

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2023
AT STANSTED VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr Harry Bott Chairman
 Cllr Polly Falconer Vice-Chair
 Cllr Tom Brooker
 Cllr Daren Sefer
 Cllr Kevin Sparkes
 Cllr Yvonne Tisson

Mrs Melita Gandolfo Clerk
 KCC Cllr Harry Rayner (for part of meeting)
 Four members of the public

Item		<i>Action point</i>
Minute no		
1	APOLOGIES	
292	There were no apologies for absence.	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER	
293	There were no declarations of interest.	
3	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2022	
294	It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 th December 2022 be signed as a true record.	
4	MATTERS ARISING	
295	There were no matters arising.	
5	ASH DIE-BACK	
296	It was agreed that this item would be discussed under Confidential section, as it included discussion of tenders.	
6	HIGHWAYS	
297	a Traffic Plan, Highway Improvement Plan, Signage The Clerk had sent a draft Agreement with Landowners document to all councillors and it was agreed that this would be further considered and finalised at the February meeting.	
		MG PF JS
298	b Other Highways issues – It was reported that Byway MR209, leading from Plaxdale Green Road towards Tumblefield Road, was being regularly used by 4x4 vehicles. These vehicles invariably get stuck, sometimes in dangerous positions where they could easily roll over, with resulting danger to the occupants and members of the public using the Byway. The vehicles have to be towed out by a local farmer. Currently vehicular traffic is prohibited on the Byway and there is a sign to indicate this, but no physical barrier. Discussion on	

a possible solution followed. It was thought that the status could perhaps be changed to Bridleway, on the grounds of public safety and prevention of crime (MR200 is thought to be used as an exit route from the village).

The Clerk will write to KCC PROW accordingly. A member of the public offered to suggest content to be included.

7 PLANNING

a Applications

- 299 22/02736/TPOC | Trees 3 and 4 (Applicant ref) of Group 2 of TPO Fagus Sylvatica - Common Beech: Mature trees located over the pool; -crown reduce the extended branches over-sailing the pool by up to 4m at the longest parts | Cob Trees Hatham Green Lane Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PL
No objections were raised.

b Decisions

- 300 22/02131/FL | Erection of a new storage shed | Thriftwood Plaxdale Green Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7NW
Decided - Approved - Noted.
- 301 22/02134/RD | Details of condition 2 (materials) and condition 3 (landscaping and boundary treatment) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/22/00453/FL (Demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new dwelling) | Crabdene Cottage Hatham Green Lane Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7PL
Decided – Approved - Noted.

C Appeals

- 302 i 21/00033/ENFNOT | Appeal against Enforcement Notice | 7 Oakwood Farm Fairseat Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7LT :
Appeal Quashed
- 303 ii 21/00026/REF | Retrospective change of use from paddock to residential garden | 7 Oakwood Farm Fairseat Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7L
Appeal dismissed

The results of these two Appeals for the same issue/ address were noted. The Clerk had written to TMBC to ask the significance of “Quashed” and to ask what the next actions would be.

- 304 iii 22/00014/REF | Proposed replacement windows to Residence 9 white upvc | Ridgeland Malthouse Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent TN15
Appeal against Refusal of permission – in progress

d Enforcement

- 305 No updates were reported.

e Other Planning matters

306 Nothing to report. *MG*

8 FINANCE – Appendix A**307 a Bank Balances**

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

308 b To approve payments made since last meeting

None.

309 c Accounts for payment

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

310 d Other Finance issues*MG*

Cllr Bott proposed and Cllr Falconer seconded and it was agreed that a Nationwide Deposit 125 day notice account should be opened and the Landlord's Deposit amount be placed in that account; with new signatories Cllr Tisson and Cllr Sefer added. The forms were signed by the four signatories.

311 It was further agreed that CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund be considered.

312 The Clerk reported that South East Water had made a grant of £2,500 to the Parish, following disruption in summer 2022, to be used for the benefit of the community. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to thank South East Water and tell them that the money would be used for the maintenance of the community defibrillators.

9 MANAGEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND PROPERTY**313 i Recreation Field**

A member of the public had reported that a post between the car park and the recreation field was broken. Cllr Brooker agreed to repair this.

314 ii Play park

Nothing to report

315 iii Brown's Field

Quotations had been received for coppicing; to be considered under Confidential session.

316 iv Telephone box in Plaxdale Green Road

Nothing further to report.

317 v Maintenance and handyperson

Peter Morris reported that he had gritted some road areas following snowfall, in addition to the agreed tasks for December.

Peter agreed that he could paint all the remaining green metal signs black.

318 **vi Other issues**
Grange Park School had asked whether the Parish Council was responsible for clearing snow in the car park. It was agreed that the Clerk should check lease conditions. *HB/JS*

319 It was agreed that another salt bin was required in Labour in Vain Road between the Hilltop and the Plaxdale Green Road junction. Clerk to chase (bin previously requested in 2021).

10 VILLAGE HALLS

310 **i Stansted Village Hall**
No issues were raised.

311 **ii Fairseat Village Hall**
No issues raised.

Suspension of meeting for County and Borough Councillors' Reports

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

Cllr Rayner outlined changes to the KCC budget that would impact some parishes. He said changes were to be made to the 306 service from Sevenoaks to Bluewater, which would no longer cover the entire route.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rayner, and reconvened the meeting.

11 WILDLIFE CAMERAS; VILLAGE SECURITY

312 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Brooker and agreed that the Clerk should order two cameras (as discussed at December meeting), to be delivered to Cllr Brooker's yard. Cllr Brooker agreed to fit these cameras.

12 BERRY HOUSING TRUST

313 Berry Housing Trust had requested a slot at the February meeting to make a 15 minute Power Point presentation to support a grant request towards new roofs for the cottages. It was agreed that this would be added to the February agenda. A written proposal would be circulated to all councillors and the Berry Trust Chairman was willing to meet with the Parish Council Chair and Vice-Chair to offer further clarification.

13 BOROUGH GREEN TAXIS

314 It was reported that there could be two taxi firms in Borough Green; one on the station approach above the barbers shop, and one in the station forecourt. The latter had not yet opened. It was agreed both be offered six months free advertising in the parish magazine.

14 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS

315 Cllr Bott had attended a Parish Alliance meeting, where bus services were discussed. There was no update on Borough Green Gardens.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

316 The Clerk had sent a link to the TMBC Draft Corporate Strategy to all councillors. No comments were made.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

317 It was noted that some properties now have excessive external lighting, causing considerable light pollution, and sometimes disturbance to neighbouring properties. A member of the public offered to write a piece for the parish magazine on light pollution in the countryside.

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public raised the issue of fireworks and the alarm caused to domestic and farm animals, and wildlife. It was suggested that advance notice of fireworks could be given in the parish magazine, and also that silent fireworks could be considered.

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

17 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC

318 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds the following items concerned a commercial contract and personnel matters.

5 ASH DIE-BACK

319 Four quotations had been received and considered, and two were discussed in further detail. These included quotations for the coppicing of Brown's field as well as cutting of ash trees on Parish Council land in Stansted. It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that Nick Connell's quotation be accepted, subject to still being the most favourable when Aztec's offer to buy-back wood was considered alongside their quotation.

18 RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK

320 Two candidates were due to be interviewed on Tuesday 17th January. The interview panel to consist of Cllrs Bott, Falconer, Sefer, Sparkes and Tisson, and the Clerk to be present.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

SignedChairman

Dated.....