**STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was virtual via Zoom due to the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown.**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair) Mr Michael Crago

Mrs Val Kerrison Mrs Karen Grant

Mr Andrew Drysdale Mrs Vanessa Young

Mr Martyn Fall

Cllr David Finch

One member of the public

**CLERK:**

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

*The member of the public attended to present a statement regarding item 10 Planning, application no 20/02241HH. The member of the public had sent an email to the parish council prior to the meeting which was seen by all parish councillors. There were concerns for the application’s impact on drainage, flooding and vehicular access. The comments were noted.*

**21/1 Apologies for absence.**

BDC Councillor Richard van Dulken sent apologies as he had another meeting to attend and would try and join later.

**21/2 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial**

There were no declarations made.

*It was agreed to invite Cllr Finch to present his report:*

 Cllr Finch reported on 3 items:-

* Covid-19 – it was noted that infection rates had now dropped. Testing and use of test and trace continues. The vaccine roll-out by the NHS was underway.
* Budget 2021-22 – despite the difficulties with the numbers of people either on furlough or now claiming universal credit and the impact this has on ECC income, the County Council has agreed there will be no increase to Council Tax for the year 2021-22. There will be an increase of 1½% to the social care precept. ECC will be rolling out an additional fund for the self-employed of up to £5,000 per business.
* Flooding – There has been significant flooding across the whole county recently. The Council Council has a range of flood prevention measures taking place over the next few years.

There were no questions for Cllr Finch and he was thanked for his report.

*Cllr Finch left the meeting.*

**21/3 Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2020**

 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**21/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

 There were no matters arising.

**21/5 Report of County Councillor**

 Cllr Finch’s report was presented as shown above.

**21/6 Pavilion**

Vanessa continues to empty the bins. There had been some difficulty with BDC not collecting the bags. This will be monitored.

**21/7 Playingfield**

 The following points were discussed:-

* *Lawnmower* – The lawnmower has been taken away to be repaired. The cost was likely to be between £500-£1,000.
* *Play Equipment* – It was noted the annual inspection took place on 13 January and the report was awaited.

**21/8 Highways**

The following points were discussed:-

* *Pothole in Chapel End Way* – it was noted that the pothole near the Chapel has been infilled but this was not done by Essex Highways.
* *Church Road flooding* – Branches and debris has been cleared from the brook to enable water to pass through more quickly. The two drains in Church Road near to the point of flooding were silted up. This will be reported to ECC Highways.

**21/9 Footpaths**

* *Damaged bridge on footpath 2 at Wesley End Road* – despite reporting in there has been no response from ECC. It was noted the bridge has deteriorated further since and is now dangerous. Debbie will report again and a new photo will be taken for evidence.
* *Fingerpost signs* – two have been knocked over. These have been reported.
* *Speeding Traffic and LHP request* – it was noted that in order to progress the LHP application evidence from parishioners will be required. Debbie will put an item in the newsletter. She has already received one email from a resident supporting the application.

**21/10 Planning**

* Lapwings, Chapel End Way Application No 20/02241/HH – the application was considered and the statement presented by the member of the public noted. After due consideration and discussion it was agreed to object to the application on the basis of the following material considerations:-
	+ Layout and density of buildings – the proposed site acts as a soakaway for rainwater. There is a legitimate concern that building on the site could increase risk of flooding, particularly to nearby buildings.
	+ Parking, highways and traffic – the driveway out onto the class 3 road gives concern to sightlines for emerging into oncoming traffic.
	+ Planning history – The original developer of the site had an application to build on this area refused.
* Greenfields, Great Yeldham Road Application No 20/02115/FUL – the application was considered with no comment to submit.

**21/11 Correspondence**

* *Oak tree saplings* – a parishioner had kindly offered some saplings to the Parish Council for planting. After consideration it was agreed there were enough trees on the playing field. It was further agreed that they could be offered in the newsletter if anyone else wanted to plant them. One parish councillor also offered to plant them on their farmland. Debbie will contact the parishioner.
* *Covid*-19 restrictions and playing field– it was noted that some playing fields were being closed due to the pandemic. However, the Parish Council agreed that the playingfield in Stambourne should remain open for use. It was also noted that members of the public had been seen walking dogs on the playing field. An item will be put in the newsletter asking people to keep their dogs off.

**21/12 Budget and Precept for the Year 2021/22**

The budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council considered the figures and unanimously agreed:-

* The budget figure to be agreed for the year 2021-22 be £7,727.00
* The precept figure to be agreed for the year 2021-22 be £7,727.00

The budget form will be signed and returned to BDC.

**21/13 Finance**

 Accounts Paid

 Assington Fruit Trees (Oak tree replacement) £43.00

 Eon x 3 £49.69

 Paul Clark Printing (newsletter) £52.00

 M&N Pyman (2nd verge cut) £723.60

 Wave £39.70

 Mrs D Hilliard (wages) £743.00

Accounts to be paid

 Stambourne Church (grass cut grant) £250.00

 Stambourne Chapel (grass cut grant) £260.00

 Monies Received

 Bank Interest 10p

 Eon credit £17.12

 Estimated balances at 14 January 2021

 Balance of Current Account £19,170.02

 Balance of Business Reserve Account £ 4,084.93

 Total £23,254.95

 Balance of Bonfire Fund £5,643.05

 Balance of General Fund £17,611.90

 The accounts were noted and accepted.

Debbie proposed and it was agreed that banking will be moved online to enable BACS payments to be used. BACS payments would be set up by the Clerk with two parish councillors agreed as authorisers of payments. It was agreed that the authorisers would be Michael Crago and Andrew Drysdale.

**20/73 Date, time and place of next meetings.**

 18 March 2021

 20 May 2021

 22 July 2021

 23 September 2021

 18 November 2021

 All are Thursdays at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.25pm.

Signed: ……………………………………………… Dated: ………………………………………………