



STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL Meeting @ The Moot Hall
ON Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.30pm

Chairman: Cllr Kerry Barnes

In Attendance: Cllr Hexter, Cllr Borges, Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Westrope, Cllr Hill & Cllr Garrod.

Clerk: Mrs. Julia Howard

Members of the Public:

MINUTES

23/102 Welcome and to receive apologies for absence

Chairman

Apologies received from Cllr Schwier, Cllr Swaby & Cllr Denning.

23/103 Declarations of Interest - none

23/104 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 23.

RESOLVED Proposed by Cllr Mackenzie to accept as a true copy, seconded by Cllr Rust, all in agreement.

23/105 Question Time - none

23/106 Invitation to Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council and Cllr Diana Garrod, Braintree District Council to address the meeting on matters of mutual interest.

Cllr Garrod gave a summary of her monthly report, highlighting that the *early bird offer for green bins expires at the end of November*.

Planning consultation for the former Woodlands hotel in Sturmer, for a 64-bed care home, members of the village may have an interest in this application.

Haverhill road will be closed from the 9th October, 3 days for patching. Cllr Garrod has re-raised the concerns over the noisy drain cover and hope it will be repaired at the same time.

The Rural prosperity fund of £10-50k for capital projects has just been announced.

When asked whether she had received reports of increased aircraft noise Cllr Garrod advised that she hadn't for this area, however in Sturmer one of the Councillors had written a comprehensive response on the recent consultation and it is worth taking a closer look at.

Cllr Barnes raised concerns over hidden signage (due to overgrowth of vegetation) this can be reported on the ECC portal. The Chairman then moved to item 23/109.

23/107 Poppy Field development – Concerns have been raised over the pavement access and vehicle speeds, perhaps speed watch could be reinstated. The Council was unable to explore this further without the residents in attendance, however, Cllr Barnes will formulate a response to the residents who have raised these concerns.

23/108 Play Equipment at North Crescent – East light Community Housing have made contact regarding the future / removal of the play equipment. Following a quick consultation with the Councillors the clerk responded to state the swings are in regular use and the PC would like to see that they do not get removed/ or are replaced ASAP, encouraging children to want to play outside and increase physical activity. On the day of the meeting, an update came from Eastlight Community Housing to say they will be removing the play equipment in October and will set up a residents' forum to work out what can be offered in the future. Other members of the village may be able to get involved in this too.

Cllr Garrod will raise with BDC officers to see whether there is anything that can be done from their side.

23/109 Wixoe Solar Farm – DC/23/1127/FUL – There are concerns over lack of community benefit and significant vehicle movements. Following much discussion, and previous email conversation and communication from residents; Cllr Mackenzie proposed that the application is supported with the provision that 'No Entry to construction vehicles' signage (No Left Turn for Water Hall Solar Park Vehicles) be put up at the Endway (it has a 6'6 width restriction) and at Maltings Lane. 2 voted in support 4 against.

The proposal was not supported. The clerk will make a response to indicate concerns over use of good arable land (cereals). Note: the deadline for response had already passed but an extension was provided to allow the clerk to respond by email.



23/110 Planning Applications

Validated Planning Applications

Number	Address	Postcode	Details	Status
23/01893/ODC	Water Hall Farm, Wixoe		Out of District Consultation from West Suffolk Council for :Installation of a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, invertors, landscaping, biodiversity enhancement areas, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure	Objections Raised
23/01812/HH	6 Borradale Court	CB9 7ES	Single storey rear extension	APPROVED
23/02175/TPO	Colnebrook Blois Road	CB9 7BN	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 2/79 Thin out overcrowded woodland as listed :- T1 - TAXUS - Fell to ground level T2 - TAXUS -Fell to ground level T3 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T4 - LAWSON CYPRESS- Fell to ground level T5 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS -Fell to ground level T6 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T7 - TAXU - .Fell to ground level T8 - TAXUS- Fell to ground level T9 - DEAD BETULA PENDULA- Fell to ground level T10 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T11- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- 1 x stem on multi-stem .Fell to ground level T12- TAXUS - Fell to ground level T13 - AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM- 3 x stems fell to ground level T14 - FAGUS SYLVATICA -Crown lift to 2m	Pending

23/01893 see above item 23/109

23/01812/HH – approved.

