

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 11th November 2021

Time: 5.30pm

Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill Road, Toot Hill, Essex

PRESENT:

Councillors (5) Cllr Glover (Chairman), Cllr Jackson*, Cllr Mrs Jackman, Cllr Adams*, Cllr Hollington

* attended remotely via Zoom

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (5)

Members of the Press (1)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present. Three were present to address the Council on a number of matters included in letters written to the council, and one was present to answer questions concerning the Speederbot agenda item. The Chairman invited those who had written to the Council to address the meeting first, and the following points were raised:

1. Broken Drain Cover outside 15 London Road, exposing large hole and being a danger to traffic along the A113. Present for at least two weeks, and first reported to ECC 13th October (ref 2744645), after which workmen arrived the same day to place board over drain, a cone and an A-Frame warning sign, however these are being knocked over and the member of public is having to go into the road and replace them on a regular basis as they are being constantly hit by passing vehicles. The member of the public reported this issue again on 4th November (ref: 2748334) after which a lamp and sand bags were added, both of which are now also being hit. It was noted this was at the narrowest part of the road which exacerbated the problem. Cllr Hollington advised that this is the same location where the leylandii hedge grows into the road, and where the Council had previously contacted the land owner asking them to cut this back.
2. It was thought that part of the problem as to why the manhole has collapsed was due to the gullies being constantly blocked, and one of the local residents in attendance advised he had reported blocked gullies over three years ago to ECC however wasn't aware of any action having taken place. He had been advised there was a blockage along the ditch by Bridge Farm, and that just outside number 15 the gully crosses the road going down towards Bridge Farm, where it should then go under the bridge into the River Roding, but it does not. Instead, the water comes out of the drain by number 15, and then runs directly down the road, spraying into the front gardens of the adjacent properties. Furthermore, during winter months this becomes extremely dangerous because of ice.
3. Electricity power surges in Stanford Rivers caused by overgrowing tree. Councillors recalled that the Council got involved in this some months back, and raised the issue directly with UK Power Networks. Since this time local residents had noticed some visits, but no discernible action. The Clerk advised that after chasing she had obtained a direct contact number for the manager dealing with this area, and that she would contact the residents in attendance after she had spoken to him. A local residents advised that it would be interesting to understand if UK Power Networks plan to have the Aerial Bunch Conductors fitted and have the tree pruned which they had previously agreed would be completed.
4. Footpath between Bridge Farm and Ongar overgrown – This has been discussed numerous times by the Parish Council, and it was understood that from a cost perspective ECC will be looking at how many people walk this route versus to the cost to clear it, and it was not thought ECC would view this as a cost effective measure. As such, it was suggested that this could be a job for the Highway Rangers subject to the job fulfilling the requirements.
5. Speed of Traffic through Stanford Rivers – this would be addressed during the meeting under the Speederbot item.
6. Shonks Mill Flood Plain – A Local residents asked for an update stating that he recalled initially this was not supported. The Clerk advised that there had been a number of meetings over the past two years at which this was discussed, including a public meeting held by the Environment Agency, and that this

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scheme was going ahead with discussions currently taking place between Environment Agency and the land owner for the most suitable location for the bund / storage area. The Clerk further advised that the Councils response was guided primarily by the land owner who had a detailed understanding of what was being proposed on his land. Cllr Jackson stated that Redbridge Council were paying quite a lot towards the works. A member of the public asked what this would mean for residents further along the River Roding near Bridge Farm, to which the Clerk advised that the Environment Agency had completed modelling to establish what the likely scenarios would be for other areas, and that she thought she still held the maps showing these scenarios, and if so she would endeavour to provide the local resident with a copy.

The Chairman thanked those members of the public present for reporting this issue and taking the time to write to, and attend, the Parish Council meeting. He explained that these issues are not within the power of the Parish Council to address, however the Council would do everything it could to support its residents and would ask the ECC Councillor for this area, Cllr Jaymey Maclvor, to escalate them via members enquiries. Cllr Jackson asked that the broken drain cover be dealt with separately to the blocked gullies, as one was clearly more of an urgent matter than the other. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested Cllr Maclvor should visit site.

P14.845 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Saridja.

P14.846 OTHER ABSENCES

Cllr Tallon.

