

STURMER PARISH COUNCIL

Karen Simmons
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Minutes of the **MEETING OF STURMER PARISH COUNCIL** held at **STURMER VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026 AT 7:30PM.**

AGENDA

COUNCILLOR	
Cllr Gareth Morley	Apologies Recd.
Cllr David Porth	In attendance
Cllr Terrie Jones	In attendance
Cllr Sean Mercer	In attendance
ECC Cllr Peter Schwier	In attendance
BDC Cllr Diana Garrod	In attendance
25/118	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	As above – Invited Councillor Mark Platt – did not attend.
25/119	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS
	None declared
25/120	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2026
	Agreed and seconded.
25/121	RECEIVE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
	Cllr D Garrod - Please see attached. Now the layby is cleared of parked vehicles, please use this space appropriately. The Parish Council will arrange for clearing the layby of debris and weeds. Cllr P Schwier – After a cabinet meeting today (24/3) it was agreed that a full resurface of the A1017 through Sturmer will happen starting mid-April. In the meantime, core samples will need to be taken as well as a survey of the drainage system.
25/122	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION
	There were no comments.
25/123	Consideration of Co Option of applicant for Councillor
	Mr Keith Norcutt was co opted onto the Parish Council. Proposed and seconded.
25/124	REVIEW & COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS
	None.
25/125	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:
	a) Footpaths – Cllr S Mercer – Has cleared the footpath besides the Pub and the gully. More work will be needed. The large amounts of gravel thrown up by vehicles has been removed and a second sweep will be done by Cllr Mercer (with family). The gravel has been useful to partially repair footpaths.
	b) Flood Action Group – a report was made to BDC Plan regarding flooding.
	c) Play Area – the resurfacing project is finally underway. Please note that vehicles should only be using this parking area if using the path or park.
	d) Parish Maintenance/ War Memorial – Volunteer Carter has had to clean the memorial regularly due to the gravel kicked up by the traffic. This is causing some minor damage to the structure. This will be monitored.

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	<p>e) Village Hall and Defib – Cllr T Jones. ANYONE WANT TO JOIN A FREE COURSE ON HOW TO USE THE DEFIB? Please let me know – 21st May 2026 at 7.30 pm</p> <p>f) Highways. – see comments above</p>
25/126	Updated Tree Policy
	<p>The new policy was developed side by side with those used by Braintree District Council and other councils. It was agreed to adopt this as of 24th March 2026 with a review in 18 months' time.</p>
25/127	Woodlands Hotel - KS
	<p>The sale appears to have fallen through and, as such the promised sums for land swap has been cancelled. The council have asked that the deregistration of our land be stopped.</p>
25/128	FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AGREE ANY PAYMENTS AGREE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY TO AUTHORISE RAISED PAYMENTS BEFORE NEXT MEETING TO AVOID CHARGES/LATE BILLING
	<p>Invoices were signed. The council were shown the Bank reconciliation. Prop and seconded for clerk to continue making payments for council members to authorise.</p>
25/129	CLERKS REPORT
	<p>Dates for next year. – list was given and will go up on website</p> <p>Only one quote was received for grass cutting and additional work to protect pavement walkers where council cannot attend regularly enough. DH Maintenance will continue their fabulous work.</p> <p>COUNCILLOR VACANCY – there is still another vacancy – can you help??</p>
	<p>Annual Parish Assembly Announcement The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Assembly, scheduled to take place on 23rd April 2026 at 19:30.</p> <p><u>Invitation to Village Groups</u></p> <p>All village groups are invited to attend the assembly. We kindly request that each group submits a report outlining their activities over the past year.</p> <p>Recycling Group Participation</p> <p>We hope to welcome a Recycling Group at the assembly, encouraging their involvement in the event.</p> <p>Club Activity Tables</p> <p>If any club would like to display their activities, please contact the clerk to arrange for a table at the assembly.</p>