**STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7.30pm. The meeting was virtual due to the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown.**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair) Mr Michael Crago

Mrs Val Kerrison Mrs Karen Grant

Mr Neil Pyman Mr Andrew Drysdale

Mr Martyn Fall Mrs Vanessa Young

Cllr Richard van Dulken

**CLERK:**

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

**20/41 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Andy Drysdale and Cllr David Finch.

**20/42 Minutes of meeting held on 4 June 2020 (copy attached)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**20/43 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings**

There were no matters arising.

**20/44 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial**

There were no declarations made.

**20/45 Report of District Councillor**

Braintree District Councillor Richard van Dulken gave his report, the following points were noted:-

* The pedestrianisation of Braintree town centre begins shortly.
* The build of Horizon 120 was underway and will contain the first all-electric charging forecourt for cars in the UK. It will have space for 30 cars and cars will be fully charged within 20 minutes.
* Councillors were reminded that the BDC Councillors’ Community Grant was still available.
* Councillors were referred to the White Paper on Planning which was now open for consultation. He recommended that everyone read through the paper.

There were no questions tabled and Cllr van Dulken was thanked for his report.

**20/46 Pavilion**

The following points were discussed:-

* Vanessa has been emptying the bins on the playing field. She requested that someone else take the job for one month. Karen agreed to do this.
* It was noted that groups of people are congregating by the pavilion and there were some allegations of drug use. It was agreed that the main gates be shut and locked at dusk. After consideration, it was also agreed that a “CCTV in Operation” sign be put on the pavilion as a deterrent.
* The new fridge and freezer obtained via the ECC Micro-grant are now in place. The old ones need to be disposed of. It was noted they still worked and it was agreed Debbie will put them on a freecycle site to see if anyone could make use of them.
* Work on the extension of the access to the verandah to improve wheelchair access was now completed. This had been possible due to the BDC Councillor’s Community Grant 2019. The disturbed ground near to the work needs levelling. Neil Pyman will look into this.
* Shutters – Some of the window shutters are rotten and need replacing. Martyn will block them off and Neil will contact a contractor who can make replacements.

**20/47 Playingfield**

The following points were discussed:-

* *Lawnmower* – The mower has broken down and investigations have shown this to be a blown head gasket. The grass cutting season was now over and it was agreed that Colin James will look at the mower and see if it is viable to repair.
* *Memorial Oak Trees* – One of the memorial oak trees has died. It was agreed a replacement be ordered for planting over the winter. Debbie will do this.
* *Gates* – The new gates have been fitted. They need to be painted with wood preservative. Martyn volunteered do this.

**20/48 Highways**

Nothing to report.

**20/49 Footpaths**

* The damaged bridge on the footpath at Wesley End Road has been reported to ECC. Repairs are awaited.
* There are some footpaths which are overgrown. Michael will look at this as he walks the paths.

**20/50 Planning**

* Application No 20/01321/FUL – Congregational Church – No comment.

*Richard van Dulken left the meeting.*

**20/51 Correspondence**

None.

**20/52 Bonfire Night**

After discussion it was agreed that Bonfire Night for 2020 must be cancelled due to the pandemic. A notice will be put on the gate, in the newsletter and on the village Facebook page.

**20/53 Small Business Grant from Braintree District Council**

Debbie reported she had been notified by BDC that Stambourne PC qualified for a Small Business Grant of £10,000. She has submitted the application and been advised that the money will be paid shortly. She will confirm receipt of this once the next bank statement is received.

The Parish Council will need to consider how best to use this money and agreed it must be to the benefit of the community. It was noted that once a project is agreed, an application to the CIF fund in the financial year 2021-22 could be made.

It was agreed that councillors will consider best use of the money and this be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

**20/54 Finance**

Accounts paid since last meeting

Eon £10.34

Wave £50.22

RCCE (annual subs) £52.80

Toppesfield Village Shop (food parcels) £106.20

C Richardson (reimb of expenses to refurb roadsign) £141.00

Saxon Fire (annual inspection) £74.35

Melford Accounting £75.00

Mrs D Hilliard (reimburse for fridge and freezer) £339.98

Eon £13.58

Accounts to be paid

Paul Gill (gates and verandah) £1,160

Monies to be Received

BDC Small Business Grant £10,000

Balances as at 11 September 2020

Notional current account £10,965.52

Notional reserve account £ 4,084.26

£15,049.78

Balance of Bonfire fund £ 5,643.05

£ 9,406.73

The accounts were noted and accepted.

**20/55 Date, time and place of next meetings.**

Thursday 19 November 2020

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm.

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