

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024
AT STANSTED VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Jack Saunders Chairman
Cllr Kelly Curtis
Cllr Peter Morris
Cllr Daren Sefer
Cllr Yvonne Tisson
Cllr Greg Whitaker

Mr David Rice Clerk
Five members of the public

Item *Action point*

Minute no

1 CHAIRMAN

411 Cllr Saunders took the Chair.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

412 The Chairman noted his family relationship with the owners of the Stansted Lodge farm buildings.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th DECEMBER 2023

413 It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Sefer that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2023 be signed as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

414 There were no matters arising.

5 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Rayner to update the Parish Council.

Cllr Rayner reported that the EU were introducing a new entry and exit system and it was likely to be necessary to implement Operation Brock (where HGVs are required to follow the M20 one-lane contraflow to allow cars to use the other lanes) for months rather than the more usual few weeks.

Cllr Rayner noted that KCC had brought a successful legal action against the Home Secretary regarding the treatment of unaccompanied asylum seekers. The increased numbers of immigrants had placed increased stress on the care system in Kent.

The financial pressures faced by Kent County Council were noted and it was likely that a section 114 notice would ensue in 2024, effectively placing it in administration.

KCC was required to provide transport for children requiring attendance at special needs schools and the cost of living crisis had pushed the expense of this service from £60m to £80m per annum.

KCC continued to show an interest in acquiring Margaret McMillan House in Wrotham from the Royal Borough of Greenwich. In the event that it was bought KCC would propose to appoint its own trustees.

The Chair thanked Cllr Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

6 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

415 It was agreed that the Chairman would compile the responses received from the other members of the Parish Council so that a final version could be prepared. It was agreed that the actions should be limited to under ten and be focused on the practical achievable actions. *Chair*

7 WAR MEMORIAL

416 The Parish Council discussed the damage to the war memorial and it was agreed that the metal shop in Fairseat should be contacted to ascertain the material it was made from in order that used in order that a suitable repair could be arranged. *Clerk*

9 MEMORIAL TO PILOT OFFICER COLIN FRANCIS

417 A date had been fixed 22 March 2024 for the vicar of St Mary's Church to dedicate the memorial and this would coincide with a fly-past to be arranged by the Shoreham Aircraft Museum. The Parish Council would research for a new bench to be sited nearby.

10 ASH DIE-BACK & BROWN'S FIELD COPPICE

418 It was noted that the Clerk had sent an email to Mr Connell requesting the replacement of the oak tree which had been removed in error but that no response had been received to date.

11 HEDGE-CUTTING

419 It was noted that progress had been made with and it would be completed by February 2024.

13 MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL PATHS

420 There were no specific items discussed.

14 HIGHWAYS

Traffic Plan, Highway Improvement Plan, Signage

421 The Parish Council was still waiting for a response from Nigel Rowe from KCC Highways regarding the specific project requests. There was a discussion regarding the need for traffic to slow down when driving through the two villages and various initiatives were suggested.

Other Highways issues

- 422 The project to site gates at the six entrances to the parish would be continuing with the next gates being erected in Fairseat.

15 PLANNING

a Applications

- 423 (i) **3, The Old Stables, Granary Place, Stansted, Sevenoaks TN15 7DZ**
Section 73 application to remove condition IX (Agricultural occupancy restriction) of planning permission TM/23/03046/FL (Conversion of granary and single storey building to one private dwelling and provision of garages in existing barn with ancillary office).

The Parish Council had no objections.

- 424 (ii) **Fairseat Farm House, Vigo Road, Sevenoaks TN15 TLU**
T1 (Application reference) 1 x Ash – Fell to ground level and grind out stump – tree removal due to extensive cavity in the root plate and considerable lean, the tree is also in close proximity to the property therefore removal is deemed best option for preventative maintenance.

The Parish Council had no objections.

- 425 (iii) **Land to north of Wentshaw Lodge, Vigo Road, Fairseat, Sevenoaks, Kent**
Erection of 2 buildings for use as holiday accommodation associated change of use of land from agricultural use, landscaping and car parking.

The Parish Council had no objections.

- 426 (iv) **Oak Tree Stables, Vigo Road, Fairseat, Sevenoaks, Kent**
Erection of a dayroom facility forming an extension to a cart store.

Concerns were expressed as to whether this could represent ‘creeping’ development and requested that the TMBC Planning Department be asked that, no permission be granted for further development into a permanent two storey dwelling.

b Decisions

- 427 (i) There were no decisions for noting at the time of the meeting.

c Appeals

- 428 (i) There were no new appeals at the time of the meeting.

d Enforcement

- 429 (i) There were no enforcement updates at the time of the meeting.

430 e **Other Planning matters**

There were no developments on other planning matters discussed at the time of the meeting.

16 **FINANCE – Appendix A**

431 **2024 Budget**

The Budget for 2024 was discussed and it was agreed that the precept requested from TMBC would remain the same at £17,780. This would mean that Council Tax bills for residents would no rise as a consequence of Parish Council expenses.

432 a **Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed on Appendix A and as shown on the bank statements were noted.

433 b **To approve payments made since last meeting**

Cllr Saunders proposed and Cllr Sefer seconded and it was agreed that the payments made since last meeting as Appendix A be approved.

434 c **Accounts for payment**

Cllr Saunders proposed and Cllr Sefer seconded and it was agreed that the accounts for payment listed on Appendix A be approved.

435 d **Bank mandate and signatories - dual authorisation**

The signatories would be updated and the dual authorisation arranged as soon as possible.

436 e **CCLA deposit fund**

Following the setting up of the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account which was in progress, the Landlord's deposit monies would be moved to this account.

437 f. **Grange Park School – rent review**

It was noted that as a 'goodwill gesture' the rent would be kept at £55k per annum in exchange for removing the break clause. Solicitors would be instructed to prepare a deed of variation to the existing lease and this remained outstanding at the time of the meeting.

438 g. **Other Finance issues**

It was noted that payments of the grants to the Village Halls and St Mary's Churchyards had been paid since the last meeting.

Clerk

17 MANAGEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND PROPERTY

439 i **Recreation Field**
There were no matters to note.

440 ii **Play park**
There were no matters to note.

441 iii **Brown's Field**
This item had been discussed under minutes 418.

442 iv **Telephone box in Plaxdale Green Road**
There were no matters to note.

443 v **Maintenance and handyperson**
There were no matters to discuss.

444 vi **Other issues**
There were no matters to discuss.

18 VILLAGE HALLS

445 i **Stansted Village Hall**
There were no issues to discuss.

446 ii **Fairseat Village Hall**
There were no issues to discuss.

19 WILDLIFE CAMERAS & SIGNS

447 It was noted that Cllr Brooker was hoping to progress the siting of the cameras but the instructions were not in English.

20 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE COUNCILLORS/CLERK

448 Cllr Tisson reported that at a meeting of local Councillors it had been reported that there were eight police officers allocated to the county and that this would be increased to twelve by the end of the year.

449 Cllr Tisson reported that KCC was offering community grants for projects with a benefit to the public.

21 CORRESPONDENCE

450 This year is the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Parish Council has been invited to contribute to a flypast by a Spitfire from Biggin Hill which is being arranged by the Borough Green Parish Council. The Parish Council was in favour of participating and Cllr Tisson would investigate this matter further.

22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were further items of business for discussion.

PUBLIC SESSION

No items were discussed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Dated.....