

**COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – VIDEO CONFERENCING MINUTES
STURMER PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the **MEETING** of **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held via **VIDEO-CONFERENCE CALL** on **TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER 2020** at **7:30 PM**

Present: Cllr Garrod Cllr Porth Cllr Collar Cllr Carter Cllr Choat Cllr Jones

3 Members of the public

20/83 NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies

20/84 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Cllr Choat Item 20/90 – Abbots Grove, Hill Lane, Sturmer

20/85 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLUTION – Minutes adopted as true record, Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Carter
Unanimous agreement

20/86 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions and comment on items on the agenda or of import. Time for this session is limited to 15 minutes (03 minutes per person)

Mr Hirst – Proposed planning application, outline to annexe development proposals to side of main house, BDC planning did advise annexe could not be used other than family unless those living there were lodgers, a previous planning application was refused. A Solicitor suggested an appeal, a subsequent application was rejected on different grounds to original refusal; the intention is to submit an application proposing to demolish and rebuild, the applicant is hopeful the PC would support his application once planning submit that to the PC for consultation.

20/87 DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLLRS REPORT(S)

Full report **APPENDIX A**

20/88 RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT & NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

Response received from the resident who’s tree was leaning over FP17.

Tree fallen across the river advised to land owner who is engaging a tree surgeon to have it removed.

Bridge related works, the very latest from Highways can be found via the link on the PC website Home page.

ECC Highways pothole initiative update circulated to members, intended fulfilment date is 31 March 2021.

An offer of a FREE eco friendly Xmas Hamper if you join the Essex Plastic Pledge, it is a simple online process.

Kedington road due for closure on 16 December to allow BT to complete pole testing.

Various communications from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and the EALC have been circulated to members since our last meeting.

All other matters are to be covered by the items on the Agenda

20/89 FINANCE – RECEIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - AGREE PAYMENTS, APPOINT AUTHORISER

RESOLUTION – Approve Finance statements: Proposed Cllr Collar, Seconded Cllr Choat – Cllr Carter to Authorise Finance Statements at **APPENDIX B**

20/89(i) – AUTHORISE CLERK/RFO TO MAKE PAYMENTS DURING DECEMBER

	<p>RESOLUTION – Authorise Clerk to make payments: Proposed Cllr Porth, Seconded Cllr Choat 20/89(ii) – AGREE HEADLINE ITEMS FOR DRAFT 2021-2022 BUDGET Defer finalising until January 2021 meeting</p>
20/90	<p>REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS</p> <p>20/01740/VAR Variation of Condition 2 Approved Plans of permission 16/00649/FUL granted 10/06/16 for: Erection of single storey front and rear extensions. Variation would allow change of external appearance and floor layout as drawing 9070/16/5. Although the build scheme provided the same accommodation as that approved, the external appearance differs We request that drawing number 9070/16/5 (external appearance and floor layout) be approved in replacement of 9070/16/2 Abbotts Grove Hill Lane Sturmer Essex CB9 7XP</p> <p>NO OBJECTION, recommend approval – Unanimous decision – CLERK to ACTION</p>
20/91	<p>CONSIDER PURCHASE OF .GOV DOMAIN & ESTABLISHMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL ACCOUNTS 2 Year Licence £99, plus small set up cost and Email account set up – Approved, unanimous agreement CLERK to ACTION</p>
20/92	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON INSTALLATION OF GREENBARNES NOTICEBOARD Vote of many thanks to Cllr Carter and Porth for the installation, Cllr Porth holds two keys, Cllr Carter holds the third. Suggestion to alter the glass door by adding a restraint to limit its opening and avoid it being smashed</p>
20/93	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON WAR MEMORIAL BASE/SURROUND WORKS AND POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL WORKS Cllr Porth confirmed he has an extensive grant application form to be completed for the War Memorial Trust</p>
20/94	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:</p> <p>a) Footpaths – FP17 tree now removed; FP7 riverbank erosion, Highways not returned, suggested escalate to Cllr Finch – CLERK to ACTION. Noted a requirement for additional way-markers on FP7 plus noted evidence of the bridge parapet being under-pinned. Path between Red Lion and Amenity walk now cleared for all to use, thanks to Cllr Carter and Porth for their work.</p> <p>b) Flood Action Group – Cllr Carter, full report from SFAG is at APPENDIX C, Cllr Garrod would like it noted that the valuable work completed by the Sturmer Flood Action Group is much appreciated.</p> <p>c) Play Area- Cllr Porth, parallel bars still awaiting engineer from Sovereign to rectify, due to arrive 16 December.</p> <p>d) Parish Maintenance- Cllr Carter and Porth confirmed all works completed for this year, village gate and sign repair in hand. Overgrowing hedge opposite Red Lion reported, Highways inspected and confirmed not a hazard so no action to be taken.</p>
20/95	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION PROJECT – AGREE NEXT ACTION This item was moved forward to follow the Public Participation item Cllr Jones – Confirmed the generous donations from the community supported by the Just Giving page funds of £530 minus fees has resulted in the PC being in the position to purchase and install the Defibrillator, plus sufficient excess funds to acquire a matching training unit. First Responder, Carole Jones, confirmed the costings for purchase, delivery, Electrical installation and delivery timing. MOTION moved by Cllr Garrod to proceed with purchase including appoint the recommended Electrician now that the funds are raised - Proposed Cllr Choat, Seconded Cllr Carter, unanimous agreement. CLERK to ACTION</p>
20/96	<p>AGREE MEETING DATES FOR Q1 2021 Agreed 12 January 2021 and 09 March 2021, to update PC website</p>
20/97	<p>UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS RELATED ISSUES – Cllr Garrod Kedington road, damaged chevron signs now replaced, roundel reinstated on A1017 at Essex end, Speed checks requested for A1017 near Linnets Lane, suggestion to advise the Police of speeding via their website. Cllr Porth advised that the licence has elapsed which would allow the PC to extract data from the Vehicle Activated Sign(s), suggested council consider reapplying for that licence although costly at several hundred pounds, Cllr Porth to approach installation company for updated licence price.</p>
	<p><i>Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting for the next item, 20/79, Exclusion of Public and Press - Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the following item on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt and commercially sensitive contractual information</i></p>
20/98	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE VG52 LAND SALE PROPOSALS</p>

