

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2024 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the village hall.

PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman
Mr Martyn Fall
Mrs Val Kerrison

Mr Andrew Drysdale
Mrs Vanessa Young

IN ATTENDANCE:

4 Members of the Public

CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

24/53 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Karen Grant, Michael Crago, Cllr van Dulken and Cllr Schwier.

24/54 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

There were no declarations made.

24/55 Minutes of meeting held on 16 May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed.

24/56 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

24/57 Report of District Councillor/County Councillor

Not Present.

24/58 Pavilion

Points noted were:-

- It was confirmed that the wiring check was due to take place on 9 August 2024.
- It was noted that the fire safety inspection was due to take place. Debbie will book this.
- Andrew and Neil were thanked for clearing out the gutters of the pavilion.

24/59 Playingfield

Points noted were:-

- A working party took place on Tuesday 16 July to instal the additional grass protection mesh at the vehicle entry point. It was noted that the area now needed reseeding and Andrew confirmed he would obtain grass seed. Councillors thanked Michael, Jason, Andrew, Neil and Martyn for completing this.
- Martyn confirmed he had replaced the broken runner on the large rocking horse.
- It was noted that part of the climbing frame was broken. It was confirmed that the broken area had been removed and the frame was safe. Debbie will arrange for it to be repaired.
- It was noted that the annual safety inspection of play equipment should by now have taken place. Debbie will follow this up.

- Tree Inspection – It was confirmed that an inspection had taken place. It was noted that details had been circulated prior to the meeting. After consideration it was agreed that the first stage of work take place as per the quote, to take place prior to bonfire night to enable the offcuts to be put on the bonfire. Andrew will ask the company if there is a reduction in the price if there is no need to remove offcuts.

24/60 Highways

Points noted were:-

- It was noted that potholes still had not been repaired despite being reported to ECC Highways for some considerable time.
- Birdbrook Road Sign – It was confirmed that the Duke of Edinburgh student had advised that the sign was almost complete.

24/61 Footpaths

- Broken bridge Footpath 24 – It was noted that ECC had confirmed they will be repairing the bridge after harvest when access could be arranged. Neil will contact them to ensure the repair was still going to take place.

Members of the public asked why the VAS speed sign was moved around the village. Councillors advised that the cameras were expensive and the parish council only had funds for one camera. However, received advice was that if speed cameras stayed in one location drivers would become accustomed to their location and start to ignore them. For these reasons there were 3 locations in the village for the sign and it would be rotated between them. It was confirmed that the VAS appeared to be effective in reducing the speed of vehicles through the village.

24/62 Planning

- Application no: 24/01346/FUL - Spring Croft, Mill Road, Stambourne – No comment
- Application no: 24/01507/COUPA - The Green Barn, Cornish Hall End Road Stambourne Essex CO9 4PE – application noted.

24/63 Correspondence

- Village Hall bookings – considered and noted
- Village Quiz – noted this would be a Halloween Quiz.
- Chapel End Way Defibrillator – question raised as to whether the defibrillator was registered with the ambulance service. It was agreed that Debbie would follow this up.

24/64 Finance

Accounts Paid

Mr R Wright (pavilion cleaning)	£48.00
Eon	£19.47
Eon	£7.43

Accounts to be paid

M&N Pyman (1 st verge cut)	£723.60
Timpson (reimburse D Hilliard)(key cutting)	£19.30
Saffron Accounting (reimburse D Hilliard)(audit)	£100.00
Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£766.25
Mrs D Hilliard (expenses) (printer inks)	£23.00
Wave	£53.06

Monies Received

BDC Streetscene	£847.56
Bank Interest	£15.50

Estimated balances at 10 July 2024

Balance of Current Account	£14,425.75
Balance of Business Reserve Account	<u>£ 4,159.15</u>
Total	£18,584.90
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£4,123.74</u>
Balance of General Fund	£14,461.16

24/65 Date, time and place of next meetings.

Thursday 19 September 2024

Thursday 21 November 2024

All 7.30pm

Item outside of the agenda but discussed:-

- Bonfire Night – agreed date as Saturday 9 November 2024.

Question from members of the public – Can dogs be allowed to go on the playing field?

Councillors explained that historically dogs had never been admitted to the playing field due to risks from toxicara and the space was a playing field. It was noted that there was no way of guaranteeing that dog walkers would clear up after their dogs. Members of the public responded that the play equipment could be fenced off, however the parish council advised this would be expensive and would have an impact on lawnmowing, which could lead to other additional cost around the time taken for the grass cutting contractor to mow with the additional obstacle of fencing.

It was suggested that members of the public could explore if nearby landowners would consider renting an area of land for dogwalkers to use. The response was that the parish council should explore this.

After further discussion the parish council confirmed that it would not change the current ban on dogs going onto the playing field.

It was noted that this could be discussed further at the next meeting if members of the public had any further ideas or had explored whether other landowners would let them have use of another area of land and that further consideration could take place when all members of the parish council were present.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.20pm.

Signed: 

Dated: 18/7/24