

Sturmer Parish Council

Locum Parish Clerk/RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held on 26th. May 2026 at 7.30pm in the village Hall

Present: Cllrs. David Porth, Terrie Jones, Keith Norcutt, BDC Cllr D. Garrod and Kevin B. Money Locum Clerk/RFO to the Council. There were 3 members of the public present.

001/2026 Election of Chair for the 2026/2027 year

Cllr D. Porth proposed Cllr T. Jones to act as chair for the 2026-2027 year. Cllr K. Norcutt seconded.

All Agreed. Cllr T. Jones then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

Councillors noted the resignation of Gareth Morley from Sturmer Parish Council with immediate effect. The Clerk to inform BDC of the vacancy and set in motion the advertising and replacement

002/2026 To ratify the temporary appointment of Kevin B. Money as Locum Parish Clerk / RFO for a period of 4 months.

Cllr T. Jones proposed appointing Mr. Kevin B. Money as Locum Clerk / RFO to Sturmer Parish Council. Cllr S. Mercer seconded. **All Agreed**

003/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr Nathan Robins and Cllr Sean Mercer

004/2026 Election of Vice-Chair for the 2026/2027 year

Cllr D. Porth proposed Cllr K. Norcutt to act as vice-chair for the 2026-2027 year. Cllr T. Jones seconded.

All Agreed

005/2026 Confirm representations for 2026-2027

The following Councillors were placed on the Footpaths: Cllr S. Mercer

Flood action group:

Play area: Cllr D. Porth & Cllr K. Norcutt

Parish maintenance war memorial: Mr. Carter

Village Hall & defibrillator: Cllr T. Jones

Highways:

Amenity walk:

005/2026 Declarations of interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. **None declared**

006/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 24th. March and 11th. May 2026 All Agreed

007/2026 Essex County Councillor Report – ECC Cllr Nathan Robins. No report was given

008/2026 Braintree District Councillor report – BDC Cllr Diana Garrod

BDC Cllr Diana Garrod report can be found at <https://sturmer-pc.gov.uk/meetings/?view=all>

009/2026 Public Forum

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meeting in order to speak with respect to items on the agenda

A resident spoke about the planning application at Sturmer Hall. 120 young people on a residential basis with possibly learning difficulties. Some areas are not suitable for the young residents. This site allows for integration with others. This proposal does not meet this need. Integrating into the local community.

010/2026 Co-option update The Clerk informed the meeting that he will start the notification of the Councillor vacancy

011/2026 Receive Representative Report:

a) Footpaths – Cllr S. Mercer No report was given

b) Flood action Group

Look for Flood action group in early May

c) Play Area – G. Morley sent a report prior to the meeting. It read

I completed a playground inspection this morning on my way out. No major issues. The platform at the top of the slide chute has some play in it still, with the risk of trapping fingers. I'm not sure the best way to adjust this - I think maybe David or Alan know how to do this? I think it's come up before. I think one of the other panels has to be removed to get to it. But not sure which, nor if I've got the right tool to do this.

The annual inspection is also due for completion this month. Karen arranged this, so it should just happen and the report will be sent to Kevin.

The inspection is all completed online at the moment, but linked to my work email and account. So this will need to be changed. I'm happy to help setup a google form which is probably easiest. The previous inspections feeds into a spreadsheet log automatically - I've attached it here so you've got all previous inspections over the last year or so.

Kevin - Karen and I shared a google drive with some documents in as we haven't got any other cloud storage. The login is just the clerk email address.

All of the S106 in the park has been completed and I think looks pretty tidy. This now means there is £3,700 left in the S106 fund to be spent.

d) Parish Maintenance / War Memorial. Repainted the plinth at the war memorial

e) Village Hall and Defibrillator – Cllr T. Jones

CPR and defibrillator training took place. Tea and coffee with all residents understanding how to use the defib

f) Highways – No update on highways

012/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

26/00731/OUT - Sturmer Hall Church Walk Sturmer

Outline application with all matter reserved except access, for the change of use of Sturmer Hall and associated buildings to a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school, erection of new hydrotherapy and wellness centre, 7 no. detached buildings for student accommodation and associated access arrangements.

A resident spoke about the planning application at Sturmer Hall. 120 young people on a residential basis with possibly learning difficulties. Some areas are not suitable for the young residents. This site allows for integration with others. This proposal does not meet this need. Integrating into the local community.

RESOLVED: Sturmer Parish Council supports Historic England response being harmful to the site. A much bigger survey should be obtained PROW 10 ECC Highways at risk and failed to be defined with a potential driveway. Essex police designing out crime requiring safe areas on the site without disturbance. Planning application statement of an unknown water / sewage on site to be raised with Anglian water. To address any water run-off surface water At the Full planning application then a s106 agreement must be put into place • The proposal suggests the provision will cater for students with severe/profound and multiple learning disabilities, there is an increasing need for Post 16 provision for this profile of need, however to benefit local families this provision will need to be offered as day placements rather than residential provision for local authorities (Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) to consider funding placements, particularly taking SEND reforms into consideration around independent placements. It is important to consider the implications of funding reforms to ensure sustainability, as places will be funded by public money. • All students would have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP), the focus for 16-25 year olds is preparation for adulthood, supporting the young people in being as independent as possible, integrating into their local community and staying healthy. The plans do not demonstrate the facilities this group would require to access supported work placements on the site and how they would be supported to integrate into the local community, including access to health services (if accessing residential placements). • If the provision provides residential care, the number of students will need to be carefully considered to ensure the emotional wellbeing of the young people is paramount. Large numbers of young people together could be overwhelming and detrimental to their mental health and progression. • Shared facilities with the public will need to be carefully considered in line with safeguarding legislation to ensure the vulnerable young people are kept safe at all times. Essex Highways also from a highway and transportation perspective therefore, the impact of the proposal is NOT acceptable to the Highway Authority for the following reason: 1. The developer has not demonstrated that the proposal would be

acceptable in terms of highway safety, efficiency and accessibility. The proposal is therefore contrary to policy DM1 of the Development Management Policies as adopted as County Council Supplementary Guidance. Given that the development will be accessed via a Public Right of Way, further details are required regarding how the PRoW will be protected, therefore, the following points need to be addressed before the Highway Authority will be in a position to consider the acceptability of the proposals; i. Information on expected trip numbers for the proposal in relation to trip numbers for the permitted use of the site. ii. Clarification on the likely impact of any increased vehicle activity on the Public Right of Way and any mitigation measure to minimise conflict between vehicles and users of the PRoW. iii. Any drawings submitted with the planning application must include the legal alignment and width, the applicant can obtain the legal alignment and width from the Highway Status Team, <https://www.essexhighways.org/applications/highway-status-enquiries> The Parish Council also concurs with the report from Historic Buildings. There is not enough information with the documents on the website

013/2026 Finance

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 30th. April 2026

Due to the short time of handover, there are no bank reconciliations to provide to Councillors. These will be produced once the Locum Clerk has access to the Unity Trust Bank website

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2026/2027

Due to the short time of handover, there are no bank reconciliations to provide to Councillors. These will be produced once the Locum Clerk has access to the Unity Trust Bank website

c) To approve the payment for Accounts for May 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. There are no payments to be made this month

014/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

2026-2027 Annual return

015/2026 Date of the Next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd. June 2026 at 7.30pm

016/2026 2026 meeting dates: 28.07: No meeting in August: 22.09: 27.10: 24.11: No meeting December

017/2026 Closure of the Meeting To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

T. Jones - Chair

23rd. June 2026