

Staple Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at
7.30 pm in Staple Village Hall

Present: Councillors T Bartlett(TB) Chairman, L Ewart(LE), G Martin(GM), J Kirk (JK), M Davis-Mar and R Loukes (RL)

Minutes taken by Cllr Loukes in the absence of a Parish Clerk

A minute silence was observed in memory of David Facey ~ a long-time Member of the Parish and former Chairman of the PC

1. APOLOGIES for absence ~ None

Welcome to visitors District Councillor Martin Porter and Kent County Councillor Sue Chandler and 5 members of the public

Cllr Loukes was volunteered to be Clerk in the short term

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (paper copy available to view)

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 agreed and signed by the Chairman

To report and discuss any completed actions/matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

No matters arising

4. Public comments and observations. (Maximum 15 minutes) The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

4.1 Steve from Summerfield House next to Traveller site. A planning application for 1 dwelling has been applied for. No update has been received. The current owner of the plot says if he gets permission he will sell and move on to possibly Dover. This is awaiting a DDC decision. Answer next week (possibly)

4.2 Elivia homes Director discussed the travellers' site opposite Mill House and west of their Summerfield development. They have already completed what their building plan was for. There currently is a problem selling the properties due to the adjacent triangle occupied by travellers It is a real challenge for sales until the site is vacated. The owners of the site wanted an extortionate amount of cash for site purchase. The DDC Enforcement team were asked to come to our PC meeting but declined. The Chairman will bring up this subject at the next DDC meeting but it is not until January. Cllr Davis-Marks has been asked to write to the Ombudsman regarding the inactions of DDC. Elivia homes Director will also write to Ombudsman. A question was raised about road not being reinstated. The verges have been worn away and potholes not filled satisfactorily in Mill Lane. Elivia will check on what was asked to be done in the planning approval.

5. No expenditure noted for July, August or September. Approval was agreed for printing leaflets at DDC

Approval agreed for purchase of replacement AED pads for the Village Hall (This was agreed on line due to an expiry date of November)

- a. Purchase of a Fireproof Cabinet (a Parish Council Requirement for confidential and finance information). Agreed Cllr Loukes was asked to try to purchase a second-hand secure filing cabinet
 - b. Change to Metro Bank so that on line payments can be made. Action Cllr Bartlett to action
 - c. Adoption of Hugo Fox as Website provider; setup and ongoing costs. To be discussed at next meeting and progressed when we have a new clerk
 - d. Approval agreed for donation to RBL for Wreath for Remembrance Sunday
6. REPORTS (to be provided in advance in writing where possible please ~ reports passed to the Clerk will be sent to The Escallop for inclusion in the next edition)
- a. District Councillor ~ received and passed to PC members. Posters for visit of DDC Roots van to our area to be obtained by Cllr Bartlett. It was noted that 18000 people who should be getting the Pension Credit allowance have not applied ~ this is important.
 - b. County Councillor ~Education info available from KCC. Discovery Park ~ this is now the most successful enterprise park in country. Funding and start-up businesses funding is available for those who lost jobs at Pfizer. A Chinese pharmaceutical company moving in – employing some Pfizer people. Barclays is also on site. Gulley cleansing – these are now supposed to be cleared by end of October – not September as stated in the letter from KCC cleansing dept
 - c. Village Hall and Recreation Grounds – still ticking over.
 - d. Highways (SID, Speedwatch, footpaths) Reports on SID, Speedwatch, footpaths will be sent to the Escallop.
 - e. Planning ~ an update from Cllr Davis-Marks
 - f. Kent Police ~ email forwarded to PC members on 1/10/24
7. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – review and update with reference to the letter from A257 group. Cllrs Ewart, Bartlett and Loukes to report back next month on progress. Joint meeting to be arranged.
8. Review response to Local Transport Plan sent to A257 group
- a. Comments from members ~ Cllr Loukes had included comments sent to Wingham Parish Clerk and relevant comments were included in the A257 group response Correspondence Received ~ for information only
 - b. Review Frog and Orange request (email circulated) Cllr Davis-Marks to contact the writer of the email which were handed over to Cllr Davis-Marks
9. Update on Parish Clerk vacancy – nothing to report
10. Update on Finger Post for Buckland Lane – In workshop to be done next week.
11. Nomination for Wreath laying at Remembrance Service – Cllr Martin to lay the wreath, £50 donation has been approved if this is latest cost - RBL to confirm

Date of Next Meeting: - 13th November 2024

The deadline for Agenda Items to be included is the end of the day on the 6th November

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm