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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the FULL COUNCIL held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.30pm in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chair), Cllrs A Barnes, G Braeckman, S Ghosh, A Guney,

J Kavanagh, A Khan, J O’Brien, L Prior and T van de Bilt

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

2 members of the public via Zoom

**85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Jones – holiday, Cllr A Love – prior engagement and Cllr Sell – holiday.

**RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllrs Jones, Love and Sell.

Apologies were also received from District Cllr Dean and County & District Councillor Gooding

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None

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**86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**87 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2024**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2024 as a true and accurate account.

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

61 – Office to post position statement on website - Done

63 – Cty Cllr Gooding to let SMPC have final list of maintenance jobs – Nothing received. Cllr Caton asked for him to be chased again.

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

Nothing to report apart from the Youth Club is doing very well. A monitoring meeting took place with the provider on Friday, and he reported that one session had been attended by 32 youths.

**90 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

No written reports received.

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

No written report received. [A written report was received after the meeting and is attached to these minutes]

**92 FINANCE – TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS**

The invoices were checked against the payment schedule by Cllr O’Brien before the start of the meeting. The list of payments was approved.

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**93 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**1 UTT/24/1405/FUL – LAND AT ELEVENTH AVENUE STANSTED**

The installation of 1 no. new Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) enclosure adjacent to the existing substation.

No Comment

**2 UTT/24/0897/DFO – LAND NORTH OF STANSTED AIRPORT, THIRD AVENUE**

Reserved matters comprising external appearance, layout, scale and landscaping for Option 4 of Phase 2 pursuant to Outline Planning Permission ref: UTT/22/0434/OP; comprising commercial/employment floorspace predominantly within Class B8 Classes E(g) and Class B2, car parking, cycle storage servicing, plant areas, landscaping and other associated works. Part Discharge of planning conditions 5 (Landscaping Management Plan), 7 (Materials), 21 (Cycle Access), 38 (Drainage), 78 (BNG) and 79 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) pursuant to Outline Planning Permission ref: UTT/22/0434/OP.

No objections but, as previously discussed, members would like to see an illuminated cycle and footway provided alongside Bury Lodge Lane to enable safe passage from the village to the site. Using the public rights of way network is not considered a safe route.

**3 UTT/23/3208/FUL – FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CANADA SHED, PARSONAGE LANE**

Removal of lorry bodies and other paraphernalia. Replacement of existing building with 2 no, storage units (Use Class B8), with associated engineering operations to set new building into the ground.

No objection assuming the relevant ecology survey is undertaken.

**4 UTT/24/1503/FUL – LAND ADJ. 1 MOUNT DRIVE**

Erection of 1 no. self-build bungalow with new highway access.

No objection but would seek a condition preventing future expansion of the property.

**94 TO CONSIDER AN EXCEPTION TO THE INVESTMENT POLICY TO ENABLE AN ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BE OPENED**

The Clerk explained that the current policy allows her to invest up to £300,000 but the Council currently has a large surplus sitting at the bank and, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Finance, she believes this money would be better invested so that it earns a higher rate of interest. She is seeking to invest up to a further £85,000 with a building society and £25,000 into the CCLA Local Deposit Fund.

Having been proposed by Cllr O’Brien and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to approve an exception to the Investment Policy to allow the Clerk to invest as detailed above.

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**95 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A NEIGHBOUR OF THE WINDMILL TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A FLOWERBED AT THE WINDMILL**

The Chair proposed that this item was deferred as, since the Clerk circulated the request, new information had come to light and the ownership of the boundaries and the wall needs to be checked before any decision is made. This was unanimously supported.

Cllr Kavanagh asked for the Clerk to find out why the current boundary is not cut by the contractors when they do the other areas of the cutting and what would happen if

the neighbour who is making the request moves. Cllr Prior asked if the office could find out how the grant money that the Parish Council gave to the Millers for planting was spent.

**96 TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE DRAFT BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

This was circulated to members with the agenda. The document was written by the Working Group after they were tasked by the Open Spaces Committee to do further research into the use of glyphosate and the alternatives available.

Cllr Braeckman commented that he was unhappy with the approach to stop the use of glyphosate as this is industry standard for gardening and farming. Cllr Barnes explained that they had done extensive research into this, and they had found at least 80 other councils who were taking a similar or stronger approach. He agrees that there are contradictory views on the likelihood of it being cancer causing but that there was a good argument that its usage should be kept to a minimum and only used when absolutely necessary.

Cllr Barnes advised that the Clerk had consulted with our current contractors, and they were happy with this move. There will be small increases in the gardening costs but environmentally we need to follow where the Council should be going and where the industry seems to be going. The document allows that glyphosate can be used when necessary but that its usage will be tracked.

Cllr Khan arrived at the meeting and gave apologies for his lateness.

Further discussion took place between members and a couple of amendments to clause 4 were agreed. 4.1 should be amended to say working towards elimination and the target date for 4.6 amended to the end of this council’s term (2027).

Having been proposed by Cllr O’Brien and seconded by Cllr van de Bilt, with 9 votes in favour and 1 abstention, it was

**RESOLVED** to adopt the draft Biodiversity Policy with the suggested amendments.

**97 F&GP COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were received

Meeting closed at 8.07pm

**ACTION POINTS**

88 – Chase Cllr Gooding for the final list of maintenance jobs as promised

95 – Defer the item to a future meeting and find out:

a) Why the gardeners don’t currently do this part when they do other work around the Windmill

b) What would happen if the neighbour making the request moves?

c) What did the Millers spend their grant money on**?**