

# Staple Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
7.30pm at Staple Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Bartlett (in the Chair)  
Cllr Mrs Coulson  
Cllr N McCollum  
Cllr G McCollum  
Cllr D Kirk  
Cllr R Loukes  
Cllr S Chandler  
Parish Clerk: Lisa Acarnley  
Two Members of the public

**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

No apologies.

**2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests.**

None

**3. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and to report any matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

Cllr G McCollum queried the status of the defibrillator grant and whether it was likely that the Parish would be granted funding, due to the fact that it was agreed to ask for a defibrillator demonstration at the AGM. The grant is still pending, however it was noted that there are other ways in which funds could be raised if this was unsuccessful. ie fundraising. And therefore, the defibrillator demonstration should still go ahead.

Cllr Loukes confirmed the hope was to have a defibrillator in two locations. The village hall and the Church porch. However, the church would need to discuss this first at PCC meeting and if agreed would need to get permission from Church Diocese.

Cllr D Kirk advised that he had looked at the traditional wooden signage which was broken. He has been able to fix part of it, however the letters on the 'Canterbury/Adisham' part would need to be mended professionally as the letters are routed out and this would require machinery to replicate. Cllr Bartlett feels it is important that the village try to preserve this, however the manufacturers for these are expensive. Cllr J Kirk suggested he could ask Jamie Bounds from Denne joinery or Littlebourne woodcraft if they may be able to assist.

An email has been sent to Highways to ask whether new lettering can be put on the signs entering and exiting the village as this was previously noted that these have started to rub off.

- minutes were approved.

**4. Report from District Councillor.**

No report

**5. To receive questions from members of the public.**

None raised

**6. To receive any updates on the “Sandwich Connect Pilot”.**

Cllr N McCollum queried whether we have any statistics from the scheme. Britannia should be able to provide us with some figures.

Cllr Bartlett advised there were some queries from some Ash residents regarding the route the bus takes and whether it could go up New Street. It was previously suggested by Susan Facey that any changes to routes were not requested until the pilot scheme has finished, otherwise it may be difficult to monitor usage.

**7. To receive any updates from the A257 action group.  
(Excerpt from minutes of core group)**

Following the KCC Highways route assessment of speed limits on the A257 and the four annotated maps they produced for each speed related hotspot, Wingham, Littlebourne and Ickham & Wingham Well had provided comments on each of the KCC comments and these were discussed. Littlebourne included their comments on their Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) and **it was agreed to produce all comments in this format.**

Littlebourne PC noted they were having difficulty communicating with KCC over their HIP.

Following further discussion which included buffer zones and KCC’s interpretation of DfT guidelines, **it was agreed to request a further meeting with KCC Highway officers to go through the speed limit assessment and request site of the DfT guidelines.**

In preparation for this meeting with KCC, it was suggested that members research examples from elsewhere where similar changes to roads to those requested by members have been made.

The solar powered sign in Shatterling has now been fixed.

The FULL Group meeting dates need to be set for May and September 2020, and these will be arranged with our MPs once details are known.

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, will be held at 10.30am in the Miles Room, Wingham Village Hall.

**8. To consider the following planning matters:**

- (i) 19/01534 | Erection of a single-storey rear extension and creation of vehicular access and associated parking (unused pond to be infilled) | 6 Jubilee Cottages Lower Road Staple CT3 1LH

**Cllr Bartlett visited the premises and welcomed the new owner Mrs Hocking to the village.**

**Resolution – It was agreed to support this application**

- (ii) **To receive update on any planning decisions**  
**19/01055 – Barn at Staple Farm, Durlock Rd**  
**Change of use and conversion in to 3 dwellings - GRANTED**

**9. To receive an update on any financial matters, including**

(i)

Cheques for approval.

Cheque for PKF Littlejohn – external auditors. Clerk to double check this, pre approved.

Cheque for parish clerk – Approved and signed.

**10. To receive any footpath updates.**

None

**11. To receive any highways and transport updates.**

Some of the deep pot holes in Barnsole road and Mill Lane have been filled by highways, but some of the more shallow ones have been left. Agreed to monitor these.

Speedwatch – the December session was cancelled due to bad weather. Motorbikes remain the most common cause of high speeds in the village. The latest figures showed 12% of cars were speeding recorded at Lower rd) and 6% of those were over 40mph. Those details will be passed over for letters to be issued to the drivers.

The parish are able to complete a Highways Improvement Plan for KCC, detailing any highways additions/changes that would benefit the village (extra signs, lines etc). Some of these will cost money. Cllr G McCollum suggested it would be a good idea to include the village residents in deciding on items for the list.

An email was sent to ask for the salt bins to be refilled on Chapel lane and Fleming Road, however this has not currently been done. Clerk to chase.

**12. To receive a Village Hall & Recreation Ground report**

The floor has just been polished.

Cllr J Kirk to ask at the next Village hall meeting whether a microphone could be purchased to keep at the hall for functions.

**13. No Confidential items to be discussed**

**14. Any additional correspondence as permitted by the chairman**

Parish details on the council website need updating – **clerk to follow up**

KCC have a template for Parish council websites which has been adopted by neighbouring parishes. This would be useful for us to set up and would be easier to update regularly – **clerk to follow up**

**15. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Cllr Bartlett closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Mrs L Acarnley  
Clerk to the Council

Signed .....  
Chairman – Cllr Trevor Bartlett