

Staple Parish Council.

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022, at 7.30 pm in Staple Village Hall

Councillors present:

Cllr. Trevor Bartlett (Chair), Cllr. John Kirk, Cllr. Dave Kirk, Cllr. Roger Loukes, Cllr. Neil McCollum, Cllr. Glynis McCollum, Mr Jonathan Mount (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Sue Chandler.

Members of the public present

8 members of the public present

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. Sue Coulson, Cllr. M. Connolly

2. Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

3.1 To approve any amendments and authorise signature of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022. The minutes were duly authorised. (Proposed: Cllr. Neil McCollum , Seconded: Cllr. John Kirk.)

3.2 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not due to be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Public session:

A member of the public, having noted comments in the Escallop regarding a recent meeting about sites for travellers, asked the Council if they could further elaborate. This prompted a prolonged and detailed discussion about Staple-related traveller problems.

Cllrs. Bartlett, Loukes and Chandler reported that although the meeting in question had been interesting; and had involved a lot of debate and questions; very little had been decided. (As most of the discussion had been of a general nature).

Cllr. Bartlett apologised that notes of the meeting had not been circulated.

It was agreed that little could be done about many of the traveller-related problems until after the Local Plan has been published.

5. Councillors' and PCSO Reports:

5.1 DDC (Cllr. M. Connolly).

5.2 KCC (Cllr. S. Chandler): No report circulated.

Cllr. Chandler reported that a speed awareness campaign had been launched; which highlighted the risk of speed on the result of a collision. The campaign is particularly targeted at younger drivers. Many meetings are taking place which Cllr. Chandler is attending. Cllr. R Loukes was congratulated on his persistence in overcoming KCC's resistance to the installation of an additional SID.

KCC currently spends £6 million on buses. This is being reduced to £4 million. The cost per passenger journey is a major factor in deciding which services to cut.

During the Q&A session which followed Cllr. Chandler's report, there was much discussion regarding Wingham's 20mph limit.

5.3 PCSO (Eva Winter): No report received.

6. Finance:

6.1 Approval of bank reconciliation for February 2022: The bank reconciliation was approved. (Proposed: Cllr. John Kirk, Seconded: Cllr. Glynis McCollum.)

6.2 Cheques to be approved:

Cheque No. 200403	Clerk's Salary	£200.00
Cheque No. 200404	HMRC	£39.80
BACS payment	Harmer and Sons	£420.00 (mowing etc. 2022)
BACS payment	Harmer and Sons	£1,194.00 (mowing etc. 2021)

These cheques were approved. (Proposed: Cllr John Kirk , Seconded: Cllr. Glynis McCollum .)

6.3 It was agreed that the sum of £784.04 be authorised and paid to the Jubilee Committee. (Proposed Cllr. Roger Loukes, Seconded Cllr. David Kirk).

Cllr Bartlett pointed out that a DDC grant was available to parish councils, should they wish to apply; and that further information would be available shortly. (The grant would be equally divided between the applicants).

7. Correspondence received:

- 7.1 Speedwatch: A vehicle was speeding through the village and there was an incident with a horse on the road. The colour and model of the car has been reported.

Email received from a resident, regarding the infill of land on the Wingham approach to the village. It was agreed that this was a matter for the farmer, rather than for the Parish Council.

8 Planning and other Reports:

Planning application no:	Location	Summary	Status
	The Rookery, Durlock Road	Erection of detached dwelling, existing dwelling to be demolished	Awaiting decision
19/00538/G	Site at The Three Tuns, The Street, Staple CT3 1LN	Detail scheme for disposal of foul water and sewerage	Granted
22/00031	Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Staple CT3 1LB	Erection of a double garage with play/craft room above	Awaiting decision

- 8.2 Village Hall and Recreation Ground Report:

Cllr. John Kirk reported that bookings have picked up a little. Minor maintenance issues are still occurring. Trees were damaged during the storm. But they have been cut down and the debris cleared away. One ridge tile on the Village Hall roof was dislodged during the storm; and is awaiting repair from the roofing contractor.

- 8.3 SID/Speedwatch: Cllr Roger Loukes gave a report. (Appended to the minutes).

- 8.4 Highways Improvement Plan: Cllr. N McCollum has been in touch with KCC regarding automatic traffic counters. It will cost £760 for these to be installed on the main routes into the village. The Council agreed that this should go ahead. (Proposed, Cllr. N McCollum; seconded Cllr J. Kirk). It was agreed that the Council's top priority was to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. It was further agreed that physical speed-reduction measures, such as chicanes; would be more effective than speed restrictions. The Clerk was asked to use the Highways portal to report damage to the 30 mph signs in Buckland Lane. Discussions about speed reduction included the painting of speed markings onto the road surface. There was also discussion about the A249, and about making the road safer in the bus stop / Wildlife Park entry area.

9 Items for discussion:

9.1 Arrangements and possible date for Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to write to the archaeological trust and invite them to the meeting. Meeting to take place on 11th May

9.2 Current and future transport situation.

It was agreed that those concerned about the future transport situation should complete the relevant questionnaire. The Parish Council will also submit a completed questionnaire.

10 Any other business: Additional correspondence, as permitted by the chair.

Update on the brazier: The basket price has been negotiated down to £696.00 (excluding mounting pole).

Cllr. Neil McCollum has offered the pole in his garden for use as a mounting pole.

Cllr. Loukes kindly offered to arrange for the pole's removal, transport to site; and installation.

11 Any confidential items to be discussed:

12 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th April 2022.

Signed:

Date: