

## MINUTES OF THE STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm** in Staple Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Bartlett (Chairman), J Kirk(Vice-Chairman) Loukes, D Kirk, Davis-Marks, Martin and Ewart

**IN ATTENDANCE:** There were 3 members of the public in attendance and Hannah Biggs-Halles (clerk).

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Sue Chandler (KCC)  
Cllr Martin Porter (DDC)

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Davis-Marks and seconded by Cllr J Kirk

To report and discuss any completed actions/matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Traveller sites in the village – Following September's meeting, all relevant correspondence with DDC was forwarded from the Chairman to Cllr Davis-Marks.

The owners of the land were asked to apply for planning permission, which was denied. They then appealed and this was also refused. They were given a year to move and this time has now passed.

Cllr Davis-Marks reports that DDC have been evasive and unhelpful so Cllr Davis-Marks intends to contact the Head of Enforcement – Roger Walton. The Chairman has agreed to email and CC in Cllr Davis-Marks as an introduction.

Cllr Davis- Marks reports more caravans on the Woodnesborough site and concerns from members of the public regarding dogs on the Staple site. These have been reported to the Dog Warden, who is unable to take action, and the RSPCA.

Cllr Loukes suggested co-ordinating with Woodnesborough Parish Council. The Chairman agreed and requested that they be copied in to emails to DDC.

Damage to Mill Road and Mill Lane – Cllr Davis-Marks has checked on the KCC reporting tool and there are already several reports regarding the pot holes, he has submitted two more. There is some white paint around the holes.

The Chairman and Cllr Davis-Marks visited the development on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and spoke to the Site Manager. He was very polite but unhelpful and has reported that they're unable to address the state of the roads, only KCC can. He said he would speak to drivers about their speed but was not concerned about the **suppy** of water to the travellers. The Chairman has pushed for it to be cut off.

One of the conditions of the Planning Permission was to return the road to its original condition, once the development is complete. There are concerns that this is too late as the road is unsafe. Cllr Martin raised that there must be a Community Liaison Officer for the company.

Goodnestone to Staple Footpath – Cllr Loukes has submitted a response to the Planning Inspectorate and receipt has been acknowledged.

Catalogue and map of footpaths – To be discussed under footpaths

DPI forms – All now complete and with the Chairman to be hand delivered to DDC.

3.2.6.Acceptance of Office Forms - HBH will visit each Cllr to get these signed in the coming week or so.

- 4. PUBLIC SESSION (Max. 15 minutes)** Opportunity for members of public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 4 minutes and should direct comments to the chairman. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the speed of the building site traffic and how they are chasing cyclists. She reports having no time to even get on to the bank in the mornings as they're driving so fast, especially as the light is poor in the mornings.

The Chairman suggested recording details from the vehicles of getting film footage. The vehicles are also dumping lots of rubbish.

A member of the public raised concerns about the risk related to cars parking on the bend by Layham Garden Centre – the Chairman was pleased to report that he has managed to solve the issue. He spoke to the owner of the vehicles last week, who agrees that he doesn't wish to park his car there but has little choice. The Chairman has since spoken to the owner of The Black Pig, who has agreed for the car to be parked there.

Cllr J Kirk suggested formally thanking the owner of the Black Pig – HBH to arrange

There was some discussion regarding the footpath across the vineyard (the Laslett's land) and the fact that people are forced to use Julian's field instead. There was also discussion regarding the footpath which runs behind the memorial. This should run through the field.

## **5. FINANCE**

Financial Statements for June, July, August and September 2023 to include income, expenditure and bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The clerk provided printed income and expenditure reports and bank reconciliations to each Cllr. She reports a low expenditure for the YTD, but this is expected to go up. The **Clekr** cannot find a budget for 2023/4 but feels strongly that the Council should be working to increase their reserves considerably.

Bills to be approved (to include those received after the agenda was printed)

5.2.1. Clerk's expenses (£134) and Salary (£271.05)

5.2.2. Harmer and Sons – Invoice received after the agenda was printed - £456 for clearance of the are in front of the Village Hall.

Both proposed by Cllr J Kirk, Seconded by Cllr Davis-Marks

Bills to be ratified

Clerk overtime – Proposed by Cllr Davis-Marks, seconded by Cllr Ewart.

The Chairman raised that the Council agrees unanimously and would like to thank HBH for her hard work.

- 6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** To review correspondence received since the previous meeting which has not been included in the agenda

Audit update from KALC – we are exempt from Audit.

A257 Traffic Group Minutes – 9/9/23 – Point 7 requires Staple Parish Council's agreement.

Cllrs agree unanimously to support the letter.

