

**Stisted Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Dave Burge – Chairman  
Councillor Philip Fisher  
Councillor Mark Hughes  
Councillor Helen Remfry  
Councillor Hayley Waine  
Councillor Dave Willingham

**In attendance:** Mrs. Melanie Whiteside – Clerk  
Three members of the public

**107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Councillors present.

**108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**109 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Councillors noted the resignation of Neil Denley and wished to thank him for his time on the Parish Council. Braintree District Council have been notified and the Notice of Casual Vacancy has been advertised.

**110 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The following items were raised by members of the public:

- Councillor Mrs Sue Wilson introduced herself to the meeting. She is currently elected to the Witham Ward but will be standing in the May elections as a Conservative candidate for the Coggeshall/Stisted/Bradwell local area.

**110.1 County & District Councillor Reports**

- i. County Councillor Thorogood had sent his apologies as unable to attend.
- ii. District Councillors Walsh and Abram were absent from the meeting.

**110.2 Parish Paths / P3**

Footpaths' Officer Robert Powers had sent his apologies as unable to attend.

**110.3 Village Hall Report inc. Stisted Archives**

Village Hall – The Music Night will now take place on 14<sup>th</sup> January.  
Stisted Archives – Update given – report attached.

**111 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be signed by the Chairman.

**112 MEETING ACTIONS REPORT & PROJECTS LIST UPDATE**

The updated Actions Report and Projects List were noted.

**113 PLANNING MATTERS**

**113.1 Planning Applications**

None.

**113.2 Planning Results**

- i. 22/01836/FUL – Land Opp 1-4 Jenkins Farm Cottages, Kings Lane – Erection of a 2 bedroomed single-storey Agricultural Workers Dwelling. REFUSED.

**113.3 Planning Applications – Carbon Sustainability**

It was agreed to respond to all planning applications requesting carbon sustainable measures and renewable energy be considered as standard.

**114 FINANCE****114.1 Bank Reconciliation**

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

**114.2 Bank Review**

The Clerk/RFO presented the 2022-23 Budget Review to end December.

**114.3 Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as per the schedule.

**114.4 2023/2024 Budget**

Further to discussion at the December meeting and presentation of updated figures, it was Proposed Cllr Waine, Seconded Cllr Hughes and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the 2023/24 budget of £17,234.00 with a Precept of £16,814.00.

[This equates to a Band D increase of 12% - equivalent to £0.55 per month].

**114.5 Changes to Bank Signatories**

It was **RESOLVED** to add Cllrs Willingham and Remfry to the bank mandate as account signatories. Cllrs Burge and Waine to remain and Cllr Denley to be removed.

**115 COMMUNITY****115.1 Sub-Committee - Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Willingham reported that the grant application has been approved and a meeting will be held shortly to move forward with actions from this.

**115.2 Working Group – Climate & Nature for Stisted (CANS)**

Cllr Remfry presented a written report on work undertaken by the group (attached).

- Grass Cutting – Requested the group look through the current specification so that recommendations can be made in relation to cutting areas.
- Community Involvement – The group confirmed they will be holding a deliberative event shortly to seek views and support from the community.
- Street Lighting – Following a recent meeting to look at the current LEDs, it was AGREED to move forward with the lower wattage bulbs. Funding is available via BDC and quotations will be gathered for the application. The use of PIR sensors or time switches to be discussed at a later stage.

**115.3 Working Group - Parking**

No update at this time.

**115.4 Grass Cutting Specification**

Specification changes for the 2023 cutting season to be approved at the next meeting. It was agreed the current contractor will continue and that small changes in the specification may not affect the price currently being paid.

**115.5 Volume of Traffic through the Village**

There has been a marked increase of vehicles using the village as a cut through to Halstead. This may have been made worse by a large number of road works in Halstead over the Christmas period.

- 20s Plenty Scheme – Cllr Willingham reported that a number of Parish Council are in support of this being introduced but Essex County Council and the Police are resistant to replacing the current 30mph default limit across the county with a 20mph default limit.

**116 RECREATION & MAINTENANCE****116.1 Playing Field**

Monthly inspection for December noted.

**117 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 2**

The following items were raised:

- Overgrown hedge by Brooks Farm.
- Slowing down of traffic – introduce traffic islands.
- Grass Cutting – not all residents will share the same views of leaving areas uncut.

**118 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Information -

- Re-location of 30mph Speed Limit – Application has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel, who will undertake a speed check but this will not be until the new financial year.

Items for Next Agenda -

- Grass Cutting Specification
- Street Lighting LEDs
- Clerk Vacancy – Update
- Dog Bin Locations

**119 MEETING DATES 2023-2024**

Schedule of meetings confirmed – all held on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of the May meeting which will now be held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May due to the local elections.

**120 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall.

**121 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 21:00.