

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2025 at 7.30pm at the village hall, Stambourne.

PRESENT:

Mr Neil Pyman (Chair)
Mrs Val Kerrison
Mr Martin Fall
Mr Michael Crago

CLERK:

Mrs Deborah Hilliard

In attendance:

4 members of the public

The Clerk made a statement regarding public participation at meetings.

Questions and statements were invited from members of the public:-

Regarding dogs on the playing field:-

Mr Ellis – Mr Ellis spoke of his disappointment at the last meeting but was not apportioning blame. He expressed his frustration that the system was not working and disapproved of the Chair telling people to “shut up”. He thought there should be a meeting with some of the Parish Council to allow people to put their views across. Things needed to move with the times. Mr Ellis also disputed the minutes of the November 2024 meeting, saying that they were incorrect as members of the public had not refused to pick up dog poo (*from the playingfield*).

Mrs Anderson – Mrs Anderson wanted to register that what was in the newsletter was not what took place in the meeting. She felt that members of the public were not listened to. Mrs Anderson also stated that in the two previous meetings she had attended it was hard to get points over. However, she thought that the trial was working well. Mrs Anderson also stated that she had checked the boundary of the playing field and said there was wire fencing all the way around which a dog could not get through.

Mrs Anderson – As a new person to the area she wanted to arrange a jumble sale and asked who she could approach.

Mrs Anderson – Re the speedwatch – stated that she had had 8 people prepared to volunteer and 10 were needed.

Questions and statements were noted. The parish councillors responded to the question regarding a jumble sale and explained that anyone can hire the hall and arrange one.

Proposed speedwatch – It was agreed to put item in the newsletter asking for more volunteers.

25/1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Drysdale, Karen Grant and Cllr Richard Van Dulken.

25/2 Declaration of interests, personal or prejudicial
None.

25/3 Minutes of meeting held on 21 November 2024
The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed.

25/4 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
None.

25/5 Report of County Councillor and District Councillor
It was noted that Cllr van Dulken was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a written update which was circulated prior to the meeting, considered and noted.

25/6 Resignation
The resignation of Mrs Vanessa Young was noted. Debbie confirmed that Braintree District Council had been notified and had asked what date the notice should run from as this could be agreed by the Parish Council. After consideration it was agreed that the date for the notice should run from either Friday 24 or Monday 27 January 2025. The Clerk will liaise with Braintree District Council.

25/7 Pavilion

Points noted were:-

- Quote for window repair – A quote had been sought from Stour Valley Joinery with 2 options:-
 - Full replacement £2,905.00 ex VAT
 - Partial repair £1,490 ex VAT

After consideration it was agreed to approve the partial repair at a cost of £1,490.00. Neil will contact Stour Valley Joinery to confirm and arrange for repairs to take place.

- Security Lighting – it was noted that at the November meeting Andrew had agreed to seek quotes. Andrew was not present to report, and this item would be carried over to the next meeting.

25/8 Playingfield

Points noted were:-

- Grass mesh matting – Michael confirmed he still held some spare mats which would be used if needed. It was proposed that the entrance onto the playing field be moved along to allow the affected area to recover. Martyn confirmed he had another post socket which could be used to allow a separate access point. It was noted that the damaged area needed to be dug out and new soil put in and the area allowed to rest. This work would be carried out in the spring when the ground had dried out. Martyn will install the new socket. Neil noted that, again when weather permitted, the bonfire site could be tidied up and wildflower seeds sown.
- Play equipment – It was noted that the rotten part of the wooden play frame had been removed, and the remainder was solid and safe. It was agreed that this piece of equipment should be replaced. It was noted that previous suggestion included installing a cradle swing which was accessible for all abilities but grant funding would be needed.

Debbie advised that the next CIF applications would be open in April or May, and she would follow this up when applications opened.

25/9 Highways

The following points were discussed:-

- Greenfields corner, Yeldham Road – noted that the side of the road had collapsed. Debbie will report this in.
- Blocked drain – Outside of Park View, Church Road – Debbie will report this in.

25/10 Footpaths

Stambourne 17 – Chapel End Way - defect no 2953475 – noted.

25/11 Planning

- BDC Local Plan update/Call for Sites – comments required (email previously circulated). Sites under consideration were noted as:-
 - Stambourne 2422 – No comment
 - Previously submitted site – Dyers End – No comment.
- Application Number - 25/00041/HH - Greenfields Barn, Greenfields Farm, Great Yeldham Road (previously circulated) – No comment

Debbie will forward comments to Braintree District Council

25/12 Correspondence

None.

25/13 Budget and Precept for the Year 2025-26

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 2025-26 be £9,748
- The precept figure to be agreed for the year 2025-26 be £9,748

The budget form will be signed and returned to BDC.

25/14 Finance

Monies paid (since last meeting)

Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£766.25
Paul Clark Printing (newsletter)	£64.00
Mr M Turner (grass cutting)	£1,120.00
Stambourne Church (grass cut grant)	£250.00
Stambourne Chapel (grass cut grant & defib electricity)	£260.00
Stambourne Village Hill (defib electricity)	£10.00
Stambourne Silver Link (bonfire fund)	£150.00
Technical Tree Services (trees on playing field)	£900.00

Monies to be paid

Mrs D Hilliard (reimbursement – toilet rolls for pavilion)	£4.99
Stambourne Village Hall (annual rent)	£60.00
Nicom IT Services (domain)	£57.60
Community Heartbeat Trust (Chapel End Way)	£277.80
Mrs D Hilliard (wages)	£889.89
Mrs D Hilliard (part cost printer inks/stamps)	£11.70

Monies received

Bank Interest £15.61

Estimated balances at 20 January 2025

Notional Current Account £19,024.54

Reserve Account £4,190.31

£23,214.85

Balance of Bonfire fund £10,908.89

£12,305.96

One item not on the agenda but agreed to discuss:-

Finchingfield Surgery Creamer Fund – The leaflet regarding the Creamer Fund had been circulated prior to the meeting and Martyn proposed that the Parish Council should look into purchasing kits for the village and to make a donation to the Creamer Fund of £50.00 from the bonfire fund. This was agreed.

25/15 Date, time and place of next meetings

20 March 2025

22 May 2025 APA/AGM

17 July 2025

18 Sept 2025

20 November 2025

All are Thursdays at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.00pm.

Signed: D.E. Lyr

Dated: 20.3.25