23/02175/TPO – The PC always has concern over removing any trees, given that there is a TPO the PC would request that a Landscapes officer visits the site to confirm the works are required prior to approving any such works – clerk to respond.

Decisions:

Validated Planning Applications

Number	Address	Postcode	Details	Status
23/01275/TPOCON	54 Lion Meadow	CB9 7BY	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 - Acer Pseudoplatanus fell to ground level to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area -	Granted
23/01094/TPOCON	5 Church Street	Cb9 7DG	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: A. Cherry Tree - Fell B. Plum Tree - Reduce by approx. 6-8ft C. 1No Cherry and 3No Apple - Fell D.Yew tree and Maple tree - reduce Yew tree's by approx 6-8ft and Maple by approx 6ft E. Sycamore Tree - Fell	Granted
23/01398/LBC	Fox And Hounds , 3 Chapel Street	CB9 7DQ	Installation of replacement windows	Granted
23/01471/TPOCON	19 Chapel Street	CB9 7DQ	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 - Fell Laurus Nobilis to ground level T2 -Reduce Leylandii hedgerow by 1.5m in height.	Granted
23/01470/TPOCON	17 Chapel Street	CB9 7DQ	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1- Crown reduction of Fraxinus Excelsior by 3-4 m in height & 1-2 m off the sides.	Granted

23/111 Neighbourhood development plan – Currently waiting to go to regulation 16 stage. Consultants are doing a report and the draft plan is getting ready to go to the District Council.

23/112 Financial Matters

Item 1. To note receipts and approve upcoming payments (appendix a)

Cllr Rust proposed to accept the accounts and approve payments and Cllr Hill seconded and all voted in agreement. The Clerk is also looking at which items need to be budgeted for in the next year and will look to get the walking map noticeboard sanded and re-treated by the village handyman.

Item 2. Membership of Parish Online – we now have this, free for this year and approx. £80/yr afterwards. Clerk has training on 15/9 and will feed back next month.

Item 3. Prepaid Mastercard request – would resolve several issues and can be written into the financial regs, recommend to load with £200 initially. Also need to re-visit the additional bank accounts for War Memorial and for the Churchyard wall funds as per previous email. The PC agreed to this.

Item 4. Audit Complete – notice has been up on the noticeboards and will be removed soon.

23/113 Open Spaces and Footpaths Update - Cllr Rust and his son have re-staked the baby oak tree on the camping close and cleared the side of Maltings lane fjord.



There have been reports of inconsiderate parking near the Moot Hall and old Bakery – The PC can highlight on social media the need for considerate parking, and perhaps Kate at the Fox Inn could do the same if it continues to cause a problem.

Item 1. To approve quote to undertake next actions from the Tree Survey – The quote had been circulated and this was agreed as per finance report

Item 2. To receive an update on the slide and public consultation – last update, hope to install 11/12 October and the voting boxes will remain in the shop until the next PC meeting.

Item 3. Play area surface update – the PC couldn't get the surface in for £10k, so looking for grant options. The Clerk has applied for a CIF grant to match fund £10k towards a safe surface and awaits a response on that

Item 4. In Bloom progress report, and next actions –volunteering day 15th October, 10am-12pm to plant bulbs. Tea and cake provided afterwards.

Two large planters are in position outside the Moot Hall, compost is in, ready for plants to be put in. Cllr Hexter secured a large grant of £5k, for specific purchases including these planters; note that whilst the PC are currently covering the cost of all VAT which is more than our original InBloom budget, this will come back next year in the VAT claim. This is because the grant can't be used to pay the VAT on purchases.

