

Staple Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Held at Staple Village Hall, Staple on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Trevor Bartlett
Cllr Dave Kirk
Cllr Glynis McCollum
Cllr Neil McCollum
Cllr Sue Coulson
Cllr Roger Loukes

Clerk: Jonathan Mount

01 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr J Kirk, apologies from Cllr. G. McCollum for late arrival. Cllr Conolly

02 To declare any pecuniary interests and other significant interests (OSI) relating to items on the agenda.

Cllr Loukes declared an OSI in a planning application. Cllr. T. Bartlett also declared an OSI in another planning application.

03 To agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11th January 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr D Kirk, seconded by Cllr N. McCollum

04 Matters arising from the previous minutes

AGM in May...Cllr Loukes tried to contact the contractors for the archaeological site but has not received a written reply. He phoned them but no significant interest was shown. A backup plan might be needed. The fall-back position will be to ask people in the village to give various reports. Cllr. Bartlett will contact Ed Clark (ecology).

Barnsole Road...Cllr D Kirk went to see the contractors, but a gas main at the entrance to the site had been punctured. (It has now been repaired) A fence is being erected at the front of the site. Parking opposite the development is causing problems.

05 Public participation – adjournment of the meeting

There were 7 members of the public present.

A member of the public spoke about a planning application; and highlighted various issues pertaining to the proposed development; including the fact that it was being built on a green field site.

Another member of the public mentioned further housing problems in the area.

When walking up towards Church Farm, there is a problem with a footpath opposite the church. The footpath has been diverted. Cllr Coulson will contact the farmer and discuss the problem with him.

06 Highways

Cllr N McCollum has attended a meeting with KCC Highways to discuss the HIP. His report has been circulated to Councillors. Various matters that were spoken about at the meeting he attended were discussed.

(Cllr G McCollum entered the meeting.)

07 Reports

DDC (Cllr M. Connolly, already circulated) Cllr Bartlett spoke about the various items that were mentioned in the report.

KCC (Cllr S. Chandler, no report received nor circulated)

PCSO (PCSO Jacqui Brook, a report circulated).

The PCSO spoke to the public present about matters raised in her report.

08 Financial Report

The Clerk's salary and other cheques were ratified. Proposed by Cllr N McCollum, seconded by Cllr R Loukes

The Bank reconciliation was signed by the Chairman.

09 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

10 Planning

To note applications decided and pending since the last meeting held on 11th January 2023

Decided

19/0155C Barn at Staple Farm...approved

22/01298 Summerfield Nurseries...Granted

20/00623 Church Farm...Granted

Pending

23/00086 Crofters Lodge Durlock Road Staple CT3 1JX

Outline application for the erection of 6 self and custom build houses with associated access, car parking, amenity space and landscaping (all matters reserved). A question was raised about the land's ownership. But no answer was forthcoming. N. McCollum mentioned that he had read the highways report; and that it was highly inaccurate. Various points were made: There are already other buildings being built. Effects on traffic in the area. The Parish Councillors voted on the motion to strictly oppose the development...proposed by Cllr N. McCollum, seconded by D Kirk. Unanimous vote to object.

22/00370/A 1 Bartlett Close Staple CT3 1SR...

Non-material minor amendment to approved application 22/00370 (Erection of an ancillary outbuilding) to allow changes to external cladding to horizontal fire-rated fibre cement board cladding from vertical cladding and minor changes to openings. Parish Council support this application

22/0053/EE Land Opposite The Row Barnsole Road Staple Kent...

Materials. Parish Council voted to support this application

22/01298/ASummerfield Nurseries

CEMP

Concern was expressed about access to the site. Clerk to double-check with planning authority concerning the access to the site. The Parish Council voted to strongly object on the grounds of increased traffic movement in the area.

22/01700 The Frog and Orange Roman Road Shatterling CT3 1JR

Change of use and conversion of the former public house into a single residential dwelling, Demolition of existing garage and extension and conversion of The Old barn into a separate unit/dwelling; with associated extensions. Response from Councillors...Councillors voted to support the application.

22/01676 Staple Farm House Durlock Road Staple CT3 1JX

Works to main dwelling to incl. repair & repointing brickwork; installation of 2no. conservation rooflights; removal of ceiling to 2nd floor; replacement of dormer windows; enlargement of existing opening to ground floor. Works to granary to incl. installation of 4no rooflights, insertion of glazed doors to the front & rear; erection of internal partitions; part removal of 1st floor structure; insertion of staircase. No objection.

22/01675 Staple Farm House Durlock Road Staple CT3 1JX

Erection of front garden wall, railings and gates to facilitate car parking and electric charging point. Parish Council voted to support the application.

22/01708 Fagus, The Street Staple

Erection of 14 metre high antenna. The Parish Council voted to support the application.

Other planning matters

There were none

11 Other reports

Village Hall and Recreation ground

Cllr D Kirk said that bookings were picking up now and a work group is going to be organised to remove some of the rubbish around the village hall. The cooker has been repaired and is now fully working. The microphone on the stage is broken but has been replaced. Discussion took place ref. the absent Youth Club. Pre-school is hoping to start in July/August. The football team have played their first home game.

SID/Speed Watch

Nothing to report on speed watch until it starts again this month. The missing SID pole...no further news on its replacement. Cllr Loukes will continue to chase the necessary authorities. SIDs are now in situ once more.

Footpaths

There is a problem with footpaths at the moment. Cllr Coulson has been in touch with the farmer (Mr. Hulme) and he reported that the footpath signs are in place and there are tyre marks on the ground to mark the footpath. It was decided that this was not good enough therefore Cllr Coulson will contact Heather Waller at KCC to ask for her guidance. The farmer, Mr Hulme, said that some walkers are creating a new path behind the barn and they should not be doing this. Manure has also been spread across the footpath at various intervals.

11 Items for discussion

Cllr Loukes mentioned about the loss of buses and the options that might be available to residents ref. alternative methods of transport. Despite the notice in the Escallop, he has not received any responses from residents. The idea of voluntary drivers could be a non-starter.

Cllr. Bartlett mentioned about the cutting of the grass around the churchyard. Would anybody be willing to come forward and take turns in cutting the grass? Mowers are available as is payment for fuel etc. Time taken to cut the grass could be a couple of hours. Cllr D Kirk has contacted Mr Tong ref. servicing the mowers but he could not help. A member of the public suggested that she knew of someone who might be able to help. The equipment available consists of a Honda self-propelled motor mower and a petrol driven Stillstrummer. Luke is the name of a possible gardener who could do an initial cut of the grass. Cllr D Kirk will assist as necessary.

12 Any other business to be discussed

There was none

13 Any confidential items to be discussed

The Clerk gave notice of his resignation, effective as from March 31st. It was decided that this should be published in the minutes since it could have been raised under AOB.

14 **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8th March 2023 in Staple Village Hall

Signed:

Date: