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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FULL COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chair), Cllrs A Barnes, S Ghosh, A Guney, J Hogg, P Jones,

 J Kavanagh, A Khan, A Love, L Prior, G Sell and T van de Bilt

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

 Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

 Dist. Cllr Alan Dean

 Cllr George Braeckman (via Zoom)

 2 Members of the public (1 via Zoom)

**457 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O’Brien – family commitment and Cllr Braeckman – away at university.

 **RESOLVED** To approve the apologies for absence from Cllr O’Brien and Cllr Braeckman.

 Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor Gooding.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

One member of the public spoke regarding damage which had occurred to his vehicle on two occasions due to potholes in the village. He asked how the Parish Council can work closer with UDC and Essex Highways to help residents.

The Chair commented that we do push Essex Highways regularly regarding potholes and suggested he writes into the Parish Council so that it can be taken to the next Highways sub-Committee, and to copy in County Councillor Ray Gooding. The Chair advised that we have asked for a report on potholes but have not yet received this. We will give residents all the support we can but that anything we can do will be limited.

Cllr Sell advised that the Parish Council is also inviting Cllr Tom Cunningham (Essex Cabinet Member for Highways) to a meeting, and this is one of the things that will be raised with him.

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**458 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**459 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2024**

 **RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2024 were approved as a true and accurate account.

**460 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

328 – Office to contact Elsenham Parish Council – done by Cllr Caton

 332 – Clerk to ask Maria Shoesmith to set up a meeting between the Parish Council and the developer – done but was too late in the planning process

 332 – Clerk to speak to Touchpoint – done

 337 – Members to email their comments to the office by 24th January 2024 – done by some members.

**461 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR MAUREEN CATON**

Attached

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**462 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports from Cllr Sell and Cllr Gooding attached.

 Cllr Dean reported the following:

 A meeting took place at Norman Court today. They hold these 6-monthly with residents. They discussed the state of Norman’s Way and will be in touch with the Parish Council imminently regarding this. Cllr Kavanagh asked if she could be involved in any discussions as she had today attended a course on Protecting Public Rights of Way and may be able to offer extra advice and knowledge.

The UDC Full Council meeting took place on Monday. In Cllr Dean’s opinion UDC is dysfunctional. He cannot go into too much detail as to what was discussed during Part 2 (confidential business) but a summary report has been published. He thinks the Council is in serious trouble.

 Cllr Sell advised that details in the press release confirm they will be selling their 50% share in the Chesterford Research Park. Cllr Sell and Cllr Dean confirmed they both abstained in the vote.

Cllr Khan asked if there were any issues in the UDC budget that we need to be aware of. Cllr Sell doesn’t believe there was anything other than the new refuse vehicles and route as reported in the Chair’s report. Cllr Khan also asked if there were any counter motions put on the budget and Cllr Sell confirmed not, although he had not been able to support it due to the increased season ticket charges for the Uttlesford car parks.

Cllr Jones asked regarding the 20% reduction in staffing. Cllr Sell said that 5 people are to be made redundant but that when a position now becomes available, if it has to be filled then they put people on fixed term contracts. Cllr Jones asked if work on the Local Plan has been affected. Cllr Sell does not believe so and they expect to see the outcome of the first consultation in March.

 Cllr Guney asked three questions regarding “bingate”:

a) they currently have an interim licence - has someone now passed their qualification to hold the licence?

b) when will they stop using Braintree as extra support?

c) with the three new vehicles being bought and the introduction of a new route, will they be employing additional loaders to help with the increase in houses in the district?

In response, Cllr Sell commented that

a) the interim licence is held by an individual but he doesn’t know the exact position. The Chief Executive was evasive when asked about staff training so he can’t answer this. The Task and Finish Group at UDC will need to investigate and find out. B) Members have been told that things are getting back to normal, but this is clearly not the case as some areas have still not had any collections.

c) yes, the new vehicles and additional route will address the new housing in the district.