P14.847 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hollington declared a pecuniary interest in the agenda item concerning EPF/1774/21.

P14.848 MINUTES

Following one correction agreed with the Chairman, Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2021.

P14.849 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Adams advised there was nothing specific to report. There had been a few issues in the surrounding areas, but nothing directly in the Parish.

P14.850 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** an oral report from the Clerk as follows:

- EFDC is conducting a consultation on its new Market Policy, which includes details regarding creating a market trading environment that compliments the surrounding area and retail offer, and recognising the importance and contribution of markets to the wellbeing of the local economy. As a Parish we have no market, however Councillors were able to comment on this Policy if they so wish. The consultation ends on Monday 6th December.
- Erection and lighting of Toot Hill Christmas Tree is expected to place on Sunday 28th November
- The Clerk will make arrangements for a wreath to be laid at the memorial in St Margaret's Church on Remembrance day, 11th November.
- WhatsApp message received from local resident advising that BT/Openreach are planning on erecting 15 poles along Blake Hall Road from the A414 with fibre cable running along the top. As a statutory undertaker, the Parish Council has no power in this regard.
- Scam emails received by Councillors from somebody purporting to be the Chairman. Councillors were reminded to check the actual email address itself to be sure who the sender is, and to change their passwords regularly.
- Fly tipping now cleared in the layby by Traceys Farm, however it took two reports to get it moved. Cllr Hollington asked if there were ever any convictions for fly tipping, to which the Clerk advised that EFDC does secure convictions, however EFDC will not talk to the Clerk whilst there was an ongoing investigation.
- Interim Internal Audit will be taking place Friday 12th November.
- Epping Forest District Council is completing a consultation on its Climate Change Action Plan, which runs until 26th November 2021. A copy of the Climate Change leaflet was attached to the agenda, and a copy of the action plan itself can be online. Cllr Hollington advised Councillors to review The Heartland Institute for further information. The Council did not agree to respond to this consultation.
- September ECC Highways Highlights attached to the agenda.
- FOI request for copies of any minutes which include details concerning the Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area – Clerk complied with within set timescales.

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- The Clerk has started the process of looking into WiFi at the Village Hall.
- Letter from Local Resident enquiring as to if there are plans for EFDC to purchase land / property in Garden Fields to create Council housing. This has been passed to EFDC Heather Brady.

P14.851 SPEEDERBOT

As agreed at the September meeting, the Clerk contacted Safer Communities to establish if they knew of anything concerning the Speederbot system, however no response has been received. Following further investigation, the Clerk noted that PC Fenn from the Essex Rural Engagement Team had responded to a Speederbot tweet in September, stating that he/she will ensure sporadic planned speed checks. As such, the Clerk has contacted PC Fenn for his comments on this system, who had replied however seemed to have misinterpreted what had been asked. Cllr Adams had advised at the September meeting that he would try and liaise with the person running Speederbot to establish if a spreadsheet could be created, and what any associated costs would be to obtain information.

Cllr Adams introduced Nick who was present at the meeting, advising that he too was interested in Speederbot and had an understanding of how the programme worked. Cllr Adams confirmed he had put together a briefing which the Clerk had emailed to all Councillors. One of the things Cllr Adams was unclear on was how the data was obtained, which Nick has an understanding of. The individual who was running the speederbot programme had put together some spreadsheets which Cllrs Adams and Jackson had looked through, and both felt this information could be useful with providing targeted times and days of the worst speeding offenders to the police. Cllr Adams recalled that the Clerk had previously brought up concerns about the legality of Speederbot and invited Nick to address the Council regarding how the data was obtained.

Nick advised he had looked into this in the early days when it first started, and was an avid cyclist with a great interest in road safety. Whilst Nick could not confirm exactly what programme the developer was using, he confirmed it would be based on a set model (the original one being released some time ago in Berkshire). The software structure is open source, meaning anybody access it, copy it, change it, or make money from it. The way it works is that there is a location services company called www.here.com, and one of the things they do is track vehicle movements via GPS signals and gather this data. This data is then available if you open a developer account (which is free), and you then have access to the data. You then build a 'bot' to harvest the data, and in the case of Speederbot it also tweets the data via social networking. Nick said it seems this developer has gone a step further and is recording the data. The 'bot' can be set to specific data, for example any speeds over 45mph only, and can look at times, data, direction and speed. The data is then sent in a spreadsheet, some of which is publicly available. At present this particular bot is sampling hourly, and on a specific area in London Road near the Autosshop. In terms of costing, Nick guessed that it would be probably around £5-10/month for hourly data. The only charge for this is from the company called 'Integromat' who are used to build the bot, and who take and manage the data from www.here.com.

Cllr Adams advised he hoped that going forward the Parish Council would support the Speederbot programme and would agree to pay for data which would help focus the community speedwatch campaign and assist with the involvement of the police and reducing traffic. Cllr Adams suggested that Speederbot Notices should be erected either through the village or on the Gateway signs which would help lower the speed through the village. Cllr Adams also addressed the Council's concern about the person running Speederbot choosing to remain anonymous, stating that he himself had received abuse when taking part in the Community Speedwatch Programme, and that this wasn't unusual. Cllr Adams felt the Speederbot initiative provided a great opportunity to focus and address the management of speed by providing specific days and times when speeding was most prevalent.

The Clerk asked Cllr Adams if he was looking for the Parish Council to fund the individual doing the Speederbot programme, or for the Parish Council to do it themselves, to which Cllr Adams responded advising that he feels the Council should support the speederbot programme, and to go one step further by asking for specific data that the Council feels would be useful and could use both with the police and the Community Speedwatch programme.

Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested other Parishes in the country who may be using this type of system should be contacted to see how they found the programme.

Cllr Jackson advised that there is an Earmarked reserve for the Speed Gun calibration and that perhaps these funds could be used towards the cost of obtaining the data, stating that having refined data to allow the Speedwatch and Police teams to target a specific part of the day would be exceptionally useful.

It was **AGREED** Cllr Jackson, Cllr Adams and if at all possible Nick who was present should liaise and establish

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what data would be useful, how it could be used, and how much the data would cost. In the meantime, the Clerk would contact Councils who may have been involved in this to establish their thoughts on the programme. The Clerk also confirmed that if the Council did pay for this data, a receipt / invoice would be needed.

The Chairman thanked Nick for attending the Parish Council meeting to address this matter.

Another local resident who was present expressed his concern about paying for this data and exactly how useful it would be, suggesting peoples time would be better spent joining the Community Speedwatch programme and physically recording vehicle speeds. He also stated that Essex Police has an online portal where you can report such crimes.

It was also **AGREED** that the Clerk would enquire as to whether or not Highways would be happy for Speederbot signs to be erected.

P14.852 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors **CONSIDERED** the following matters:

a. Councillors **NOTED** that the two refused Colemans Farm applications have been passed to Enforcement, and the Clerk has been advised to expect an update next week.

b. Councillors **CONSIDERED** the following matters:

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below		
EPF/2668/21	5 Church Cottages Church Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9PS	Proposed single storey rear extension. NO OBJECTION
EPF/2622/21 & EPF/2623/21L B	Stanford River House 135 London Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9PP	Single storey glass link building, internal works to create vaulted roof section with rooflight. Demolition of workshop and existing garage and erection of new garage, new boundary treatment and roof and fenestration changes. (Revised application to EPF/1526/21). NO OBJECTION
EPF/1774/21	Land adjacent to Maybanks Farm Ongar Toot Hill CM5 9SQ	Removal of existing barns and construction of a new detached dwelling. The Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to this application, however asks that the necessary condition is added to ensure all the barns indicated for removal as part of the application are, if possible, removed prior to the erection of the dwelling.
EPF/2849/21P N	Millside Toot Hill Road Ongar CM5 9LJ	Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed enlargement of a dwellinghouse by construction of additional storey. NOTED
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers		
EPF/2140/21	Clements Farm Toot Hill Road Ongar CM5 9LL	Proposal: Removal of existing stables, store buildings and raised ménage to include fences enclosing the manage etc. Proposed development of a single dwellinghouse. Existing site access off Toot Hill Road to be retained to facilitate access to the new dwelling and other parts of Clements Farm
<p>The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the basis of over overdevelopment in the Green Belt. Paragraph 145 of the NPPF states that a local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt, with a noted exception being the provision of appropriate facilities (in connection with the existing use of land or a change of use) for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation.....as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>The site currently comprises stabling and a ménage, both of which are deemed an exception in terms of building within Green Belt. Stables and their associated use is frequently seen in rural areas, and goes some way to help define what it means to live in the countryside.</p> <p>Over the past few years the Parish Council has seen a significant increase in applications using the fact that stables are 'present' on a site as justification to build a house in its place, stating this will</p>		

