

Staple Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Staple Village Hall, Staple on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Trevor Bartlett

Cllr David Kirk

Cllr John Kirk

Cllr Roger Loukes

Cllr Sue Chandler

2 x members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None
- 2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Michael Davis-Marks.**
Proposed Cllr Loukes, Seconded Cllr Bartlett.
Michael Davis-Marks was duly instated as a Parish Councillor.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. To agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th May 2023:**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting (proposed Cllr Loukes, seconded Cllr Bartlett); and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 5. To declare any pecuniary interests and other significant interests to items relating to items on the agenda:** None.
- 6. Matters arising from the previous minutes:** None.
- 7. Public participation – adjournment of the meeting:**
The participation discussions centred around two main topics; problems caused by parking, and the caravans on ‘the triangle’, adjacent to Summerfield Nurseries new-build.

It was agreed that the car which regularly parks on the road near Layham’s entrance was causing problems/constituted a safety hazard. Councillors will endeavour to find out more about the car / the situation.

Cllr J. Kirk read out an e mail from Callum Caggiano, DDC’s Senior Planning Investigation Officer; regarding land on Mill Road:

I have given a human rights questionnaire to the Land Owner. This questionnaire requires the occupants of the land to supply certain information with regards to their health, education and welfare needs. This is standard procedure in such cases.

In order to establish those that have an interest in the land I have also served a requisition for information on the land owner. Again, this is standard procedure where the local

authority is considering formal enforcement action. I am awaiting the return of this information and will be considering next steps in due course.

I will of course notify yourself and the parish council when next steps have been decided.

Cllr Bartlett read out a statement from DDC, regarding land to the south of Summerfield House, Barnsole Road:

The Council are aware that the time frame set out in the above enforcement notice, pursuant to the planning inspectors' decision, has now expired and that the requirements of the notice have not been complied with.

The Council are now considering next steps. Once those steps have been decided all interested parties will be notified.

Cllr. Bartlett informed the meeting that he would follow up the above problems with Sandwich Cllr Dan Friend; as he is the District Councillor for Woodnesborough.

8. District Councillors' and PCSO Reports:

- DDC Report - Cllr Trevor Bartlett:

On behalf of Cllr Martin Porter, we would like too especially thank those residents that voted for us both at the District Council election back in May.

We are looking forward to working with Parish Councils and residents in Little Stour & Ashstone ward. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any questions you have.

The makeup of members at DDC is as follows:-

Labour 17 Conservatives 14 and 1 Independent, The new chairman of the Council is Cllr Gordon Cowan with Cllr David Cronk as Deputy, and the Leader of the Council is Cllr Kevin Mills with Cllr Trevor Bartlett as opposition leader.

The demolition of the two rundown buildings at the entrance to Bench Street, Dover will take place on Monday 26th June. This is part of the work to the Dover Beacon following the successful levelling up fund grant from the government of £18 million.

- KCC – no report circulated.
- PCSO – no report circulated.

9. Financial report and items for payment and receipts:

9.1 In the absence of a Clerk; there was no financial report.

9.2 £160 payment of grass cutting (approved at previous meeting.)

9.3 £10 payment to DDC for printing of AGM notices.

9.4 Late filing penalty – Cancelled.

The items for payment (9.2 and 9.3) were approved for payment. (Proposed Cllr D. Kirk, seconded Cllr Loukes).

10. Highways Update:

- **Highways Improvement Plan:**
There was much discussion about a possible change to 20mph in Staple. It was agreed that this would be discussed in further detail at the next PC meeting.
- **Speed Watch:** Cllr Loukes presented the latest Speed Watch Report.
- **SID:** Cllr Loukes informed the meeting that the SID pole in The Street had now been installed/ was ready for use.
- **A257 Action Group:** Cllr Loukes informed the meeting that although the 40 ton limit on lorries is to remain unchanged; the maximum permissible length for lorries is to be greatly increased.

Cllr Bartlett stated that he wished to see the bus stop sign adjacent to the old Three Tuns re-instated. He added that although he had contacted both KCC and Stagecoach; he had received no response.

11. Correspondence Received:

There was no correspondence to discuss.

12. Planning and other reports:

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

Details of the most recent applications(both granted) were announced:

23/00390: Wingham Country Road Shatterling, erection of extension for retail.

23/00431: The Old Rectory, The Street, Staple, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and erection of link to existing dwelling.

13. Village Hall Report.

Cllr. J. Kirk informed the meeting that Village Hall bookings were going well; and that the Hall's external mains supply had been updated.

14. Footpaths Officer Report: Cllr, Loukes gave a comprehensive report on each of Staple's footpaths.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could consider identifying a volunteer to trim the overgrown footpaths.

15. Items For Discussion:

15.1 Parish Council Vacancies: Cllr J. Kirk suggested that as Georgina Martin was present, and was contemplating joining the Council; it would be an ideal opportunity to formally induct her onto the Council.

After the formalities of proposing, seconding, making a Declaration of Acceptance; Cllr Martin welcomed onto the Council.

15.2 Church Yard Grass Cutting: Cllr Bartlett outlined the current set up; and recorded his thanks for the personnel involved.

15.3 Staple PCC faculty and flagpole: Cllr Bartlett apologised for having inadvertently misled the PC on the occasions where he had asserted that a faculty had been applied for to erect a flagpole in the grounds of the Church. He explained that although the topic had been discussed several times by the PPC; and although it had been agreed that a faculty would be applied for; this wasn't followed through, and the decision had since been reversed.

15.4 Parish Clerk Vacancy: Having already been circulated to the Parish Councillors; the CV of Hannah Biggs, an applicant for the role, was discussed. It was agreed that the impressive CV indicated that Ms Biggs was eminently suitable for the role; and it was agreed that the PC employ her forthwith. (Proposed Cllr Davis-Marks, seconded Cllr J. Kirk).

16. Any other business to be discussed: None.

17. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th July 2023.