**STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL Meeting @ The Moot Hall, Thursday 11th January 2024 7.30pm**

**Chairman:** Cllr Kerry Barnes

**In attendance:** Cllr Hexter, Cllr Rust, Cllr Westrope, Cllr Borges, Cllr Mackenzie

**Also present:** Cllr Diana Garrod

**Clerk:** Mrs Julia Howard

**Members of the public:** 9 members of the public

**MINUTES**

**24/001 Welcome and to receive apologies for absence Chairman**

Apologies received from Cllr Hill, Cllr Denning and Cllr Schwier. Cllr Swaby absent.

**24/002 Declarations of Interest -** none **Information**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

**24/003 To approve the minutes** (previously circulated) of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2023 - added Cllr Rust apologies which had been missed. Proposed to be accepted by Cllr Mackenzie and seconded by Cllr Borges, all voted in agreement. **Decision**

**24/004 Question Time –** following recent significant rain fall members of the public attended from specific sections of the village which have been most significantly affected by flooding. Maltings lane, The Endway and Hill Lane.

Parishioners have emailed in reports and photographs. Three roads become significantly affected preventing getting in or out of the village. Parishioners have been making reports to Highways over the past several years, but the flooding is now getting worse.

Further down, at Broad Green, the works done in Bumpstead have a knock-on effect down the water ways at Broad Green. **Information**

**24/005 Invitation to Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council and Cllr Diana Garrod, BDC Information**

Cllr Garrod gave a summary of her recent report, which is on the PC’s website and was circulated. There are a number of road closures coming up. BDC will be refusing side waste and will only take bins where the lid is closed. There is no limit on use of recycling sacks, all cardboard should be bagged to keep dry and be recyclable. Christmas tree collection is at the Village Hall, 8-8.30am on 13th Jan. Cllr Richard Van-Dulken is now a point of contact on the Essex Flood Partnership.

**24/006 Maintenance of Cemetery –** The cemetery has now been cleared, three days work has been done, there are further works still required. Tree stumps need removing and grass needs re-seeding, some weed killer is also required, ivy is removed and spread the wood chippings around under some of the trees. Cllr Rust is going to instruct a further days’ work to tackle some of the remaining tasks.

**24/007 Planning Applications**

Planning Application for Solar Farm in Bumpstead Ward. Ref: 23/02705/FUL Development of a ground mounted solar farm, including energy storage, associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and grid connection cable.  Location:  Land South of Sturmer Hall, Church Walk, Sturmer, Essex.

**SBPC were not previously informed of this by BDC planning, who have given an extension to comment until 19th January 24.**

We have a grace extension, to allow us to comment on this up until 19th January 24.The Council is concerned about the effect on the view, making the area seem more industrial. There is also no community pay back mentioned and consider there should be a community benefit from the project. There are also concerns over the access to the site, and local flooding in the area. Including provision of essential drainage to prevent road flooding from run off. Cllr Borges will draft a response noting the objection of the Council.

**Decisions:**



**24/008 Neighbourhood development plan** – standing item for updates **Information**

Covered above – SBPC are waiting for BDC to come back to us, however BDC has the Neighbourhood plan scheduled to be on the next full council agenda.

**24/009 Financial Matters To note and Decision Item 1.** To note receipts and approve upcoming payments as circulated, appendix a.

Cllr Borges proposed to approve the accounts, Cllr Rust seconded all voted in agreement.

 **Item 2.** To approveBudget and precept setting – The Finance team have been working on the budget and precept setting, Cllr Borges put forward the proposal of setting the precept at £49,650 alongside the annual budget. This was seconded by Cllr Rust and all voted to agree.

 **Item 3.** Grants update and clerk’s report

New grant available - Ride London-Essex Community Activation Fund 2024 – event grants of up to £250

Online webinar / training available (free) **Tackling Toxic Behaviours in Town & Parish Councils**
**Date/Time: Monday 15th January 2024, 2.15pm. Location: Online**

**And**

 **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of social media - Date/Time: Wednesday 28th February 2024, 12pm-1.15pm. Location: Online**

**Handyman is away for a month.**

**Glass bottles were dumped outside the bottle bank and whilst most have been cleared, it did cause a lot of breakages. The broken glass will be cleared by BDC asap.**

**24/010 Open Spaces**

**Item 1. - Environment Agency clearing the brook from 15th Jan. –** for information, a poster has been circulated and is on the website / FB – it has been posted to addresses by the EA. There will be traffic restrictions.

**Item 2. - Open Spaces working parties –** the leaf clearing working party was postponed due to football matches (due to cars parked over the area needing clearing) the wombles and environment group undertook some clearing over the weekend and the working party has now been rescheduled for 21st January.

In future, clearing and sweeping the areas regularly could be included as a handyman task. To be reviewed in March.

A new working party for Flood Awareness in the village will be looked at with Cllr Hexter leading the group. Clerk to send a draft terms of reference. With input from members of the public, the working group can take a targeted approach to the flooding issues.

**Item 3. – Flooding and drains at VH / Camping Close –** the drain at the top carpark was very badly blocked. It has been cleared now and is a soak away. Considers that it would benefit from a silt bucket to be added – Cllr Rust to get a price for this.

Flooding has been minuted in various places at this meeting. The clerk will provide a report to the County Councillor and contact the Environment agency and the new Highways officer Dan McClean, to investigate how to make improvements to the watercourses and drainage. In particular, not being able to access or exit the village or emergency services. Clerk will invite Dan McClean to come to a site visit, Cllr Mackenzie is happy to be liaison.

**Item 4. – Safer surface update –** awaiting appointment with 2 companies to see if they can come closer to our budget. Appointment next Friday with the first company. The Parish Council has allocated £10k towards the surface, and a grant of £5k has been received. Therefore, the PC would like to push forward on this.

**24/011 Churchyard Wall working group –** update on recent meeting & actions.

The working group is still waiting for a definitive decision on how to repair the wall and getting a pre-approval for the works. There is a tree (Number 38 from tree survey report) growing in the wall next to the gate in church street, which needs to be removed, Clerk to ask for Treeworx to quote for this. Also inspect whether trees 31-39 also require removal. Open spaces WG to investigate.

**24/012 Information Sharing –** Cllr Hexter- none, Cllr Rust –footpath between the End way and Blois was blocked by a tree, Cllr Rust and Cllr Mackenzie cut it up and a resident handled removing it. Cllr Westrope – none, Cllr Borges -none, Cllr Mackenzie – manhole cover missing on the Haverhill to Bumpstead road still missing and dangerous on a blind bend. Cllr Garrod – D-Day 6th June anniversary.

**24/013 Meeting Close & Date of Next meeting -** next meeting 8th February.

**21.48 – meeting closed.**

**Signed by Chairman ……………………**

**Date …………………………………………….**

**Appendix a.**

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