The InBloom budget line is not just for Cllr Hexter's projects but all around the village and will remain a budget line going forward, enabling the purchase of new bulbs and plants each year.

The clerk has submitted an expression of interest and intends to apply for a Community Garden grant to purchase a raised herb planter / bench following previous discussions and successful volunteering around the village. The bench planter will be sited close to the Village Hall and hope to get preschool and scouts involved in its care and use. The Parish Council voted in support of the grant application.

Cllr Hexter has asked that wood chippings / bark be placed in top car park from the tree works, Chairman has advised that wood chippings need to be spread on the path by Poppy Field.

Item 5. Footpaths update – the clerk had a report of a blocked footpath which was passed to Helions Bumpstead Clerk. The new fingerpost at Broad green is still awaiting route correction, it currently runs through their land and not the route specified. The small lake opposite the bowls club has had some small trees fallen onto each other and will need removing, perhaps a small working party can get that cleared.

Item 6. Bumpstead Brook – A fallen branch was reported as blocking the brook, this has been dealt with and resident is happy. The overgrowth can be reported again to the EA however, they usually prefer not to clear the vegetation as it clears itself. Chairman to send some photos and what3 words locations to the clerk for reporting.

Item 7 – The Hedge at village hall, needs reducing again– this is in the new tender, but in the meantime, Cllr Swaby has offered to cut it back again this year.

23/114 Landscapes Tender – a prospective budget has been agreed, and the tender is ready to publish, the PC will then advertise the contract.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

23/115 Christmas Market – Update on this – The Christmas tree lighting will be on 25th November, the village market is in the morning on that day and they don't want to move the time to do something combined. Therefore, the PC can do something different and explore a market option. Next meeting 28/9/23 7pm Moot Hall – all welcome.

23/116 D-Day 80th anniversary – 6th June 2024 – early warning of this event. Cllr Ian Mackenzie will be looking at possibilities with the Clerk, Cllr Hexter and Cllr Denning. Plan to set up a working group to explore options and see what's happening elsewhere (locally).

23/117 Remembrance Day – parade will be at 10.30am 12th November, Cllr Ian Westrope is to clean up the war memorial and smarten up the gravestones, and will speak to the vicar.

Blois road is the preferred location for the silent soldier this year, however the Council would like to purchase a second soldier from RBLI (which is made by veterans).

The poppy wreath from last year is clean and in good condition and will be re-used. A Donation cheque to be written as usual to the Poppy Appeal.



A local business has offered to make and donate clay poppies if there's some people in the village to help make and paint them. Some volunteers have already been in touch. Anyone interested can contact Julia at www.thespottedcat.co.uk.

23/118 Churchyard Wall update – a project plan has been pulled together detailing next steps – the chairman advised that a response has been received today from the company who provided the original assessment of works and so, this item will be moved to next month's meeting.

23/119 Yellow Book deadline – 15th September – Cllr Hexter is working on this

23/120 Information Sharing – Cllr Borges – none, Cllr Hexter – none, Cllr Rust – salt bags coming Tuesday, location to be agreed by the village hall, Cllr Mackenzie – island to be tidied up and signs collected, Cllr Hill – none, Cllr Westrope – none. Clerk – advised of communication from a resident regarding clearing up the lock up on Church Street and asked for a Cllr to liaise.

23/121 Meeting Closed at 10pm.

Next meeting - 12th October 7.30pm.

Signed by Chairman

Date

Appendix a, Finance Report.

