

# Staple Parish Council.

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at 7.30 pm in Staple Village Hall

## Councillors present:

Cllr. Trevor Bartlett (Chair), Cllr. John Kirk, Cllr. Dave Kirk, Cllr. R. Loukes, Cllr. Sue Coulson, Cllr. Neil McCollum, Cllr. Glynis McCollum, Mr Jonathan Mount (Parish Clerk), PCSO Jacqui Brook, Cllr. Mike Connolly

## Members of the public present

5 members of the public present

- 1. Apologies for absence:** There were none.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. To elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.**

### **To elect representatives for:**

Chairman: Mr T. Bartlett (Proposed: Cllr. D Kirk, Seconded: Cllr. J. Kirk)

Deputy Chairman: Mr J Kirk (proposed: Cllr. R. Loukes, Seconded Cllr. N. McCollum)

Footpaths. Sue Coulson (Proposed: Cllr. T Bartlett, Seconded: Cllr. G McCollum)

Highways & Transportations: R. Loukes (Proposed: Cllr. J. Kirk, seconded: Cllr. S Coulson)

Village Hall Committee: Cllr. J Kirk. (Proposed: Cllr. G. McCollum, seconded: Cllr. D. Kirk)

Any others as deemed necessary: There were no others.

### **4. Minutes of previous meeting:**

- 4.1 To approve any amendments and authorise signature of the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Resolved: The minutes were duly authorised and signed by the Chairman.

- 4.2 Matters arising: Cllr. G. McCollum asked if there was any update on Summerfields decision?

The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been a response; and that it had been sent to Councillors by Cllr. R Loukes after the last meeting. The property has to be vacated within 12 months from 6<sup>th</sup> May.

- 5. Public session:** A member of the public spoke about the change of use of a footpath to a bridleway. The decision has not yet been published but there are 42 days left in which to object. It will disadvantage pedestrians. Upkeep during winter will be a problem. 3m width will be a problem owing to restriction of buildings. In fact, anything more than 2m will be a problem. Law protects curtilages. If the path was to be widened, drains etc. will be exposed which will pose a danger to pedestrians. One of the maps submitted is completely inaccurate and based upon hand-drawn maps. Generations have always known it to be a footpath. It is unsafe approaching the road for someone on horseback. A member of the public asked if it had been discussed before. It was confirmed that it had been discussed, but it was not thought that it would affect residents of Staple. Another member of the public said it should be kept as it is; and that another bridleway is not necessary in that position. But more bridleways in the area are necessary in order to keep horses off the road.

### **6. Councillors' and PCSO Reports:**

- 6.1 DDC (Cllr. M. Connolly). Already circulated to Councillors. Appended to the minutes.

- 6.2 KCC (Cllr. S. Chandler): No report circulated.

- 6.3 PCSO (Jacqui Brook) Gave a report and introduced herself with a brief background on what she had been doing etc. She has produced a report but e-mail did not send/arrive. She asked that should anyone have any questions, then they should contact her and she will feed them back to the team. Engagement sessions are taking place across the district. There are financial constraints; the way PCSOs operate is very different to how it used to be. Cllr Loukes spoke about visibility and asked why we hardly ever see police cars. He confirmed that there had only been one visit from the police in the 4 years that speedwatch has been running. He has written to the Commissioner; but nothing appears to have changed. Cllr. Bartlett asked about a local crime in the area and the PCSO gave a brief report on what had happened. She mentioned a CCTV camera positioned in Ash car park. Cllr Bartlett also spoke about a local burglary. The offender had been caught and is now in custody. The PCSO will try to attend meetings on a bi-monthly basis. Cllr G. Connolly asked if hare coursing was still an issue. Jacqui said not as far as she was aware.

## 7. Finance:

7.1 Approval of the accounts and bank reconciliation for March 2022

7.2 Bills to be approved:

Cheque No. BACS	Clerk's Salary	£200
Cheque No. BACS	HMRC	£39.80
Cheque No. BACS	Zurich (insurance)	£396.80
Cheque No. 200407	John Hall	£180.00
Cheque No. 200408	Sandwich Med. Trust	£696.67

Resolved: These cheques were approved. (Proposed: Cllr. J Kirk, Seconded: Cllr.R. Loukes)

7.3 Approval of annual donation to Staple Village Hall. This needs to be in writing. Clerk will obtain a written donation request before the next meeting.

7.4 Approval and signing of the exemption certificate for the AGAR: Resolved that it be signed by the Chairman

7.5 Discussion and approval of Internal Auditor. S Coulson to ask Mrs Bridie Passmore.

7.6 Discussion concerning budget for 2022-2023. The subject of a budget was discussed. The Clerk pointed out that more has been spent this year than was spent at the same time last year. An annual budget is considered the norm for a parish council / would help with setting the Precept for next year/ help with spending this year. It was resolved that a budget should be produced in time to be discussed at the meeting in July.

## 8. Correspondence received:

8.1 Consideration of purchase of dog bin(s) ref. recent email sent to Councillors: Councillors did not consider the scheme (from Eco green communities) to be a good use of available funds. It was decided to re-consider the idea after the budget.

## 9. Planning and other Reports:

Planning application no:	Location	Summary	Status
22/00370	1, Bartlett Close, Staple	Erection of ancillary building	Granted
22/00295	Bay Cottage, Lower Road, Staple	Erection of single storey side extension	Granted
21/01560	Frog and Orange	4 buildings (for info)	Refused
CON/19/00538/H	Three Tuns, Staple	Removal of condition 4 (parking space provision and retention) of planning permission 21/01852 Erection of single storey, two-storey extensions and double garage	Awaiting decision
CON/21/01632/B	Summerfield Nurseries	Archaeology	Awaiting decision
CON/21/01632/A	Summerfield Nurseries	Surface water	Awaiting decision
22/00639	Barnsole Barn, Fleming Road	Removal of condition 4 (parking space provision) Erection of single storey/two-storey extensions and double garage.	Under consideration

8.2 Village Hall and Recreation Ground: Cllr. J. Kirk gave a report and said that the WFV had offered to tidy the front of the village hall / explained that the area would need to be cleared before planting. Steady trickle of bookings coming in. More teaspoons are required. Windows need cleaning. Cllr. D. Kirk agreed to get quotes for regular window cleaning.

8.3 SID/Speedwatch (Report circulated). Cllr Loukes gave a report /explained his written report. He said that there were currently eight volunteers; but that more were always needed. Cllr. N McCollum said that the speed strip will be in place before school finishes (within the next few weeks).

8.4 Footpaths: Cllr Coulson said there was nothing to report at the moment. There is a lot of growth owing to the weather conditions. The council have only cut back one footpath. Council then discussed bridleways. (A topic previously raised during the public section of the meeting). Cllr. McCollum said that the council should maintain the present footpaths, rather than change their use; and that there wasn't a need for another bridleway when there is already one in the local vicinity. It was agreed that the Parish Council should support the proposal that the member of the public spoke about.

Proposed. J Kirk seconded by Cllr. G. McCollum. Council must maintain the paths that are there.

## **10.Items for discussion:**

10.1 DDC Grants. The grant had been allocated but had not yet been received at the bank.

10.2 National bus strategy update. Not very much to report. Cllr. G. McCollum mentioned some of the points in the very lengthy report that had been circulated to all Councillors.

**11Any other business:**Additional correspondence, as permitted by the chair: Cllr. S Coulson asked if the Parish Council could thank the Jubilee committee for the fantastic effort that everyone made to make it such a memorable occasion. It was agreed that thanks should also go to those who had organised the very successful and well-attended street party.

Defibrillator...R. Loukes gave a brief report and mentioned that he had received correspondence concerning the defibrillator. There was an incident in the village, but villagers did not know there was a defibrillator at the village hall.

## **12 Any confidential items to be discussed:**

**13 Date of next meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**