

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2024 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the village hall.

PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair)
Mr Martyn Fall
Mrs Val Kerrison

Mr Andrew Drysdale
Mr Michael Crago
Mrs Karen Grant

IN ATTENDANCE:

5 Members of the Public

CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

Neil Pyman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Questions were invited from members of the public present. Members of the public asked for the Parish Council to allow dogs on the playing field. The reasons for this were noted as:-

- Avoiding muddy footpaths in winter.
- Accessibility
- Avoiding traffic

The request was considered and discussed. Points raised by the Parish Council against the proposal were:-

- Dog fouling and how to ensure users cleared up after their dogs.
- Safeguarding of children
- Risk of out of control dogs attacking/biting children
- Other parishioners might not support the change of policy

The members of public identified other local parks/play areas that did allow dogs. However, it was pointed out that this should not be a reason for Stambourne to change its policy and it was for individual parish councils to decide.

A number of options were considered including:-

- Individual permission/licenses – however, it was noted this could be difficult to monitor.
- Fencing off play equipment – however, this would be at a cost to the Parish Council which did not currently have funds available for such a project and would involve additional costs for grass cutting and maintenance.
- Fencing off an area for dog walkers to use – again this would involve a cost to the Parish Council as above.

It was noted that at the last meeting the Parish Council suggested that these members of public could approach local landowners and explore the option of renting an area of land to use for dog walkers. However, it was noted that no action had been taken.

After discussion the Parish Council were not in favour of the proposal but did agree to invite opinions via the newsletter from other parishioners.

24/66 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Vanessa Young, Richard van Dulken and Peter Schwier.

24/67 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial

There were no declarations made.

24/68 Minutes of meeting held on 18 July 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed.

24/69 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

24/70 Report of District Councillor/County Councillor

Cllr van Dulken had notified that he was unable to attend this meeting. However, he had submitted a written report which was circulated prior to the meeting, considered and noted.

24/71 Pavilion

Points noted were:-

- Rotten windowsill – It was agreed that Neil would contact a local carpenter to provide an estimate for repair and check for any other areas of rot on the windows.
- Electricity Certificate – It was noted that the electrical check had taken place, but no certificate had been issued. Neil will follow up with the electrician.
- Fire alarm – It was noted that Debbie had obtained the fire alarm as recommended. Martyn will install.

24/72 Playingfield

Points noted were:-

- Play equipment repair – Wooden pole and chain frame – Debbie had obtained 2 quotes which were considered. Prices were noted as £2,915.20 and £579.40. After consideration and noting that the annual inspection report had noted other areas of rot in this item of equipment, it was agreed that it would be removed completely and consideration given to installing a cradle swing in its place. It was agreed that the cost of repair would be better utilised by investing in a new piece of equipment. Debbie advised that the CIF fund for 2024 had closed but an application could be made for 2025. It was agreed that the frame would be dismantled closer to bonfire night and disposed of on the bonfire. Neil, Andrew and Michael will action.

24/73 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 would be installed very soon.

24/74 Footpaths

- Broken bridge Footpath Birdbrook 24/Stambourne 1 – Debbie advised that she had been contacted by a local resident who had used the footbridge on this footpath recently and whose dog had fallen through the broken plank. It was noted that the dog and walker were not injured. Debbie confirmed she had reported this into ECC Highways and had

today received some photos of the broken bridge which she would add to the report. She would also try and contact ECC by telephone to notify of the dangerous state of the footbridge.

- Stambourne 24 – Application for diversion of footpath. The application was considered, and it was agreed that the parish council supported the proposed diversion.

24/75 Planning

- Application no: 24/01890/PLD – Mill House, Mill Road – No comment.

24/76 Bonfire Night

Minuted separately.

24/76 Correspondence

None.

24/77 Finance

Accounts 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
Eon (x 4)	£9.88
	£18.81
	£19.44
	£13.74
Saxon Fire	£170.28
Fenland Leisure	£129.60
Paul Clark Printing	£128.00

Accounts to be paid

PKF Littlejohn (Audit)	£252.00
Community Heartbeat Trust (reimburse D Hilliard)	£81.54
Midlands Fire Extinguishers Ltd (fire alarm & sign) (reimburse D Hilliard)	£50.60

Estimated balances at 9 September 2024

Balance of Current Account	£12,350.79
Balance of Business Reserve Account	<u>£ 4,159.15</u>
Total	£16,509.94
Balance of Bonfire Fund	<u>£4,123.74</u>
Balance of General Fund	£12,386.20

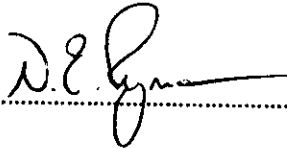
24/78 Date, time and place of next meetings.

Thursday 21 November 2024
All 7.30pm

Item outside of the agenda but noted:-

- Harvest festival 13 October 2024 4pm

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.40pm.

Signed: 

Dated: 21.11.24