

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Stalisfield Village Hall on 16 May 2024

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Jerry Brown, Cllr Chris Norwood and Cllr Richard Vant;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were Ward Member Terry Thompson and three members of the public

It was agreed to bring forward consideration of planning matters.

1. Planning Matters

Ref: 24/500882/FULL

Address: Land At Otterden Wood Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Kent ME13 0HW

Proposed ESN telecommunications installation, comprising of erection of a 30m high Swann 5SH Lattice tower, generator, and 3no. cabinets, with ancillary development, associated site works and access.

Councillors considered the proposal and noted the objections on the portal. The site is a Replanted Ancient Woodland; the company had previously stated there will be fuel storage on site but this is not shown in the plans. Concern was raised regarding the noise level of the generator which will be heard across the valley; it will have an adverse impact on the Kent Downs National Landscape; further investigation is needed to ascertain if a more suitable site is available; could the mast be disguised or sited on a farm building; the road regularly floods and there are problems with accessing the site in periods of snow. It was noted that the Council had not been against the initial proposal as it was led to believe that the mast was necessary for the emergency services.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Norwood **PROPOSED** Cllr Horn for the office of Chair: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Horn duly signed her acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk.

3. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Nina Williams (personal); apology accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting); apology noted.

4. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 1 February 2024

Cllr Horn read the minutes.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record, Cllr Horn duly signed the minutes.

6. Public Time

No further matters were raised.

8. Finance

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors approved the Accounting Statement which was signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors agreed to certify the Parish Council exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the certificate was duly signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

Cllr Horn said recommendations from the independent internal auditor will be implemented.

v. Councillor expenses

There were none.

vi. Invoices

a) KALC Subscription

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay KALC subscription £167.76 (cheque no 330)

b) Insurance renewal

Councillors considered quotations for the insurance and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £214, again being no increase in premium, from Zurich Municipal (cheque no 331).

c) HugoFox website

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Hugofox £122.28 for website provision (cheque no 322)

d) Stalisfield Village Hall

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Stalisfield Village Hall £11.25 for hall hire (cheque no 333)

e) Any other invoice for approval received by 18 May 2024

The Clerk reported that the following payments were made out of meeting:

Mrs W Licence salary and expenses £1134.39 (cheque no 327).

HMRC PAYE £253.60 (cheque no 328).

Mr D Hortum £525.00 village green mowing. (cheque no 329).

vii. To consider request for donation from Swale Citizens Advice

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £100 to Swale Citizens Advice (cheque no 334).

viii. To consider request for donation from Kent Sussex Surrey Air Ambulance Trust

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £300 to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Trust (cheque no 335).

9. Highways

Cllr Vant said there was nothing to report, he will report the flooding at the bottom of Gravel Hill.

SBCllr Thompson informed Members that KCC Highways is now going back to tar and grit system for repairs and not just patching roads.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr Brown asked if Suez was adequately resourced to fulfil its contracts with Swale, Maidstone and Ashford Borough Councils.

SBCllr Thompson said they have a good proportion of new vehicles. The recycling is achieving a lot although the UK is still poor in the level of recycling compared to the European standard. There is a problem of contaminated recycling. Packaging needs to be reduced and this needs to be legislated for by Central Government. Waste food is fermented and turned into gas and garden wastes becomes municipal compost. The household waste goes to Canterbury landfill.

11. Date of next meeting: Thursday 25 July at 7.45pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chair
Date: 25 July 2024