Durlock Road – Temporary Closure – 26/10/23 – to be posted on the village Facebook group by the Clerk. Cllr Davis-Marks queried if closures are coordinated – it seems ridiculous to not arrange work all together – the development company needs to coordinate with services.

Received after the agenda was printed;

The dog waste bin outside the Village Hall is damaged – Cllr Loukes reports it has since been repaired.

Woodnesborough Parish Council have had their SID stolen. This has been reported to the police.

KALC have provided a Model Clerk's Contract – to be reviewed by the Employment Committee and signed at November's meeting.

**7. REPORTS** (to be provided in advance in writing where possible please)

District Councillor

None

County Councillor

None

Village Hall and Recreation Grounds

Cllr Kirk reported that the Village Hall is about to undergo its routine Electrical Safety Testing and playpark Safety Inspection.

Bookings are still down and the Village Halls reserves are dwindling, whilst other local Village Halls seem to be doing well. A trustee of the Village Hall did reach out for support to relaunch the Youth Club but there have been no offers for help.

Highways (SID, Speedwatch, HIP)

Cllr Loukes reports that our SID has been taken down for now, due to the local theft.

Speedwatch is returning at the end of October. Full report - Appendix B

Footpaths

As requested at September's meeting, Cllr Loukes has prepared and distributed a list of all footpaths in the parish, including their reference no. (Appendix C) The footpaths marked yellow on the report are those which the Council are uncertain regarding the land ownership.

The Clerk requested printed copies of the map showing the footpaths, for each Cllr but Cllr Loukes reports that it's very difficult to print from the relevant website and include all of the paths. A member of the public suggested requesting maps from KCC.

Cllr Martin suggests that she may know who owns E186.

The Chairman reports that the Footpaths in Shatterling are lovely to walk and well maintained. He also notes that people are often straying from the clear path on EE186A.

7.5.1. Review of path ownership - Cllr Martin suggests that she may know who owns E186.

Planning (Appendix A)

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

RBL Poppy Wreath – Clerk to arrange purchase

Donation – donation to be raised to £50. Cllrs voted unanimously in favour.

8.1.2. PC representative for Church Service – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Cllr Loukes unable to attend. Cllr Davis-Marks volunteered to attend.

Highways Improvement Plan Review

The Chairman requested the list of our priorities, as in the HIP. Cllr Loukes was able to provide this as it was passed to him by Cllr McCollum.

The Chairman noted that the Precept was raised to support the HIP but increasing cost may negate this.

1<sup>st</sup> Priority – Dragon's Teeth - £500 each but KCC say they're not feasible

2<sup>nd</sup> Priority - Junction of School Lane and The Street, road marking need refreshing but KCC should be doing so.

3<sup>rd</sup> Priority - The Street, Mill Lane, Mill Road – reduce speed to 30mph

Advised by KCC to wait for the new houses to be occupied before making changes

Cllr Davis-Marks queried how long it took to get a response from KCC. Cllr Loukes was unsure but estimated roughly a few months. The information above was from a response in February 2023.

It is agreed that the Clerk will take over the HIP. Cllr Loukes will send over the relevant documents.

Cllr Ewart reports that the white road markings through much of Shatterling are worn to the point that they are no longer visible. It is noted that worn road markings mean that traffic offences can't be enforced. Cllr Ewart will further report on the situation in Shatterling in November.

**9. QUESTIONS, ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS** To include items raised and noted at the meeting.

Cllr Loukes raised that a meeting of Kent Ramblers, in Lenham, is upcoming and has volunteered to attend. They will be discussing everything related to footpaths which could be very helpful.

Cllr Davis-Marks forwarded to all Cllrs a report about the recommendations for hybrid working. It is agreed that the Clerk will check with Rebecca Brough at DDC Democratic Support.

**21:04pm – The public were asked to leave to transact the following items;**

**10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED** All members of the public will be excluded at this point under Section 1 of the 1960 LGA Act

A resident has raised concerns regarding the welfare of some animals in the village. This was discussed and it was agreed that a member of the Council would visit and that all Cllrs would report concerns to the RSPCA.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Staple Village Hall

## APPENDIX A - PLANNING

### 1. For discussion

REF. #	ADDRESS	PLANNING FOR	COMMENT S	DATE FOR SUBMISSIO N	STATUS
23/01118	Chapel Farm The Barn Chapel Lane Staple CT3 1NX	Conversion of workshop area of barn to habitable accommodation with associated external alterations	Discussion regarding the proposed use and potential implications for cars on the road.  Proposed to support by Cllr J Kirk  Seconded by Cllr Loukes	16/10/23	AWAITING DECISION
23/01062	Rosedale Kennels Rusham Road Shatterling CT3 1JL	Creation of road entrance and car park	The Council raised serious concerns regarding the safety of another business entrance on that stretch of the A257.  Cllr Ewart Proposed to oppose the application  Cllr Loukes Seconded	Extension requested to 13/10/23	AWAITING DECISION

