Sturmer Parish Council

Locum Parish Clerk/RFO: Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th. October 2026 at 7.30pm in the village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Terrie Jones (Chair), Keith Notcutt, David Porth, Sean Mercer, ECC Cllr Nathan Robins, and Kevin B. Money Locum Clerk/RFO to the Council. There was 1 member of the public present.

053/2026 **Apologies for Absence** were received from BDC Cllr Diana Garrod

054/2026 **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**

055/2026 **To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 28th. July 2026 All Agreed**

056/2026 **Essex County Councillor Report –** ECC Cllr Nathan Robins
Pot holes repaired are 37% higher year on year. Up to September '26 89% more have been repaired than in September '25. Over 9000 repairs have been undertaken. Drains have been cleared and some blocked drains in Sturmer are being chased up.
Local Government Reorganisation has been withdrawn for Essex. This saves ECC millions of pounds. There may still be a mayor appointed.
Essex CC will still be responsible for Highways and Social Care. PFCC will be abolished. Public transport will be increased by new funding. Another layer to run Essex but will ultimately save money.
As from 31st. October '26 Councillors will not be able to "call in" planning applications.
Fostering campaign has been launched with applications over 10% higher than expected.
Operation "Vanguard" has been launched and is being trialled with guards patrolling High Streets. Over 137 incidents have been reported.
Bus fees for children getting to schools have increased which is causing a problem for parents. An ECC separate service is being looked into.

Cllr Nathan Robins left the meeting

057/2026 **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

058/2026 **Braintree Local Plan Update at Kedington Road Sturmer**
No update given at the meeting

059/2026 **Homeless Camp next to Woodlands Hotel, Coupals Road, Haverhill**
The camp has gone and is very clear and tidy. A sign, which is still in situ, must be removed and is acting as unauthorised parking for residents.

060/2026 **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
No questions were asked

a) Remembrance Day event at the War Memorial commencing at 1030am. Mr. Carter and Cllr D. Porth will be dressing the Memorial just before the event

061/2026 **Receive Representative Report:**

a) Footpaths – Cllr S. Mercer

Tidying up of footpaths have been undertaken and the gully by the Amenity walk has been cleared.

b) Flood action Group – Linda Bevan sent the report below prior to the meeting

Discovery Day -
A provisional date of 14 January 2027 has been agreed for a Discovery Day on Community Led Environmental solutions for flooding. Venue to be decided. I have agreed to show attendees some of our woody dams with Ariel Shepherd, the Essex Flood Team Officer.

Essex Waste Ltd - SCC/0188/25SE -
I have commented on this proposal asking for it to be refused because of extra traffic which will add to damage of the highway in Water Lane already regularly damaged because of fooding and because the Sturmer Station Bridge inspections/surveys had shown it to be not suitable for modern traffic.

Sturmer Station Bridge -
We were told this would be reviewed in August and we would be given an update but nothing was received. Cllr Robins has asked to be briefed by Officers on this so we hope to hear what the latest decision is soon.

Local Plans Braintree District Council and West Suffolk -
I have sent the usual comments that developments need sustainable drainage to alleviate flooding in Sturmer.

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

All RoSPA report defects have been addressed. Half a tonne of wood chips will be laid across the play area.

d) Parish Maintenance - War memorial: Mr. Carter

The grass and play area have all been addressed. The grass cutting to be cancelled for November '26
The war memorial will be cleaned up before Remembrance Day. Fallen trees will be removed.

e) Village Hall & defibrillator: Cllr T. Jones

Village Hall has sent out a questionnaire to do a magazine and awaiting replies.
Defibrillator has been checked and is working well

f) Highways. Nothing raised

062/2026 To find out about the Common and if it was deregistered
No further update

063/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

26/01663/HH & 26/01664/LBC - Abbotts Hall Rowley Hill Sturmer
Part retrospective application for the replacement garden room and associated internal & external alterations including replacement window cills, replacement roof with insulation and reuse of existing tiles, reinstatement of ionic columns on front elevation, reinstatement of the servant's staircase and pantry, replacement staircase balustrades and handrail, replacement skirting boards, replacement Georgian-style internal door ironmongery, painting of internal doors, removal of study wall panelling.
Due to the time constraints set by BDC the following response was sent to BDC under "Delegated Power" on 04.08.26. **Sturmer Parish Council has No Comment to make on this planning application**

26/01667/VAR - 6 Wheel Chase Sturmer Essex
Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of approved application 25/01743/HH granted 05/08/2025 for: Erection of a single storey detached outbuilding. Variation will allow: Increase in size of outbuilding.
Due to the time constraints set by BDC the following response was sent to BDC under "Delegated Power" on 04.08.26. **Sturmer Parish Council has No Comment to make on this planning application**

26/02254/FUL - Land East Of Water Lane Sturmer
Proposed agricultural storage building & associated development.
RESOLVED: Sturmer Parish Council objects to this planning application
The area is being used as a builder's yard with commercial waste being disposed of.
The waste is also being burnt which has not received permission to undertake (Environmental Protect Act of 1990 S 33 & 34 apply)
There has been no sign of any agricultural taking place since the applicant purchased the area
There have been 3 planning applications for this site. See BDC website at
https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage

Comments from Essex Highways also confirms that from a highway and transportation perspective, the impact of the proposal is NOT acceptable to the Highway Authority

Sturmer Parish Council also concurs with all the residents' objection comments placed on the BDC website

064/2026 Finance

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

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 30th. September 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 September and October 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

065/2026 Budget 2027/2028 – Councillors discussed the 2027/2028 budget

066/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

067/2026 Date of the Next Meeting – Tuesday 24th. November 2026 at 7.30pm

068/2026 2026 meeting dates: No meeting in December

069/2026 2027 meeting dates: 26.01: 23.02: 23.03: 27.04: 25.05: 22.06: 27.07: 28.09: 26.10: 30.11.27

070/2026 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 member of the press and public. Cllr D. Porth seconded. **All Agreed**

a) Councillors discussed staffing matters

071/2026 Closure of the Meeting To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed *TJones* 24th. November 2026

T. Jones - Chair