

**Stretham Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 7pm**  
**In the Parish Rooms, High Street, Stretham**

Present: Councillors Roberts (Chair), Parish (Vice Chair), Nuttall, Taylor, Thake, Pearce, Speed, Mackenzie, Prevett, Bright, the Clerk

Seven members of public in attendance

**1. Apologies and approval of absences**

Councillor Murfitt

**2. To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in item 14 on the Agenda, in his capacity as trustee of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust.

Councillor Nuttall declared an interest in item 12 on the Agenda, specifically planning application 14/01007/ESF.

**3. To resolve that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 are a correct record**

Councillor Parish requested a small change to the details about the River Walk sign. The change was hand annotated on the copy put forward for signature.

The Council resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 are an accurate record. This was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Nuttall.

**4. To receive an update on the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

The Veal new FBT 5 year agreement was signed by Mrs Veal on 16<sup>th</sup> July when Councillor Roberts and the Clerk visited her. The Clerk was asked to write to Kier Petherick to thank him for his involvement with this matter.

All Weather Pitch – Amey Cespa has accepted our Expression of Interest and invited the Council to apply for £20K. The deadline is very tight with the full application requiring submittal by 11<sup>th</sup> September. The three quotations were reviewed from Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd, Spade Oak and Charles Lawrence Surfaces Ltd. After careful consideration, the Council agreed that the quotation that will be put forward in the application was the quote from Artificial Grass (Cambridge) Ltd in the sum of £26,895 + vat. The Council will act as third party funders and make up the shortfall.

Eleanor's Field - Andrew Hall from Truelink Ltd has responded to say that it was not their understanding to cut to the back of the field and that the plan enclosed with the tender was simply to identify the field. Mr Hall offered to cut a pathway around the back section. The Council were disappointed with the response and declined the offer of a pathway being cut

through and now see the matter as closed. The Clerk was asked to seek another contractor to flail the back section.

Lucy Frazer visited Stretham at the end of July. Issues raised included supporting the Youth Club, the water leak in Wilburton Road and street lights. Bill Hunt also attended to talk about agricultural vehicles going through the villages.

The Church has responded to inform the Council they would be very happy to have a permanent Christmas Tree planted at the front of the Church. David Buller has met with Cathy White the Senior Tree Officer at ECDC who has confirmed that a DAC approval will be required which the Church is happy to arrange. The type of tree to be purchased was also put forward by the Church and agreed by the Council. A budget of £1,000 is set for the purchase and planting of the tree.

Pearce Memorial issue – following the letter sent by the Clerk on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015, an email response has been received. W Kent memorials and the Pearce family feel it is unfair to allow the memorial for Mr Lewis to be oversized however not allow the oversized memorial for Mrs Pearce although this was an error of their part. The Council considered this carefully and agreed that a breach has still occurred and that in future, this breach would cause upset when requests are turned down for oversized memorials. The Council's Cemetery regulations are carefully written and approved and breach's must be dealt with. The Clerk was asked to respond explaining why an exception cannot be made and that the Council wish to cause no upset. The mistake lies with W Kent Memorials.

One quote has been obtained for the Recreation Ground ditch flail quotation from Truelink Ltd in the sum of £385.00. The Council requested a second quotation.

Stretham Sporting has requested a rent reduction now that All Weather Pitch has not been resurfaced in time for the start of the new season. The Council agreed that from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 to the opening of the resurfaced All Weather Pitch, they would meet half of the cost to hire the Astroturf at Little Thetford. This will be deducted from the January 2016 rent invoice.

## **5. Public participation**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32pm for Public Participation.

Mrs Chantler and Mrs Rippingale attended the meeting to listen to the Council discuss the Pavilion Nursery idea. Pursuant to the drawings supplied by the Architect, rough costs will now be obtained from local builders.

Others in attendance joined to show support for the Stop Stretham Wind Farm Campaign.

The meeting reconvened at 7.40pm.

## **6. To discuss the WREN grant of £49,650 for Ely Road Play Area and agree the plan including consideration of tenders for the fencing and match funding payment of £5,337.38**

Councillor Parish updated the meeting to confirm that the Council has been awarded the sum of £49,650 from WREN to replace the old equipment and surfacing at Ely Road Play Area. Volunteers will be clearing the site on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015 from 10am. It is likely that work will start at the end of October with completion early December. Councillor Parish suggested contact be made with the daughter of Jean Adamson to see if

she would consider attending the Opening Event to cut the ribbon and this Council agreed with this proposal. The Council resolved to pay the match funding sum of £5,337.38 from current available funds in the current account. This was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Speed, all Councillors in agreement.

The new fence and gate for the play area has been put out to tender and two quotations were received. Ratcliffe Fencing quoted £4990.88 and Arbantia Fencing quoted £4110.00. The Ratcliffe Fencing quotation most accurately reflected what is required and it was proposed by Councillor Thake and seconded by Councillor Prevett to accept the Ratcliffe Fencing tender, all Councillors in agreement.

#### **7. To review the results of the Recreation Ground Survey and consider ideas to pursue**

A total of 110 responses have been received which have been assessed and the results provided to Councillors. A further 30 completed questionnaires have just been received and the results will now be incorporated.

Councillor Parish is very pleased with the number of replies received. The main items people would like to see is a picnic/seating area, more play equipment at the children's play area, the All Weather Pitch becoming usable again and some form of exercise equipment for all ages.

Councillor Taylor will now meet with the Recreation Working Party before the next meeting and come back with some proposals for the Council to consider.

#### **8. To consider new ideas for the Parish Newsletter and Parish Council website – short briefing from Councillors Nuttall and Thake**

Councillor Nuttall explained to the meeting that the current website is not user friendly and is not updated regularly. Councillor Nuttall suggested involving the community with the website to decrease the workload of the Clerk by allowing each user group to input their own information once approved by the Council. There could be an Events calendar, a booking page for Parish Rooms and Pavilion, an individual Feast page and links to other websites.

The Council is unhappy with the design of the current Newsletter but felt it is important that the monthly publication should continue. Not everyone in the village uses the internet however the newsletter should be uploaded onto the website. An A5 booklet style newsletter was favoured by the Councillors and Lisa Migdal and Laura Shearing produced examples of how it could look.

After much discussion, it was agreed that a temporary Working Party should be formed and include the Clerk to look at options and bring back recommendations to full Council. Members of the Communications Working Party are Councillors Roberts, Nuttall, Thake, Mackenzie and the Clerk. Meeting set for 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

#### **9. To discuss the cutting of verges in the Village**

Following on from discussions at the July meeting of the Council, Councillor Bright met with the Clerk to identify which areas are maintained by Highways and to obtain an initial quote to maintain everything within the 30mph limit. One price has been obtained from Truelink Ltd in the sum of £120 + vat per cut and a total of 7 cuts per year. As there was some concern about the accuracy of the map provided by Highways, it was agreed that

Councillors Roberts and Bright and the Clerk would produce a new map and then go out to tender.

**10. To consider if the Council wish to make a bid for Speed Reduction Gates via the LHI Scheme**

The Clerk briefly explained the LHI Scheme to the Council. There was concern as to whether speed reduction gates actually do succeed in reducing the speed of traffic. The Clerk offered to attend an information event on the Scheme on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Councillor Bright to attend with the Clerk.

**11. To consider initial drawings for nursery proposal at the Pavilion and agree next step**

The initial drawings have been received from the Architects however there was some confusion as to how much the build costs may possibly be. The Clerk was asked to approach a selection of local builders to gauge a rough cost for the extension to the building. This item is to be placed on the Agenda for discussion in October.

**12. To consider planning applications**

**14/01007/ESF - Erection of 2 wind turbines at Red Hill Farm Stretham – Revised Environmental Statement**

The third Environmental Statement has been submitted by the Applicant to ECDC. After considerable discussion, it was agreed the Council would object again to this application for the following reasons:

- there has been insufficient consultation (and none in the last year)
- the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have NOT been fully addressed
- the proposal does NOT have the backing of the local community

The new Environmental Statement does not fully address our previous objections, including those related to :

- Impact on visual amenity
- Impact on Landscape
- Noise pollution
- Effect on property prices, having effect on mobility
- Lack of public consultation
- Lack of Grid connection
- Interference with television signals

It was also agreed to enclose the Ministerial Statement dated 18 Jun 2015 which sets out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy developments. This objection was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Thake, all Councillors in agreement.

The Council passed thanks to Councillor Nuttall and the Stop Stretham Wind Farm Group for all their work.

**15/00798/FUL - Saunders Piece – Change of use of land to storage of caravans including new security fencing and new (retrospective) equipment storage shed**

The Council viewed the plans and discussed the application in considerable detail. It was proposed by Councillor Parish and seconded by Councillor Prevett to object to the application for the following reasons:

- The storage shed has been built outside of the development envelope.
- The area is inappropriate for caravan storage.
- There is no information on how many caravans would be stored on the site.

- The A10 is a very busy road and there are concerns for the safety of vehicles exiting the site south towards Cambridge.

All Councillors in favour of the proposed objection apart from Councillor Speed who abstained.

**15/00899/FUL - 35 Cambridge Road**

No objections to be raised to this planning application. Proposed by Councillor Parish, seconded by Councillor Prevett, all in favour.

**15/01007/FUL – Gate House, 29 Newmarket Road**

No objections to be raised to this planning application. Proposed by Councillor Thake, seconded by Councillor Prevett, all in favour.

**13. To receive planning application decisions**

15/00605/FUL – 10C Reads Street – proposed single storey extension - APPROVED

Fell of Willow Tree at 18 Reads Street – APPROVED

Fell of Willow Tree at 29 High Street - APPROVED

Tree Preservation Order granted at 20A Ely Road

**14. To receive an update on progress of SWCLT**

Councillor Roberts provided a full update to the Council. The application for 24 units as part of a Phase 3 has just been submitted to ECDC. There is a consultation event in Stretham about this application between 15-21 September 2015. The start date on Phase 1 is likely to be in October.

**15. Finance**

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the Finance Sub-Committee approved a payment of £763.20 to C and C Media to pay invoice 29269 for the July/August 2015 newsletter. This was paid via cheque number 002126.

**To authorise payments from SPC and SSRC accounts and to note income**

The following accounts were presented for payment:

Parish Council account

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chq no</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mr L Gotobed	002127	£72.48
Mr P Penny	002128	£310.00
Mrs R Watts	002129	£2443.07
Mrs M Hutter	002130	£40.00
HMRC	002131	£696.57
Anglian Water	002132	£27.23
Truelink Ltd	002133	£975.36
Glasdon (UK) ltd	002134	£282.10
FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd	002135	£5,337.38
Playsafety Ltd	002136	£261.60
K A Bell	002137	£51.00
TB Services	002138	£150.00
SSRC	002139	£1000.00

The balance of Parish Council current account at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 £18,358.72

SSRC account

Name	Chq no	Amount
Mr P Penny	000368	£460.00

The balance of SSRC current account at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 £566.52

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce and seconded by Councillor Parish that the above accounts be paid. All in agreement.

Parish Council account income:  
Land rent £225.00, Room hire £115.00

SSRC account income:  
Room hire £80.00, meter money £8.00

The Clerk requested that payments to Anglian Water are paid via direct debit. It was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Mackenzie to accept this request and all Councillors were in agreement.

**16. To receive correspondence**

An email from Mr Neil Ford was read out regarding the recent agricultural accident in Wilburton and the need for drivers of tractors to drive more responsibly. Councillor Roberts explained that this problem has already been discussed with Lucy Frazer when she attended the meeting in Stretham to flag up this worrying problem. County and District Councillor Bill Hunt is currently putting together some options to start resolving this issue which includes a scheme for responsible farmers to use the larger A roads whenever possible and commit to a top speed on 15mph when travelling through villages. Stretham Parish Council has tried to involve the local community to help in reducing the speed of all types of vehicles in the village however no volunteers came forward.

A letter from Lucy Frazer has been received regarding her visit to Stretham on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

All general correspondence was circulated.

**17. To receive reports from Working Parties and Sub-Committee**

All working parties and sub-committees reported into the meeting.

**Amenities Working Party** – ECDC has agreed to remove the Recycling Area on the Recreation Ground as per the request. The rotten gate post at the Cemetery has been repaired. All other jobs agreed at the last meeting are being worked on.

**Footpaths Working Party** – Footpaths are in a good condition, no complaints received.

**Eleanor's Field Working Party** – Covered in point 4 of these Minutes.

**Ely Road Play Area Sub-Committee** – Covered in point 4 of these Minutes.

**Recreation Ground Working Party** – The Clerk is still awaiting the quote from ECDC for the repairs to the play equipment.

**18. To receive Councillors questions and review Rolling Timetable**

Councillor Parish reported a deep groove in the road at the junction of High Street and Wilburton Road. Clerk to report to Highways.

Councillor Bright reported trees overhanging the footpath at the Top Street/Reads Street junction. Clerk to write to Sanctuary.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.