

Staple Parish Council.

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021, at 7.30 pm
in Staple Village Hall

Councillors present:

Cllr T Bartlett (Chair)
Cllr S Chandler
Cllr S Coulson
Cllr D Kirk
Cllr J Kirk
Cllr R Loukes
Cllr G McCollum
Cllr N McCollum
Parish Clerk: J Mount

1	Apologies for absence: There were none
2	Declaration of interest: There were no declarations of interest
3	Minutes of previous meeting:
3.1	Approval of previous Minutes: The previous minutes were approved. Proposed Cllr. R Loukes Seconded: Cllr. N McCollum
3.2	Matters Arising: There were none
4	Public Session: There were 2 members of the public present. S. Morris reported that, at £108.80, the insurance cost for WFV was a lot lower than expected; and that the donation from the Parish Council exceeded this amount. It was agreed that as the donation figure had already been decided upon at the previous meeting, this amount should still be donated. (Proposed by Cllr. J Kirk, seconded by Cllr. S Coulson.) WFV intend to plant a tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and propose to tie this in with other celebrations in the village. The Parish Council are happy to support the idea. S. Morris informed the meeting that WFV would like to give a series of talks in the village hall concerning the WFV, and asked if this would need to be delayed until Covid restrictions were lifted. Cllr. J Kirk said that arrangements would need to be made regarding cleaning the hall after each session. S. Morris asked if the donation cheque had been paid into the account, and the Clerk said that he had not yet had confirmation, but would check the following day.

5	Reports:
5.1	District Councillor Cllr T Bartlett gave a report.
5.2	Cllr. Sue Chandler (KCC): Life has been a little quieter recently, still committees going on. Budget consultation doesn't finish until December. Waste recycling centres: should the booking system be retained? Time slots have been shortened and the system is working well. Problem of traffic queuing for the sites has been sorted out by the time slots. Community mental health centres: discussion has taken place and consultation open until October 3 rd . The Reconnect programme has been very successful. 100,000 bus passes have been given out during the summer. New bus timetable: Why did we have to wait, why wasn't it sorted out sooner? Why does the bus have to go up the narrow road between Ash and Woodnesborough? Marshborough did not have a bus service. People in Chequer Lane would also like to use it, and it doesn't serve them. The safety posts outside the lych gate have been knocked down. – This has been reported. Cllr. R Loukes spoke about the SIDs: There has been a great deal of discussion, but the KCC officer dealing with the issue has not replied to numerous emails and does not appear to be very helpful. Cllr S Chandler said she did not have any information concerning this. KCC issued guidelines that had not previously been published. Cllr S Chandler said that should the PC like her to do so, she could take the matter to a higher authority (cabinet). This will be discussed later in the meeting. A257: Any progress on the speed checks that were carried out? The road is not wide enough to allow a run-off for the wildlife park. Discussion has taken place about methods of limiting the speed of traffic. Bus stops are a very real problem and must be a point of danger for children/families. The problem appears to be the width of the road, which limits any further measures being put in place. Cllr J Kirk asked if there is a cap put on how much KCC are prepared to spend on making roads safer. KCC applies no particular cap on safety measure spending. There have not been any accidents that can be attributed to dangerous driving on that particular stretch of the road.
5.3	PCSO (Eva Winter) No report presented. Cllr R Loukes reported that a police car had turned up to observe Speedwatch; which was a great help. Clerk to communicate with Chief Inspector Dan Carter to ask why no report has been received for the past few months.
6	Finance:
6.1	Approval of Bank Reconciliation for July and August 2021 The Bank Reconciliation was approved Proposed: Cllr. J Kirk Seconded: Cllr. S Coulson
6.2	Cheques to be approved: Cheque No.200385 Clerk's Salary £200.00 Cheque No. 200386 PK Accountants (Agar) £240.00 These cheques were approved. Proposer:Cllr. NMcCollum Seconder: Cllr. D Kirk