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'increase the openness of the Green Belt'. This Parish Council strongly disagrees. Using a calculation to measure the volume of stables (an accepted use in the Green Belt) and comparing this to the volume of a new build house (generally unacceptable in the Green Belt) is a poor way to measure the impact new buildings will have on the openness of the Green Belt, and this continuous ruse is both opportunistic and unsuitable. The continued urbanisation of the Countryside is decimating its rural character, and no exceptional circumstances have been presented to justify this application.

In addition, Toot Hill Road is extremely narrow. Whilst there may already be an existing access point, this does not automatically translate to it being a safe access point. In reality there is no clear view when exiting the site and turning left or right into Toot Hill Road. This Council wishes to express concerns about the suitability of the road to accommodate more traffic.

EPF/1967/21	Donkey Hoppit Toot Hill Road Ongar CM5 9QN	Proposed demolition of stable building, removal of part of hard standing and associated facilities. Change of use to C3 for proposed bungalow, formation of curtilage and landscaping scheme (Revised application to EPF/1278/21)
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The Parish Council continues to OBJECT to this application on the basis of over overdevelopment in the Green Belt. Paragraph 145 of the NPPF states that a local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt, with a noted exception being the provision of appropriate facilities (in connection with the existing use of land or a change of use) for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation.....as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the Green Belt. Whilst it is understood that the applicant has reduced the size of the building, it remains that permission was granted for stables in 2016 on this basis of it fulfilling the greenbelt exception criteria. If this site is no longer required for stabling, it should be returned to its pre-2016 state, thus respecting the openness of the Green Belt. Furthermore, if permission is granted, this would potentially lead to an 'infill plot' south west of the site, in what is an extremely rural are with a very narrow lane, and would further erode the openness of the countryside.

If the District Council is minded to grant permission, all permitted development rights should be removed from the site.

EPF/2246/21L B	Bugle Cottage School Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9PU	Grade II listed building application to board off the existing internal studs between the kitchen & the utility & adding two studs.
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No Objection subject to listed building officer consent

3. To **NOTE** any planning applications upon which EFDC do not normally accept comments

Nil

4. To **NOTE** any enforcement actions or appeals.

NIL

5. To **NOTE** any other planning matters – including **Planning Decisions**

EPF/1738/21 - PERMISSION REFUSED 21/10/2021

Weald Lodge Toot Hill Road Ongar CM5 9LJ

Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing rear extension

The Parish Council has no objection to this application subject to listed building officer consent.

Reason for refusal is that the proposal, when viewed along previous additions, would be a disproportionate addition over and above the original building.

EPF/1967/21 - PERMISSION REFUSED 21/10/2021

Donkey Hoppit Toot Hill Road Ongar CM5 9QN

Proposed demolition of stable building, removal of part of hard standing and associated facilities. Change of use to C3 for proposed bungalow, formation of curtilage and landscaping scheme (Revised application to EPF/1278/21)

The Parish Council objected to this application on the basis of overdevelopment in the green belt.

Reason for refusal was overdevelopment in the green belt and mitigation of SAC.

EPF/2246/21 LB – PERMISSION GRANTED 18/10/21

Bugle Cottage School Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9PU

Grade II listed building application to board off the existing internal studs between the kitchen & the utility & adding two studs.

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The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

EPF/1576/21 – PERMISSION REFUSED 10/9/21

Lilac House 6 London Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9PH

Construction of new single storey bungalow and associated works including access, parking and landscaping
The Parish Council objected to this application on the basis of highway safety and out of keeping with historic street scene.

Reasons for refusal included development in the green belt, erosion of establish gab, and lack of mitigation for EF SAC

P14.853 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

a) Local Highway Panel Requests

Councillors **NOTED** the update on LHP schemes for this Parish, or ones this Parish has an interest in, below:

- LEPP192054 – A113 London Road, Stanford Rivers Signage scheme – Approved for funding 2021/2022 – Agreed by the LHP to be a priority for the 2021/2022 budget, and estimated completion for Q4.
- LEPP202031 - A113 Romford Road, Great Colemans, Stanford Rivers, Request for measures to protect Grade 2 listed building from large vehicles clipping the property's guttering and wall. Such as signage (slow / narrow section) and metal barriers around the base of the building to stop lorries from being able to get close enough to collide with the gutter, at Validation Stage, awaiting Highway Boundary information. NOTE: This was not submitted by the Parish Council. Still in validation stage.
- LEPP202048 - A113 Romford Road jw Little bury Mill, Stanford Rivers – Request for Traffic calming measures at the junction, at Validation Stage, awaiting speed and volume information. NOTE: This was not submitted by the Parish Council. At same stage.
- LEPP202047 – A113 London Road, Stapleford Tawney, request for traffic calming measures and signage, at Validation Stage, awaiting speed and volume information. NOTE: This was submitted by the Parish Council, but is not within the Parish. Still in validation stage
- NEW REQUEST: A113 Layby near Traceys Farm – request for hedging to be removed and replaced with reflective barriers. No update.
- NEW REQUEST: A new formal LHP request has been sent for the reinstatement of signage outside Piggotts for directional signage towards Toot Hill. This was supported by ECC Cllr Mclvor. No update.

b) Local Highway Panel Minutes – September 2021

Item 5 of the minutes from the LHP meeting in September 2021 details a new right for Parish Councils to purchase and install their own Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID). Councillors were asked to **CONSIDER** if this is something that would be of interest to the Parish. The Clerk has already emailed ECC Cllr Mclvor for more information. Councillors felt that the signs which lit up with the specific mileage that a car was doing, or the ones which show a 'Thank you' sign if a vehicle is driving at the correct speed, were very effective. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would look into the cost and process of securing these signs. Cllr Jackson suggested Matt may want to look at this for Toot Hill. It was **AGREED** to place this on the next meeting agenda for full consideration.

- ### c) Flooding of A113 near Traceys Farm
- On 5th October the Clerk emailed photos to officers at EFDC and ECC Cllr Mclvor of the flooding near to Tracey's Farm on the A113 following a period of rainfall, to identify that whatever works may have taken place have not resolved the problem of flooding at this location. An Officer at EFDC advised that as Essex Highways (EH) had still not managed to fully re-grade and de-silt the west side ditch that rests fully within the strip of land they own on the west side, the water from the wider catchment was still able to flow straight out on to the carriageway by the lay-by, after which, due to the inadequacy of the road gullies, it pools in the low point between the entrances to Traceys Farm and 157-159 London Road. He further stated that there appears to be good capacity with the twin highway culverts that take the flow under the road (image attached to the agenda), and there isn't any debris caught in the pipe mouths that could have hindered the flow, hence his continuing view that the EH assets remain the primary factor. He stated that back in February he had requested EH to clear out 320m of their ditch, but as we were made aware only less than 50m of that materialised in July,

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and although he was told that the remainder would be done and was awaiting programming, he assumed this was still the case as there was no indication on EH's online future roadworks map that a date has been set.

However, following this email Cllr Mclvor contacted the team at EHs who advised that these additional works were completed on 20th October, and this included ditch clearance and cleansing of all highway assets including those mentioned. In addition, Cllr Mclvor had been advised that EH will continue to monitor the area to ensure the works carried out have worked. The EFDC Officer subsequently responded advising he was yet to see the works that Essex Highways had now completed, but hopefully they would be sufficient to deal with normal events. But stated that in instances of such major rainfall, the occurrences of which appear to be happening far more frequently, it can be expected that systems will be overwhelmed as even when functioning at capacity, these systems, be that open or piped watercourses and highway assets, constructed and evolved over many decades, won't have been designed for this magnitude of events and hence there will be localised flooding. The catchment that ultimately drains to this point is around 2.5km² which is quite substantial, but as 99% open land, that will at least slow the flows compared with a similar sized catchment in an urban area.

