

Stow Maries Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 20th January 2025

in The Smythe Hall, Church Lane, Stow Maries at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Matt Cooper welcomed all those present.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDEES AND OTHER ATTENDEES

Councillors:- Matt Cooper, Neil Gilmore, David Hopping, Debbie Driver & Adam Brown.

District: No one in attendance

Essex CC Cllr Jane Fleming

In attendance: Parish Clerk

Members of Public: 4

Cllr Matt Cooper made a sad announcement that Henry Harris a member of the Parish, who had served at one time as Parish Clerk for the Village had passed away the previous week. Clerk to send condolences to Mrs Harris from the Parish Council.

24-5/110 APOLOGIES

No apologies were given.

24-5/111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) No declaration were made at this point in the meeting.

24-5/112 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

a) The minutes of the meeting of 25th November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman Cllr Matt Cooper as a true and accurate record.

24-5/113 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

a) No report was available.

Cllr Hopping joined the meeting at this point.

24-5/114 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

a) The monthly report was received and forwarded to all the members.

A discussion concerning the grant for improving the local bus service and the deadline for applications was 21st February which could not be extended. Cllr Driver had researched that the bus timetable dated January 2025 showed 4 buses per day from South Woodham Ferrers to Bradwell On Sea.

It was also stated that the Government will create Unitary Councils in the Great Essex Area. The May elections will possibly be postponed.

If needed due to absence of a District Councillor at the Parish Council Meetings, the members of the North West Planning Committee can be approached directly to call in a planning application.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Fleming and she left the meeting at this point.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

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24-5/115 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC -An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues.

Everyone was brought up to date regarding the Parochial Church Council and the Smythe Hall Management Committee holding a meeting to update the Constitution. The meeting went well and the new Constitution would be circulated to the relevant parties.

The Fundraising Group raise funds for the Church and the Smythe Hall and the funds are distributed according to which building needs the funds at that time, but on the whole it is a 50/50 split. The Chair gave a vote of thanks to Mr. John Pilgrim for attending the meeting and providing this update.

A planning applicant raised concerns that the District Council had not called in his application and thereby not giving them a chance to put their case forward at the planning meeting.

24-5/116 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:-

- a) i) **Application No: 24/00906/FULM PP-13568485**
Proposal: Development of a new winery unit environmental water treatment plant and attenuation area with new highway access and landscaping enhancements Location: New Commercial Building At Great Hayes Business Park Lower Burnham Road Stow Maries. D/L extended response to be sent in on 21/1/25. Members approved this application as they considered that this was beneficial to the local area, good for employment as it is designed to serve the winery's in the local area most of whom currently transport their crop out of county. This development will also lower the carbon footprint.
- b) **Planning correspondence** received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:
 - i) Planning application listings were noted
 - ii) Planning decisions and appeals were noted
 - iii) Planning Decisions:- none at the time of writing.
- c) **MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**
 - i) No information at this time.
- d) **BRADWELL B**
 - i) No information at this time.
- e) **STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME**
 - i) No information at this time.

24-5/117 HIGHWAY & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

- a) The vegetation from Honeypot Lane to the Three Rivers Golf Club, is on the list to be done by ECC through the member led scheme that Cllr Fleming has been dealing with. Clerk to chase.

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

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- b) Clerk still to compare the land owned by ECC and the land that is maintained currently by the Parish Council.

Clerk has requested a quote for refurbishing the Village Sign from Bakers of Danbury.

24-5/118 FINANCE

- a) Members approved the payments and receipts for the January 2025 meeting.
b) Members reviewed the bank reconciliation and subject to a change it was approved.

Dec 24 & Jan 25	DATE	CHEQUE NO	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
35/24-25	20/01/2025	100673	Heartbeat	Annual charge for support for Der at Smythe Hall	£165.00	£33.00	£198.00
36/24-25	20/01/2025	100674	Sue Lees	Accessibility Yearly cost	£390.00		£390.00
37/24-25	20/01/2025	100675	Smythe Hall	Annual Hire Charge	£125.00		£125.00
38/24-25	20/01/2025	100675	Sarah Sayer	Salary Month 9	£302.39		£302.39
39/24-25	20/01/2025	100675	Sarah Sayer	Exp Month 9	£50.13		£50.13
40/24-25	20/01/2025	100675	Sarah Sayer	Salary Month 10	£302.39		£302.39
41/24-25	20/01/2025	100675	Sarah Sayer	Exp Month 10	£46.83		£46.83
42/24-23	20/01/2025	100676	HIMRC	Tax for Month 9 & 10	£21.20		£21.20
					£1,402.94	£33.00	£1,435.94

24-5/119 WEBSITE

- a) The Accessibe for the website has been updated for another year at a cost of £390.00.

24-5/120 BUS GRANT INITIATIVE

This item was covered under Agenda item 24-5-114. However, also Purleigh PC were organising a meeting between a few parishes to see if an joint application would be more beneficial.

24-5/121 VE DAY 8TH MAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS

Members discussed and it was decided that if the Fundraising group were organising anything that a contribution would be made. Chair to liaise.

24-5/122 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Nothing was discussed.

24-25/123 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 24th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

The date of the meeting was moved from 17th Feb to 24th February due to the meeting not being quorate on 17th Feb.

**24-5/124 ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN TRANSACTED THE CHAIR
THANKS EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING & CLOSES THE
MEETING at 8.45pm.**

Signed by the Chairman.....
Cllr Matthew Cooper

Dated 24th February 2025