6.3 Other financial Items

There were none

7 Correspondence Received

7.1 None received

8 **Reports:**

8.1 Planning applications determined:

21/00638	Mill House, Mill Road Conversion of garage	Granted
21/00512	Albany Lodge, Durlock road 2 storey side extension	Granted
21/00699	Chalk House Farm, Barnsole Road Extension to boundary wall	Granted
21/00700	Chalk House Farm, Barnsole Road Replacement kitchen floor. New entrance gates. Boiler flue	Grant Listed building consent
CON/19/01 /1362/A	Summerfield Nurseries Highway details	Condition approved

8.2 Planning Applications submitted

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8.3 Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

Cllr. J Kirk reported that they are advertising for people to book the village hall. There is now a Facebook page solely for the village Hall. Next meeting is on September 20th. Bookings are not that good at the moment. Youth Club are waiting to see what the Covid situation is likely to be. CCTV: Installation work is progressing.

8.4 SIDs/Speed watch

Cllr R Loukes gave a report.

8.5 **Speedwatch**

In the month to 6th September (includes August) we held 4 session and 11 vehicles were reported for exceeding the 35mph speed limit for reporting. 9 of these were first time offenders and 1 invalid (all details not correct) and 1 owner received a letter for excessive speeding (43 mph).

Councillors and the public have reported local vehicles speeding in the village. Vehicles and drivers have been noted and may be reported to the Police; they certainly will be if caught by Speedwatch.

We are now booking sessions up to the end of November. We will always welcome new members so our operators do not have to do too many sessions in a month.

SID report

To clarify the purpose of the non permanent Speed Indicator devices. Kent County Council approve the site and installation of these devices through Mr Toby Butler. The 2 SIDs are moved usually every month (Maximum 2 months) or rested in a garage to comply with the requirement of non-permanency.

Due to the difficulties experienced and the intransigence of KCC we have to comply with the letter submitted to the PC dated 16th July 2021.

I have informed Mr Butler that we have complied with the requirements. (Copied to Cllr SChandler.) Cllr Chandler has acknowledged my letter to Mr Butler and believes our compromise could be helpful in moving forward.

We can now move on and discuss the suggested location of the "Piglet Place" SID as suggested by Mr Butler.

Note: Following the PC meeting I will write to Mr Butler to request that we proceed with the establishment of the SID pole at the eastern edge of the Barnsole Farm property on the opposite verge to face vehicles entering the village.

The SIDs are now back on the poles and results for September are below:-

The Street - East

85th Percentile Speed = 33.9 MPH
85th Percentile Vehicles = 29,019 counts
Max Speed = 60.0 MPH on 07/08/2021 09:06:53
Total Vehicles = 34,140 counts
Average Speed = 25.9 MPH

Lower Road - West

85th Percentile Speed = 34.6 MPH
85th Percentile Vehicles = 11,863 counts
Max Speed = 70.0 MPH on 25/08/2021 18:15:00
Total Vehicles = 13,957 counts
Average Speed = 28.1 MPH

It was agreed that we write to KCC and ask them to go ahead with the installation of a SID where they proposed it should be sited.

Proposed: Cllr. N McCollum

Seconded: Cllr J Kirk

Footpaths:

Nothing to report. Weather has been good. Cllr S Coulson was approached by a local resident who had cut the grass on the Memorial site, but hadn't been thanked for it. Cllr S Coulson said that it has not been cut recently because WFV are going to plant it with wild flowers.

9 Items for discussion:

9.1 A257 Group Info. (Cllr. Bartlett)

9.2 Road signs (repainting etc.)? Cllr D Kirk last cleaned the road signs in 2017. He will clean them again shortly.

Cllr J Kirk said that the metal posts obscuring the Staple Villages sign have been removed.

The Parish Council gave their thanks. Royce Cadman carried out the work and will also be thanked.

9.3 H M Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Discussion about what the Parish Council might do. To be discussed again in the future.

10 Any Other Business:

Additional correspondence as permitted by the Chair.

None mentioned.

11	Any confidential items to be discussed: None.
12	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12 th October

Signed by Cllr. Trevor Bartlett _____ Date: _____