payments made since last meeting

Cllr Falconer proposed and Cllr Sefer seconded and it was agreed that the payments made since last meeting as Appendix A be approved.

c Accounts for payment

Cllr Falconer proposed and Cllr Sefer seconded and it was agreed that the accounts for payment listed on Appendix A be approved.

d Nationwide deposit account

It was agreed that £20,000 be moved from the Nationwide deposit account to fund the payment to the Berry Housing Trust for the roof project on the cottages.

e CCLA deposit fund

Following the setting up of the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account which was in progress, the Landlord's deposit monies would be moved to this account.

f Bank mandate and signatories - dual authorisation

It was agreed that Cllr Sefer and Cllr Tisson would be set up as dual signatories and that they would follow up to ensure they were duly authorised.

**YT
DS**

g Other Finance issues

None.

10 MANAGEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND PROPERTY

i Recreation Field

It was agreed that an area of the recreation field under the tress should be left uncut to promote the growth of wildflowers to encourage pollination. Cllr Brooker agreed to discuss the area to remain uncut with Nurture Landscapes.

TB

ii Play park

Nothing to report.

iii Brown's Field

A request had been received for Brown's Field to be used for dog training but this was dependent on whether this would be possible as the field had been rented to Cllr Saunders until the end of April 2023. The PC would consider the request after that time.

Cllr Brooker suggested that the dilapidated store sited on Brown's Field could be replaced with a lorry container for the storage of equipment and it was agreed that this idea should be pursued.

iv Telephone box in Plaxdale Green Road

It was reported that the phone box had been cleaned and shelves had been fitted for the book exchange. Thanks were given to Kim Hudson for making the bookshelves.

v Maintenance and handyperson

There were no particular items for discussion.

vi Other issues

None.

11 VILLAGE HALLS

i Stansted Village Hall

It was noted that the drains were backing up from the toilets in the hall causing flooding in the carpark and this had affected neighbouring drives. It was agreed that the Assistant Parish Clerk should follow up with a letter to Thames Water so that they could unblock the drain annually, and bi-annually with regard to the one by the War Memorial.

ii Fairseat Village Hall

There was no update.

12 CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III; PARISH CELEBRATION

The Council noted that the Stansted Village Hall committee had arranged a Farmers' Market for Monday 8th May for between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The setting up for the 'bring your own picnic' on the same day would start from 1 p.m.

13 ELECTIONS – POTENTIAL NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

There was a discussion on the election of new parish councillors to fill the vacancies when Cllr Bott, Cllr Falconer and Cllr Sparkes leave in May 2023.

No formal election would be required as there were just two new candidates for the vacancies.

It was agreed that a future copy of the Parish Notes should include a summary of the new councillors backgrounds and interests.

14 WILDLIFE CAMERAS & SIGNS

Cllr Brooker explained that before the cameras could be sited and operated it was necessary to put up signs to explain that CCTV was being used in the villages at all entrances to the villages.

Cllr Brooker had bought some suitable signs for the Parish Council and he would fit both them and the cameras.

TB

15 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE COUNCILLORS/CLERK

Ms Yvonne Tisson reported that three police task forces were to be set up for West Kent each with four sergeants who would be moved around the area to increase their presence in the community; it was hoped that this would help deter local crime.

Ms Tisson also noted that Borough Green Parish Council, following a grant from KCC, would be helping to fund an initiative with a local bus company. . The bus service would run two days a week from Borough Green to West Malling and , if the scheme was economically viable, it was possible that the service could be extended to include other villages in the area.

16 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Parish Council were very pleased to hear that defibrillator sited at the Black Horse had been used to save the life of a cyclist who had collapsed and whose heart had stopped. The man made a full recovery and it was noted that their use can increase the chances of survival by 50- 70% if used within the first five minutes of a heart attack.

PUBLIC SESSION

There was a vote of thanks for the retiring councillors especially for Cllr Bott and Cllr Falconer whose contribution to the Parish Council had been much appreciated.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

SignedChairman

Dated.....