Cllr Jackson asked for confirmation that the pipe, which this Council has been told is too narrow by a local resident, has not been replaced, which was confirmed by the Clerk. It was also noted that if flooding continued to be a problem at this location, then further more serious works including possibly changing the size of the pipe may well need to be considered by EH. A local resident advised that he felt the size of the pipe wasn't the problem and that the issue is the volume of water.

Cllr Hollington advised that ECC did a lot of drainage work around the road from Greensted up the duck pond, which was fine until there was a deluge of rain a few weeks after. In instances of severe rainfall, even the best of drains will struggle to cope.

P14.854 STANFORD RIVERS (LITTLE END) CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

As a result of COVID, last years Christmas Tree Lighting event in Stanford Rivers had to be cancelled. However, it was agreed at the September meeting to plan to go ahead with this years event subject to any changes in Government guidance. As the Toot Hill Event is proposed for 28th November, it was agreed that the Little End event takes place on Sunday 5th December. The Clerk has contacted the parishioner who assists with carols and she is unfortunately unavailable. In addition, the organisation which provides Santa's sleigh is only available between 4.45pm and 5.15pm. It was therefore agreed to hold the event at 4pm. The Clerk has purchased 600 warm white battery powered lights for the tree, and placed an order for a 12ft tree which is expected to be available at the end of November. Cllr Jackson confirmed he would be happy to deliver leaflets, and would also ask Cllr Saridja. The Clerk would prepare the leaflets and the Chairman the poster.

P14.855 IDEAS AS TO HOW TO SPEND GRANT FUNDING FROM CLLR MCIVOR

Councillors recalled this item from the September meeting, where the following ideas had been provisionally agreed to put forward to Cllr Mclvor as suitable schemes for the funding available from ECC (approximately £1,000):

1. First aid courses for the community in the Parish, possibly to include specific defibrillator training.
2. Installation of a Defibrillator in Stanford Rivers (Little End).

It was noted that Cllr Mclvor had advised he felt first aid training would not be suitable for this funding, however felt the provision of a defibrillator possibly could be, but would need to know how it would be funded and managed going forward. Cllr Adams suggested the defibrillator could be located on the house next to the old post office, albeit he had not spoken to them. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested the Woodman, however it was felt this was possibly too far at the end of the village. It was felt that if the defibrillator was in a prominent location it would need to be a locked cabinet for reasons of security. If the cabinet was located on somebody's property, the Council would probably need to pay an annual contribution towards electricity costs, and in addition care would be needed when installing so it didn't affect the fabric of the property thus causing leaks, etc. Other suggestions included Piggots and purchasing a phone box to place on Jubilee Green. It was **AGREED** to put in News and Views, and also for Cllr Adams to have a conversation with the resident of the suggested property.

P14.856 REPORTS

Members **RECEIVED** the following reports:

- Chairman's Report – No further report.

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- Vice Chairman's Report – Cllr Jackson had attended a community specials briefing in October, and had provided a summary of the meeting which was attached to the agenda. Cllr Jackson summarised advising the organisation was still having trouble sourcing people who wanted to be a community special constable, mostly because it is a volunteer role, and that only a few had been set up in Essex. Most who were in post were so in the village in which they live. Specials have full police powers, must volunteer for a minimum of 16 hours per month, and can decide on their own shift pattern. Some Specials have been using this as a spring board to get into the police, however this is not something the Police encourage. Securing willing volunteers was a problem across the County. It was **AGREED** to rejig the email from Cllr Jackson and include it in the next News and Views. It was noted that Community Speedwatch programme would start again in the Spring of 2022.

P14.857 QUEENS JUBILEE 2ND JUNE 2022

This item will be on the January Parish Council meeting for further discussion.

P14.858 LETTERS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS REGARDING A NUMBER OF ISSUES

The Clerk had received two letters from local residents regarding the following issues:

- Power Surges in Stanford Rivers
- Flooding at Bridge Farm
- Overgrown Footpath Bridge Farm and Ongar
- Speed of Traffic through Stanford Rivers
- Flood Plain Shonks Mill

A copy of these letters were attached to the agenda. Both residents were present at the meeting, and all these issues were discussed at the start of the meeting, with any agreed action being recorded.

