

Staple Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Held at Staple Village Hall, Staple on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present:

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

Clerk: Jonathan Mount

01 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

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

There were none

03 To agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14th December 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

04 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Cllr J. Kirk asked if the PCC had applied for a faculty to install a flagpole in the Churchyard.

Cllr Bartlett confirmed that the faculty had indeed been applied for; but he added that the church authorities may well take some time to respond.

05 Public participation – adjournment of the meeting

There was one member of the public present.

06 Highways

Road safety in Durlock Road (Cllr Trevor Bartlett):

A member of the public asked whether there was any news about the possible introduction of assisted transport for local residents: Cllr Loukes replied that he did contact the transport hub in Deal, and they would welcome Staple joining their transport hub. The Staple part of the hub would operate from this village. People would pay 50p per mile to go to a destination. This should work out cheaper than a taxi. An article concerning this matter will be put in the Escallop. It has already advertised on Facebook and the Parish Council's web site. Appointment times will be able to be arranged in advance.

Mention was made of the potholes in Durlock Road: KCC Highways department is responsible for mending the potholes. The Parish Council are aware of the problem. It was agreed that it would be helpful for the Parish Council to inform residents of the correct authority to whom such problems should be reported. Councillors reiterated that the potholes should be reported as soon as possible to KCC Highways. Clerk to write to the developers of the Mill Lane development to remind them that the road verges should be maintained.

The lack of lighting in Durlock road was mentioned; the matter was not brought up at the DDC meeting last week, owing to lack of time. The subject will be brought up at February meeting. Cllr. Bartlett mentioned that the road actually starts in Ash. Councillors resolved to register their concern with Keith Watson at DDC.

Regarding the A257 meeting, Cllr Loukes said he would attend the meeting. The interactive signage is still not working.

Mention was made of the potholes in Barnsole Road: It was agreed that these would be flagged up to DDC by the Parish Council.

The poor condition of Barnsole Road, including the verges was also discussed.

Cllr J. Kirk requested that DDC Planning be approached and asked to contact the contactors, to remind them of the need to minimise mud and debris on the roads caused by the building works; and also to remind them of the need to repair/reinstate the verges post-construction. It was agreed that this would be done.

07 Reports

Cllr Bartlett gave a short summary of various DDC matters.

DDC (Cllr M. Connolly, already circulated)

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

PCSO (PCSO Jacqui Brook, a report circulated).

08 Financial Report

The bank reconciliation has been circulated under Appendix A
The financial statement has been circulated under Appendix B
The flexed budget report has been circulated under Appendix C
The budget forecast has been circulated under Appendix D
The Clerk's salary was ratified.

The precept demand was discussed. Various matters were discussed, and a great deal of discussion took place about items that would require funding, particularly the HIP (Highways Improvement Plan). There was no application made to increase the Precept last year or the year before. However this year, in light of the safety concerns raised by members of the public, and the need to pay for any improvements in relation to the HIP; an increase in the Precept was deemed necessary in order for the changes to be put into place. The improvements will be phased in over a period of 2-3 years. It was decided that the Parish Council should request a precept of £9464.00. Subsequent expenditure of the precept will be prioritised for safety improvement projects.

09 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

10 Planning

To note applications decided and pending since the last meeting held on 14th November

Decided

Ref: 19/01055/D: Barn at Staple farm, Durlock Road

Proposal: Construction management plan

Status: Approved

Ref:20/00053: Land opposite The Row, Barnsole Road

Proposal: Non-material minor amendment

Status: Approved

Ref:22/01/01483: Barn at Shatterling Court Farm

Proposal: Prior approval for the change of agricultural building into a dwelling

Status: Approved

Ref:21/001041: Barn at Staple farm, Durlock Road

Proposal: Change of use to 4 no. dwellings

Status: Granted

Pending

Ref: 19/01055/B: Barn at Staple farm, Durlock Road

Proposal: Disposal of surface water

Status: Awaiting decision

Other planning matters

Wagoners, Lower Road, Staple

Cllr Bartlett gave a report on a letter he had received from the planning department concerning the site. It was decided that no further action was required at this stage.

11 Other reports

Village Hall and Recreation ground

The gas boiler was checked for safety as it is every year. Various maintenance issues were mentioned concerning the boiler and the cooker.

SID/Speed Watch (report has been circulated)

Cllr Loukes mentioned various matters concerning Speed Watch and speeding cars through the village. The SID pole was mentioned: The pole has been lost by KCC. We are waiting for KCC to come back and replace the pole. If we hear nothing after a month, then Cllr Loukes will contact the necessary authorities to ask when it will be replaced. The SIDs and Speed Watch will be reactivated in February.

Footpaths

A letter has been received regarding the reinstatement of the footpaths that have been ploughed up. The weather will hinder any reinstatement. Cllr Coulson will send the farmer a reminder.

11 Items for discussion

Former garden centre at Summerfield Nurseries

Discussion took place concerning the site at Summerfield Nurseries, and the naming of the various parts of the development. It was proposed by Cllr J. Kirk and seconded by Cllr G. McCollum, that the 2 names put forward by the Parish Council should be Meadow Gardens and Summerfield Close.

Trevor Laker servicing of mowers quote:

Cllr D. Kirk will continue to source a possible servicing firm.

- 12 **Any other business to be discussed**
To agree dates of future meetings in 2023
The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be on 12th April
- 13 **Any confidential items to be discussed**
- 14 **Date of next meeting**
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8th February 2023 in Staple Village Hall