	<i>Members of the public to be readmitted to the meeting</i>
20/99	ITEMS OF REPORT TO BE NOTED OR ADDED TO NEXT COUNCIL AGENDA Defibrillator, War memorial, Budget 2021-2022
20/100	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12 January 2021 – CLOSE- 9:14pm

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report December 2020 to Parish Councils (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

Local Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

The intended closure of Camps Road, Helions Bumpstead due to commence on 2nd December 2020 for 7 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while County Broadband undertakes installation of fibre broadband.

The intended closure of Sages End Road, due to commence on 9th December 2020 for 9 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.

Intended closure of Kedington Road, Sturmer due to commence on 16th December 2020 for 15 hours. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes pole testing.

Finchingfield Guildhall

Finchingfield Guildhall receives recognition as the government awards the heritage site £22,800 to protect its future. The Guildhall has an important place in the heritage of Finchingfield and among the historic Essex Guildhalls. The building was built around 1470 to house a guild of priests and to provide a schoolroom for the boys of the village. The guild room has been used as a place of learning for more than five centuries. This heritage site, along with many other heritage and cultural sites, has suffered a significant decline in income due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. The Finchingfield Guildhall Charitable Organisation will use the money to meet ongoing costs and repairs in order to preserve and maintain the building as a hub for community activities. The funding will also allow the trust to protect the library and museum, support local events and introduce new digital initiatives. The Guildhall is among 162 organisations across all four nations to have received a lifeline grant from the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund and among 516 organisations in the Braintree District to have received a grant from the £9.28 million Cash for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund.

Partnership Planting Marks National Tree Week in Essex

More than 14,000 trees are due to be planted at a site in Chelmer Valley, Chelmsford this National Tree Week as part of a collaborative effort between Essex County Council's (ECC) Essex Forest Initiative, The Woodland Trust and Ground Control's Evergreen Fund.

The Essex Forest Initiative is ECC's commitment to planting 375,000 trees - £1million worth - over five years in order to tackle climate change and lock up 60,000 tonnes of carbon. It is part of wider efforts being undertaken by the county council to reduce carbon emissions and promote green infrastructure across Essex. National Tree Week runs between 28 November until 6 December and ECC has formed a partnership with conservation charity, The Woodland Trust and landscaping specialists, Ground Control, to carry out planting at this site. The Woodland Trust is supplying the majority of the 14,110 trees and Ground Control is undertaking the planting which is being funded by their charitable arm, the Evergreen Fund. The planting at Chelmer Valley is the first large-scale planting under the initiative and a celebration of the partnership between the three organisations. Further planting is scheduled to take place during tree planting season (November-March) at Essex Country Parks and other sites across the county, and ECC is set to meet its target of 25,000 trees planted in the first year of the Essex Forest Initiative.

Planning for Year 2 of the Essex Forest Initiative is also in progress, with key sites identified for planting. Any organisations or individuals who wish to find out more about the initiative or who thinks they may have land suitable for planting are encouraged to contact environment@essex.gov.uk.

