Sturmer Parish Council

Locum Parish Clerk/RFO: Kevin B. Money
7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN
Tel: 07810781509 – email: clerk@sturmer-pc.gov.uk
Website: https://sturmer-pc.gov.uk/

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th. July 2026 at 7.30pm in the village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Terrie Jones (Chair), Keith Notcutt, David Porth, BDC Cllr Diana Garrod and Kevin B. Money Locum Clerk/RFO to the Council. There was 2 members of the public present.

035/2026 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Sean Mercer

036/2026 **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**

037/2026 **To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 23rd. June 2026 All Agreed**

038/2026 **Council to re-adopt the policies and documents below**
Code of Conduct: Complaints policy: Biodiversity policy: Asset Register: Consent to hold contact information: Co-option policy: Disciplinary Procedure policy: Document Management policy: Financial Regulations: Financial Reserve policy: Grant application form: Grievance Procedure: IT Policy: Privacy Notice: Publication Scheme: Recording of Council meetings policy: Retention policy: Risk Assessment policy: Standing Orders: Training policy: Tree policy: Dog policy: Grant Award policy: Communication policy: Volunteer policy:
Policies can be found at **https://sturmer-pc.gov.uk/general-policies-and-documents/**
Cllr D. Porth proposed to re-adopt the above policies en-bloc. Cllr K. Notcutt seconded. **All Agreed**

039/2026 **Essex County Councillor Report –** ECC Cllr Nathan Robins. No report was submitted

040/2026 **Braintree District Councillor report** – BDC Cllr Diana Garrod
BDC Cllr D. Garrod report can be found at **https://sturmer-pc.gov.uk/meetings/?view=all&more=upcoming**

041/2026 **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
Not a lot of police presence in Sturmer for speeding in the village. Can the Parish Council look into buying a Speed Indicator Device? Can the overhanging tree at the roundel sign by the Garden Centre by trimmed back so that the sign can work with the solar panel? Some pavements are in a poor state and requiring repairing.

042/2026 **Co-option update.** The Clerk informed the meeting that no resident has come forward to become a Parish Councillor for Sturmer Parish Council

043/2026 **Request to see the accounts and associated records and documents listed in the notice dated 24.06.26 for Sturmer Parish Council 2025/2026**. This request has been complied with by the Parish Council

043/2026 **Receive Representative Report:**

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

b) Flood action Group – Linda Bevan

Sturmer Station Bridge
Following FoI enquiries with the help of the National Flood Forum, we have been promised an update on the bridge after the end of August. The bridge is subject to another options study after work was proposed in 2025/26.

West Suffolk Local Plan
I have made comments on the new Local Plan including the need for flood alleviation measures if the proposal for 4000 houses from the Haverhill By-pass to Sturmer Hall is approved.

c) Play Area – Cllr D. Porth & Cllr K. Norcutt

All but 1 defect have been cleared. The rubber surfacing on the adult exercise bars. A wet pour repair kit has been discovered. A quotation of the wetpour surfacing kit costing £225.00p +VAT.
Cllr D. Porth proposed purchasing this kit. Cllr K. Notcutt seconded. **All Agreed**

d) Parish maintenance war memorial: Mr. Carter No report was submitted

e) Village Hall & defibrillator: Cllr T. Jones Nothing to report

f) Highways: The fire hydrants have been painted

044/2026 To find out about the Common and if it was deregistered
The last communication from the Parish Council stated that the solicitor was not sure of the deregistration. It was inconclusive if the registration was concluded. Cllr D. Porth to give the Clerk all background information.

045/2026 Bridge at Pope Mill – any update
Gareth Morley to give the Clerk the archive file and documents regarding the funding application form. He is about 50% through writing an initial funding application, but he does add that he is not that hopeful on a successful application. The more Gareth researches the bigger the challenge appears.

046/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response FOR INFORMATION ONLY
26/01589/NMA - Land South Of Sturmer Hall Church Walk Sturmer Essex
Non-Material Amendment to permission 23/02705/FUL granted 04.12.2024 for: Development of a ground mounted solar farm, including energy storage, associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and grid connection cable.
Amendment would allow: Amendment to the wording of Condition 3 to require the highway improvements shown on Drawing No. AMA/21559/SK004.1 (Proposed Construction Access) to be completed prior to commencement of development, and the improvements shown on Drawing No. AMA/21559/SK004.2 (Proposed Operational Access) to be completed prior to the development being brought into operational use.
Please note this is for information only and due to the type of application, BDC are unable to accept third party comments

Cllr T. Jones proposed to delegate Planning powers to the Clerk during the August recess. Cllr K. Notcutt seconded. **All Agreed**

047/2026 Finance

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

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 30th. June 2026

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

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2026/2027

c) To approve the payment for Accounts for July 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

Cllr T. Jones proposed to delegate financial powers to the Clerk during the August recess. Cllr K. Notcutt seconded. **All Agreed**

048//2026 Items for the Next Agenda

049/2026 Date of the Next Meeting – No meeting in August: Tuesday 22nd. September 2026 at 7.30pm

050/2026 2026 meeting dates: 27.10: 24.11: No meeting December

051/2026 Exclusion of the press and public
Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted
Cllr T. Jones proposed to exclude the public and press. Cllr D. Porth seconded. **All Agreed**

a) Councillors to discuss staffing matters

052/2026 Closure of the Meeting To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.05pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed *TJones* 27th. October 2026

T. Jones - Chair