

Stisted Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Dave Burge – Chairman
Councillor Neil Denley – Vice Chairman
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Dave Willingham

In attendance: Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Clerk
County Councillor Paul Thorogood
Footpaths Officer Bob Powers
5 members of the public

The Chairman awarded the trophies and certificates to the winners of the 2021 Best Kept Garden competition as follows:

- 1st Place – Mr. & Mrs. Parker – 42 Sarcel
- 2nd Place – Ms. Havens – 43 The Street
- 3rd Place – Mr. & Mrs. Prentice – 39 Sarcel

21/87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fisher, Remfry and Waine.

21/88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21/89 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Parking – Continues to be an issue at the junction of Sarcel and Back Lane.

89.1 County & District Councillor Reports

- i. County Councillor Thorogood reported on the following:
 - LHP Requests for the next financial year need to be submitted before 5th November. Applications to include the safer walking to school route and parking.
 - Street Lighting – In liaison with Cllr Denley to discuss upgrading of lamps to LEDs and possible funding sources.
 - Incinerator – The contractor is looking to change some of the planning conditions – dropping the paper/food compositing element.
- ii. District Councillors Unsworth and Walsh were absent from the meeting.

89.2 Parish Paths / P3

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers reported on a number of planned works due to take place on various footpaths/footbridges within the parish.

89.3 Village Hall Report

Mr Hughes reported that the hall is still limited to a maximum of 30 people. He added that hirers are returning under the new regulations.

21/90 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th October were a correct record and these were subsequently signed by the Chairman.

21/91 CLERK'S REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE

The Clerk's Report and Projects List were noted.

21/92 PLANNING MATTERS**92.1 Planning Applications**

- i. 21/02840/FUL – Glebe House, Rectory Road – Proposed conversion of vacant barn to 1 No. dwelling including single storey extension, with associated landscaping, engineering and operational development – It was noted that this is a listed property, outside of the village envelope. It was agreed to request an assurance that there would be no change aesthetically to the look of the barn.
- ii. Land off Rectory Road – It was noted that this application will be considered by the BDC Planning Committee on 9 November.
- iii. Bridleway – Application for Modification Order – The Footpaths Officer stated that this is not a new section, just a proposal to change a section of farm track into a bridleway. The area concerned is not with the parish and therefore no comments required.

92.2 Planning Results

- i. None.

21/93 SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS UPDATE**93.1 Community Safety & Engagement**

- i. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend (2-5 June 2022) – It was agreed to discuss ideas for a village wide event at the next meeting. The Council agreed not to purchase a Jubilee Beacon.

93.2 Parking

- Parking at the bungalows – an application will be submitted to the Local Highways Panel (ECC) for the 2022 schemes.
- School parking – The Headteacher has suggested a joint canvas of parking issues to take place over a one week period at drop off and collection times. Cllrs Willingham and Fisher to be put forward to take part on behalf of the Parish Council.

93.3 Recreational Activities

- i. Playing Field – Monthly inspection reported noted.
 - A quotation for the replacement mushroom head had been received from the original supplier - £183.60 excl VAT– it was agreed to proceed.
 - The new safety surface under the junior swing has been installed.
 - Re-painting of equipment – Cllr Denley has approached the company that painted the gates but has yet to receive a reply. It was agreed to re-visit this in the spring.
 - Circular Tree Bench – Quotation received for repair (£600). Due to the specialist nature of this repair, it was agreed to accept this quotation.
- ii. Trees – An application has been submitted to BDC for free tree whips and bulbs as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. It was agreed to wait to hear how many would be received prior to asking residents for suitable planting locations.

93.4 Street Maintenance

- i. Rewilding Project – It was also agreed to seek suggestions from residents for suitable rewilding areas around the parish.
- ii. Street Lighting - Cllr Denley has undertaken a review of the street lighting within the parish. There are 17 lamps owned by the Parish Council, all with 70 or 35 watt bulbs. Current energy/maintenance costs an average of £200 per month. The cost of changing to LED lamps would be in the region of £200-£300 per lamp which would offer both an energy and maintenance saving in the long term. It was agreed to replace two of the current lamps to LEDs to be able to see them in situ and gather opinion from residents. The remaining lamps could then be replaced over a three year period, building the costs into the budget. Once complete, the next phase would be to look at the dark spots around the parish.

- iii. Village Green Bollards – The Clerk reported she is awaiting a response regarding delivery of the completed sleeves. It was agreed to look at costs for replacement posts at the next meeting.
- iv. Street Signs – Cllr Willingham has undertaken a survey of signage within the parish and agreed to put in an application to the Local Highways Panels for additional signage. He informed the meeting of a “20s Plenty” scheme which is the installation of green advisory signs (not enforceable) and agreed to liaise with County Cllr Thorogood as to whether Highways approval would be needed for their installation.

21/94 FINANCE

94.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO presented the bank reconciliation report to the end of October.

94.2 Payments

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as per the schedule, with one additional payment to Bounce Bound for the repair of safety surface (quotation previously approved).

94.3 Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC)

Members agreed to join BALC at an annual fee of £40.

21/95 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2

- “20’s Plenty” Scheme – Residents present stated they would support this scheme.

21/96 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Hedge Cutting following ECC Verge Cuts – ECC have confirmed this is the responsibility of the landowner. Overgrowing hedges can be reported via their online system.

21/97 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st December at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

21/98 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20:55p.m.