To stay up-to-date with the latest Essex Forest Initiative news and progress, residents and organisations are encouraged to follow EssexForest on Facebook.

E-Scooter Trial Plans for Essex, Including a Hire Trial Braintree

In the spring / summer of 2020, the Department for Transport announced a proposal to trial the use of electric scooters in named pilot areas. Essex County Council, with the support of the districts, drafted proposals for Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford and Colchester. ECC then identified a preferred supplier – Spin – and submitted these proposals to the DfT. We can therefore announce that safe scooting is coming to Essex as managed pilot trials of e-scooter travel in six locations across the county have a green light to go ahead. Essex County Council, working with Essex commercial partner Spin and district, borough and city councils and Essex Police is leading on the electric scooter, popularly known as escooter, trials as part of its Safer, Greener, Healthier transport campaign. With pilot approval from the Department of Transport now obtained, and final conversations with the six district, borough and city councils underway, the innovative Essex trials will hopefully see Spin, a company owned by Ford, provide and manage an e-scooter rental system in defined areas of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford and Colchester. These trials will start small scale and be constantly evaluated before any expansion takes place. Essex County Council will have strong feedback channels and be monitoring and adjusting each pilot trial as time progresses.

We would like to assure residents that safety is of the utmost importance in these trials and Essex County Council, Essex Police and all partners from district, city and borough councils are committed to ensuring the safety of all road-users. Essex Police will continue to enforce the law relating to the operation of escooters. E-scooters are NOT currently legal in Essex or London (despite what you may see).

Covid-19 and Restrictions

Public Health England report on weekly case rates. This is based on the number of cases recorded in the preceding seven days per 100,000 population. Case rates allow for comparison between areas and give a clearer indication of the trend in Covid-19 cases, removing day-to-day volatility in daily case numbers. As at 19/11/20, the highest weekly case rates were in Basildon and Brentwood, with rates of 268.7 and 245.5 respectively. Braintree 120.6 (up from 94.4 at 12/11/20), Chelmsford 131.7 (up from 123.3), Colchester 77.6 (down from 95.0), Uttlesford 108.4 (down from 156.6), Essex 151.7 (down from 141.2).

Since Sturmer is located on the border with Suffolk, I can also advise that Covid cases per 100,000 people in the seven days to November 22nd were: West Suffolk 60.9, Mid Suffolk 57.8, Ipswich is 161.4 (up from 86.2 at 15/11/20); so a spike in Ipswich.

On Thursday 6th November the Prime Minister announced that from 2nd December, when the current lockdown lifts, the majority of the country, including Essex, will be placed under **new**, strengthened Tier 2 restrictions after lockdown. This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place in order to prevent a return to growing infections. We know that social contact spreads the virus.

In Tier 2:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
 - o provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol, close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt) and must stop taking orders after 10pm
- hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drivethrough
- early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm
- public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows) is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors

- public attendance at spectator sport and business events can resume inside and outside, subject to social contact rules and limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees – 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stone settings.
- organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue
- organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with). There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- if you live in a tier 2 area, you must continue to follow tier 2 rules when you travel to a tier 1 area. Avoid travel to or overnight stays in tier 3 areas other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through a tier 3 area as a part of a longer journey
- for international travel see the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office travel advice for your destination and the travel corridors list.

You can see the latest data for the Braintree District here: www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-controlplan/data-cases-in-essex-by-district

What about Christmas?

Between 23 and 27 December:

- you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules in the tier where you are staying
- you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble

When following these new rules, we must each continue to take personal responsibility to limit the spread of the virus.

Business Grants

As I write this, there are various business grants available and due to recent announcements, I would expect these to change. The government has announced a range of advice and support measures for employers and businesses over the past few months. You can find full details of these and any new information at www.gov.uk.

An additional £3 million in financial support is available to help businesses impacted by the national lockdown arrangements. The application process for the 'Additional Restrictions' grant scheme, introduced by government to support businesses, is now open. This grant scheme seeks to help businesses who have been able to trade, but have been severely affected by the restrictions, regardless of whether they pay business rates or not. The scheme will award eligible businesses up to £3,000 in support based on their size and the extent of their fixed costs. Grants of up to £10,000 will also be available in exceptional circumstances to businesses supporting important sectors of the local economy.

Market traders, taxi firms, businesses operating from home, companies in shared work spaces and those in the events sector are amongst the businesses which will have the opportunity to apply for this grant, the amount of which is dependent on criteria.

Businesses should visit www.braintree.gov.uk/helpforbusinesses to find out more about the scheme, the criteria and application process.