### 2. Applications received after agenda was printed

REF. #	ADDRESS	PLANNING FOR	COMMENTS	DATE FOR SUBMISSION	STATUS
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### 3. Decisions received from Dover District Council

REF. #	ADDRESS	PLANNING FOR	COMMENTS	STATUS
23/00923	Hambleton Lodge Lower Road Staple CT3 1LH	Erection of two storey side extension (existing side extension demolished)	Supported by SPC Comments submitted 15/9/23	Grant Planning Permission
23/00952	Holly Cottage Barnsole Road Staple CT3 1LD	Erection of detached carport with workshop above	Supported by SPC Comments submitted 15/9/23	Grant Planning Permission

## **Speedwatch**

During the month of September to the 9<sup>th</sup> October we held 4 sessions and recorded 6 vehicles exceeding the target speed limit of 35 mph or above.

The maximum speed recorded on these sessions was 39 mph.

Five were first time offenders and one driver received a letter informing him/her that it was the third time reported speeding in the area covered by Speedwatch. The next stage will be a visit from a Police officer!

If members of the public are wanting to reduce speeds on our roads then the best thing they can do is to volunteer for Speedwatch. It is good to talk about speeding but action will help.

We should all be aware that Woodnesborough had their SID stolen recently ~ not sure what anyone would do with it ~ I can only guess it is a follow up to the attacks on Speed Cameras in the ULEZ area. I will hold back on fitting our SID for a while. These devices are not cheap and can only be locked to the poles with a small lock which can easily be snapped.

## **SID**

### **The Street opposite Apollo**

Second half of August

85th Percentile Speed = 33.7 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles = 5,150 counts

Max Speed = 65.0 MPH on 12/08/2023 18:45:00

Total Vehicles = 6,059 counts

Average Speed: 25.8 MPH

September

85th Percentile Speed = 34.5 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles = 10,457 counts

Max Speed = 60.0 MPH on 21/09/2023 05:56

Total Vehicles = 12,302 counts

Average Speed: 27.9 MPH

First 10 days of October

85th Percentile Speed = 34.2 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles = 2,173 counts

Max Speed = 55.0 MPH on 02/10/2023 22:06

Total Vehicles = 2,557 counts

Average Speed: 28.1 MPH

# Footpaths report for October 2023 ~ Status

09/10/23

Path Number	Location	Status	Comments	LANDOWNER
EE183	SHATTERLING	OK	Recently cleared	
EE183A	SHATTERLING	OK	Style access ~ not used much	
EE89A	SHATTERLING	OK	New Gate installed. North end of field style needs attention ~ possible gate. Ash parish	
EE184	Gt PEDDING FARM	OK	Along Farm tracks	
EE165	Gt PEDDING FARM	OK	Along Farm tracks	
EE183A	Grove House	DNE	Across orchard at Grove House ~ can use lines up the orchard to Grove Road	
EE185	HULME FARM	DNE	Potato Field ~ no footpaths defined	Hulme
EE165	HULME FARM	OK	Along Farm tracks	Hulme
EE188	HULME FARM	DNE		Hulme
EE187	HULME FARM	DNE	Potato Field ~ no footpaths defined	Hulme
EE483	HULME FARM	NA	Too narrow and deep grass ~ not defined	Hulme
	Sally and Tony	Good	0247/51 Part from Style excellent	Sally&Tony
EE186	HULME FARM	DNE	Potato Field ~ no footpaths defined	Hulme
EE186A	Durlock Road	NA	Access poor due to vegetation; then across field and through apple orchard	
EE186B	Lower Road	OK	Just OK. Sometimes needs cutting	
EE186C	Mill Lane	OK	Usually well maintained. Style had to be repaired at 0247/59	
EE186C	R Cadman	Good	Always kept well	R Cadman estate
EE186D	Barnsole Road	OK	Could be better defined	
EE228	Summerfield	OK		
EE190	Staple Church	Good	Well maintained	Crixhall Estate
EE185A	Staple Church	OK	OK to Gate 0247/44 and then onto Hulme Land where Path DNE	Taggert/Hulme
EE185A	Staple Church	DNE	Potato Field ~ no footpaths defined	Hulme
EE191	Church Farm	Part OK	First part on wrong side of tree line not defined. Part from edge of tree line across field OK	Crixhall Estate

## KEY

DNE Does not exist  
 NA Not acceptable ~ not meeting width requirement