

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck
Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

MINUTES

15th October 2024 at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm.

In attendance: Councillor Bell (WB) Chairman, Saunders (PS) Vice Chairman, France (AF), Puddick (JP), Breen (SB) and Alan Sharp (AS)

- 151024/1 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))**
Apologies were received by Councillor Kempton – prior commitments. Apologies accepted.
- 151024/2 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest**
None were made.
- 151024/3 Open Forum for Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 151024/4 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2024**
It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the Full Parish Council Meeting minutes of 17th September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried. **Proposed WB Seconded AF**
- 151024/5 Council Business:**
1. Update on Play Area surface repairs
The Council noted that due to the bad weather they still await a date for the works. The Council will look at the possibility of enhancing the surface further.
 2. Stetchworth MVAS Unit Update – installed and operational
MVAS reported as being very effective and slowing vehicles down. WB reported that no information is recorded on the unit currently, AS to query this with CCC. The unit will be moved to Ley Road weekend of 19th October 2024.
 3. Cherry Tree – Coopers Close
The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** not to do any further cutting back as it was felt that enough had already been done. **Proposed WB Seconded AF**
 4. Update Parish Council Tree Survey
The Parish Council had now conducted a full tree survey of all Parish owned trees. The council agreed to implement 4 yearly surveys of all stock and interim 2 yearly surveyors of all highly used areas as recommended. The works required are £3203.17 plus VAT and include all High, Important and Medium priority works to Recreation Ground, Village Green and St Peters Church. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to implement work and scheduling. **Proposed WB Seconded PS**
 5. Outdoor Exercise Equipment Suggestion
The Parish Council considered the suggestion and will monitor the use of such equipment at other parks and playgrounds. The concern was that this costly equipment may not be used fully.
 6. Ellesmere Squash Court
It was agreed that this topic would not be noted on future minutes as there was still no plan or idea on what the Ellesmere Centre will do with the squash court at this time.
 7. Car Park Extension conclusion
It was unanimously **RESOLVED** the car park is acceptable, and the extension carried out a few years ago is working well so this would not longer be a project topic. **Proposes WB Seconded AF**
 8. To discuss budget for 2025-26
The Clerk to circulate draft budget and reports to all Councillor's and to be discussed and set at the December meeting.
 9. Parish Council Meetings 2025
The Parish Council agreed to adopt a bimonthly schedule from now and into 2025 and review at the end of next year. The third Thursday of every other month at 7pm: 17th December
18th February, 22nd April, 20th May (as we need to hold our Annual Meeting). 17th June, 19th August, 21st October and 16th December 2025
- 151024/6 The Ellesmere Centre**
It was noted that there is currently limited staff at the office.

AS arrived at the meeting.
- 151024/7 District & County Councillors' Reports**
Cambridgeshire County Council Report – October 2024
Buses
The consultation by the Combined Authority continues until November on a proposal for bus franchising. There is still doubts about the funding for the franchising option.
Highways & Transport Committee
The committee met on Tuesday 1st October and will agree the LHI applications that will be funded from those that applied earlier in the year.
The new 20mph scheme applications will open in January 2025.

The new LHI applications will open on 1st November 2024 and close on 10th January 2025.

Mill Road Bridge

The new consultation has finished, and the Highways & Transport Committee is meeting on 4th October to consider the new application.

No councillors involved in the original decisions in 2021 and 2023 will be allowed to take part, which includes me.

I continue to have huge concerns about the effect on the surrounding roads, such as Coleridge Road and Tennyson Road.

Swaffham Heath Road/ A1303 Crossroads

Physical work on changing the junction commenced on 16th September and is expected to continue for 15 weeks.

East Cambs District Council

Waste Services

The way that waste is collected will change, probably in April 2026.

Black bins will replace black bags, with green bins, blue bins and a smaller food caddy.

Food waste, which currently goes in the green bin will go into the food caddy and be collected weekly.

The Council will continue to offer free green waste collections.

Further details will be forthcoming in future months.

The proposal is part of a government plan to standardise waste collection and was unanimously approved by the Operational Services Committee on 23rd September and goes to Full Council on 17th October for formal approval.

Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme

The District Council's Finance & Assets Committee on 26th September agreed the launch of a scheme to encourage parishes to deliver capital projects that deliver reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

It is expected that the scheme will launch in October, once final details have been confirmed with the Combined Authority

151024/8

a) **Finance** - to approve accounts for payment:

HMRC, Wages and Expenses	BACs	£472.14
TBM - Microsoft 365 licences (monthly) and domain	BACs	£39.48
RH Landscapes – Grass Cutting	BACs	£144.00
SSE – street light energy	BACs	£123.23
Ellesmere Centre - hire	BACs	£18.00
TBM – license assignment	BACs	£36.00
Scribe – Accounts Renewal annual	BACs	£391.68

b) To note monies received:

East Cambs District Council – Precept	£9647.29
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c) To accept bank reconciliations for 30th September 2024

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve all payments, income and bank reconciliations.

Proposes WB Seconded AF

151024/9

Planning

(a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: - None

(b) To consider planning applications received: - None

151024/10

Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration

The next meeting would be 17th December 2024 at 7pm

Meeting closed at XX

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K Peck
Clerk and RFO
Stetchworth Parish Council

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W Bell
Chairman

17th December 2024