RFO (Finance) REPORT & payments list –18th July 23 – 11th Sept 23

Upcoming Payments / Invoices pending (for approval):

August:

£529.95 (incl. VAT) Get Composting (Bumpstead in Bloom)

September:

£94.99 – Norton anti-virus

£148 (incl. VAT) Field Compost Ltd – (from Bumpstead in Bloom Grant)

£148 (incl. VAT) Field Compost Ltd – (from Bumpstead in Bloom Grant)

£1806.00 – Country Gardens

£2200 – Tree Worx

Moot Hall electrics Quote (£1020.00 – Jarvis Electrical (Moot Hall)) and £157 – Data Coms (Moot Hall)

Regular pre-approved Payments (monthly unless stated)

£60.00 - Moot Hall (per month)

£5.00 - Clerks monthly phone contribution

£803.88 - Clerks Wages

£64.80 – quarterly mileage claim

Account Balances as at 11/09/23

Current Account: £6214.32

Savings Account: £35,795.57

Total £42,009.89

*Earmarked Reserves: £4,600.46 – War memorial
 £28,527.00 – Churchyard wall repair fund
 £0 – Neighbourhood Plan grant
 £3,000.00 – Maintenance to Assets
 £2439.09 – Tree Surveys and Maintenance
 - Bumpstead in Bloom

Savings Account (005)* Total: £39,652.00

Recent actions / observations

- Virement of £2480.90 & £90 to balance In Bloom account (note, the grant can only be used for pre-VAT figures)
- Virement of £660.00 to balance Tree Maintenance account
- There are a number of tree survey actions coming up, which will have a cost attached, and be paid from the budget/Tree surveys and Maintenance fund

In Bloom finance update. Spent: £3914.55, Remaining £1585.45 (incl. grant and budget)

Date processed by Clerk	Date on Bank account	Details	Invoice number	Cheque number/ Payment method	Total	NET	VAT	Bumpstead in Bloom
Budget 23/24								£500.00
Grants/Earmarked reserves								£5,000.00
22/06/2023	26/06/2023	Plants - cllr Hexter			£ 89.80			£ 89.80
21/07/2023	26/07/2023	Amberol		BACS	£ 2,374.92	£ 1,979.10	£ 395.82	£1,979.10
25/07/2023	26/07/2023	FASTCO - Cllr Hexter (In Bloom)		BACS	£ 26.47	£ 22.06	£ 4.41	£22.06
25/07/2023	26/07/2023	Clerk - flowers and feed receipt		BACS	£ 16.00			£16.00
03/08/2023	04/08/2023	Amberol	23120	BACS	£ 1,343.16	£ 1,119.30	£ 223.86	£1,119.30
17/08/2023		GetComposting		BACS	£ 529.95	£ 441.63	£ 88.33	£441.63
05/09/2023		Field (compost) Lts	30765		£ 148.00	£ 123.33	£ 24.67	£ 123.33
05/09/2023		Field (compost) Lts	30766		£ 148.00	£ 123.33	£ 24.67	£ 123.33
total								£3,914.55
remaining								£1,585.45

Receipts	Payments
July 2023	
Coronation Raffle money	Npower
£ 139.90	£ 62.67
Coronation ice cream donation	RCCE Membership
£ 80.00	£ 72.60
	Amberol
	£ 2,374.92
	Clerk Milage allowance
	£ 64.80
	Moot Hall
	£ 60.00
	Clerk Wages
	£ 803.88
	HMRC
	£ 7.96
	Country Gardens
	£ 3,174.00
	Handyman invoice Jun 23
	£ 642.70
	Clerk phone contribution
	£ 5.00
	DAC Planning
	£ 3,480.00
	FASTCO - Cllr Hexter (In Bloom)
	£ 26.47
	Executer of F Barnes (returned monies)
	£ 330.64
	Clerk - flowers and feed receipt
	£ 16.00
	ICO
	£ 35.00
Sub-total	£219.90
August 2023	
	Amberol
	£ 1,343.16
	EALC - Cllr Training
	£ 144.00
	Country Gardens
	£ 2,166.00
	J Webb - replace 3 oak posts
	£ 192.00
	Npower
	£ 64.03
	Moot Hall
	£ 60.00
	Clerk Wages
	£ 803.88
	PKF AGAR
	£ 378.00
Sub-total	£0
September 2023	
bank interest	£ 214.19
Sub-total	£214.19
TOTALS	£434.09
	£17,133.66