**463 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Report from County Cllr Gooding attached

 Regarding the verges in Walson Way, Cllr Caton stressed that we need more information about what has been done so far about this.

 Cllr Khan commented that at the Highways sub-Committee meeting last week it was pointed out to Cty Cllr Gooding that the verges, which are the responsibility of Essex Highways,were in a poor condition before the Affinity Water closed the B1383. This

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did not form part of the official diversion route and therefore the responsibility for making them good again lies with ECC and they need to be pressed to deal with it.

**464 FINANCE**

**a) TO RATIFY THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE DATED 8TH FEBRUARY 2024**

This was ratified by members.

**b) TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS**

The list of payments was checked against the invoices by Cllr Jones ahead of the meeting. The list of payments was approved.

**c) TO RECEIVE THE SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO 31ST JANUARY 2024**

Tabled and received by members. Cllr Khan asked regarding the overspend on professional fees and the Clerk confirmed that the bulk of this was due to costs incurred as a result of the sinkhole on the Recreation Ground last summer.

**465 TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**1 UTT/24/0068/FUL – EASTFIELD STABLES, MAY WALK**

 **Change of use from agricultural grazing land and construction of a tennis court**

Object on the following grounds:

 This is an incomplete application as there is insufficient information, such as there is no mention of any chain-link fencing around the tennis courts and no dimensions shown in the diagrams.

**2 UTT/24/0161/FUL – EASTFIELD STABLES, MAY WALK**

 **Change of use from agricultural grazing land to land in connection with the commercial use of the wellness hub. Construction of a swimming pool and associated operational development.**

Object on the following grounds:

 This application has insufficient information. Would the pool need a plant room to enable it to be heated? If so, has a noise assessment been done? Where will changing rooms be situated? Is there enough parking for the wellness hub and the swimming pool? This would increase the number of visitors so there needs to be more parking.

**3 UTT/24/0251/HHF – 19 DAIRY LANE**

 **Single storey side extension**

No comment

**4 UTT/24/0302/HHF – KIRKROYD, ELSENHAM ROAD**

 **Double storey front extension, with first floor extensions and double storey side extension. Garage conversion and single storey rear extension with complete house remodel. Changes and additions of fenestration and changes to external materials**

No comment

**5 UTT/24/0256/FUL – 6A RIVERSIDE BUSINESS PARK, STONEY COMMON**

 **Proposed change of use of second floor loft space (storage) to office with WC and installation of 9 no. conservation roof lights**

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No comment

**6 UTT/24/0243/HHF – 72 LOWER STREET**

 **4 replacement windows**

The Parish Council supports this application which will increase energy efficiency.

**7 UTT/24/0409/FUL – SAINT THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HIGH LANE**

 **Section 73 application to vary condition 90G (hours of use) and remove condition 90H (use of building) of UTT/1003/00/FUL (erection of new church, church hall and presbytery with associated car parking) – amend to allow for opening until midnight**

The Parish Council supports this application as this is a great community benefit.

**466 ECC MINERAL PLAN REVIEW 2025-40 – TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TO COMMENT**

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the main concern was the traffic and the increase in HGVs using our roads when we are trying to remove these altogether. A document that Henham Parish Council had created for its residents had been circulated with the agenda and Cllr Hogg advised that if it had not been an agenda item for the Parish Council then he would not have known anything about a consultation. How can it be called a Public Consultation when no one knows about it? He proposed that a similar document be created for the residents of Stansted. It was agreed that Cllr Barnes and Cllr Hogg would draft a document to be sent to the office and subsequently put on our website. The document will then be used to draft the Parish Council’s response.

**467 HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes were received by members.

Meeting closed at 8.31pm

**ACTION POINTS**

461 Minutes of joint meeting to be circulated to members

463 Ask Cty Cllr Gooding what has been done so far re verges on Walson Way

466 Cllr Barnes and Cllr Hogg to draft document