P14.859 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

Councillors **NOTED** the following update:

- a) Cllr Tallon to provide an update on the replacement / repair of the light at the front of the hall – **AGREED** Clerk to chase Cllr Tallon. It was also **NOTED** that the light outside the kitchen door was becoming a problem for local residents and it kept going on at night. The Clerk advised this was a safety light and could not be turned off because it was a fire exit. It was **AGREED** to place this light on a timer so that it does not turn off between 12am and 7am, and if and when they need to be replaced look at alternatives.
- b) A Fire Safety Risk Assessment was conducted by Essex Fire Safety on 26th October 2021, including the replacement of any necessary fire extinguishers. A copy of the report and invoice had not been received in time to be reported to the meeting, however this was expected shortly. Councillors **NOTED** that there may be actions that are needed.
- c) A date for the garage clearance has not yet been set, however this is expected to take place in the new year. The Folk Club have advised of a number of items which belong to them, and one other regular user has now removed their items.
- d) Following the application via the ECC COVID Community Buildings Fund for the provision of funding to allow for a 2 hour weekly deep COVID clean between 1st October 2021 and 31st March 2022, the Clerk has received notification this application has been successful. Funds have been transferred, and the hall cleaner has already started this weekly additional clean. The total cost of the grant received was £780.
- e) Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk was notified that the hall boiler was not working (as seems to be a regular occurrence when moving from summer to winter). The Chairman was unable to get the boiler working, and as such Hellaby's had been called out and effected a repair, which they did by resetting the upso valve on the LGP tank. The boiler is now fully functional, and an invoice is awaited.
- f) The Clerk has written to a local resident adjacent to Toot Hill Village Hall advising that they have permission to park a maximum of two vehicles in the car park at any time.
- g) The Village Hall uses LPG (liquified petroleum gas). When the Council took over the hall, it was agreed with Calor to go onto a 'manual ordering' system. Four weeks ago the Clerk liaised with Calor and was advised that the tank was extremely low. As such, and in order to ensure consistency of service for hall users, this has now been moved to an 'automated ordering' system, where an automated order will be made when the tank goes below 15%. The tank was filled in October.

P14.860 NEWS AND VIEWS

The next publication was expected mid November. Cllr Adams suggested something should be included about

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speederbot.

P14.861 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following payments were **AGREED**.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerks Salary October and November 2021	£720.00 (paid monthly £360)
BACS	HMRC	PAYE October and November 2021	£180 (paid monthly £90)
BACS	RCCE	Annual Subscription	£72.60 (£12.10 VAT)
BACS	David Wickham	Clean Toot Hill VH Sep and Oct, and Phone box tidy and COVID cleans	£155.90 (£0 VAT)
BACS	EALC	ECC Highways Briefing 7/10 – Cllr Jackson	£24.00 (£4 VAT)
BACS	North Weald PC	Remembrance Sunday lunch and wreathes	£73.00 (£0 VAT)
D/D	Eon	Electricity supply Toot Hill Village Hall	£12.90 (£0.61 VAT)
BACS	Calor	Gas standing charge Toot Hill Village Hall, plus refill of gas tank	£652.40 (£31.07 VAT)
BACS	SK Automotive	Grass Cut, and hedge cutting	£400.50 (£66.75 VAT)

Bank Balances as at 31st October 2021

Unity Current Account 4775	£ 29,580.88
Unity Deposit Account 4788	£ 39,539.00

INCOME: £55.00 – Radio Forest Hospital THVH income 11/9 (bacs)
 £54.00 – Silk Group THVH income 4/9 (U000034)
 £72.60 – Galloway THVH income 27/11 (U000033)
 £780.00 – RCCE COVID Grant (bacs)
 £120.00 – OWS THVH Income (U000035)
 £187.00 – M Tallon THVH Income various dates (bacs)

b. Update on Cllr Tallon change of signatory

Unity Bank has confirmed that Cllr Tallon is now a signatory on the Councils bank accounts. Cllr Tallon is asked to confirm that his electronic access has been set up and is active.

P14.862 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** the date of the next meeting:

- 5th December – 4pm Christmas Tree Lighting Stanford Rivers
- 13th January 2022 – 5.30pm Toot Hill Village Hall

Signed Date