

ATTACH 1

STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 9th October 2019
7.30pm at Staple Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bartlett (in the Chair)
Cllr Mrs Coulson
Cllr N McCollum
Cllr G McCollum
Cllr D Kirk
Cllr J Kirk
District Cllr Mike Conolly
Minute taker: Mrs Christine Haggart
Eight Members of the public; and Ms L Acarnley
Ms A Thompson, English Rural Housing

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Loukes (personal commitment) were received and accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Bartlett declared an *other significant interest* in matters relating to the site on which the Rural Housing Scheme is proposed, as this site is owned by a close family member [Minute 8(i)].

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Staple Parish Council held on 11th September 2019 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were approved as accurate and signed.

The following updates were provided:

- (i) The water main cover at the village hall will be reported to Southern Water; as a temporary measure, the broken cover has been re-used.
- (ii) Removal of trees at new house opposite the vicarage. The DDC Tree Officer has replied that it was unlikely that any action could be taken. He will visit the site to see if tree preservation orders are required. Cllr Mrs Coulson understood permission had been obtained as the trees were diseased.

4. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Mr Conolly provided the following updates:

- (i) Street Lighting: the roll-out of the new LED lighting will start this month in the rural districts.
- (ii) Climate Change: A paper for Cabinet will outline how DDC will deliver on climate change commitments. It is expected that this will:
 - Recommend to Council that a Climate Emergency be declared.
 - Set up a cross party members' working group.
 - Agree an action plan by March 2020, aiming for DDC to be a zero carbon emitter by 2030.
 - Complete a baseline audit of the current carbon emissions of all DDC services to inform the discussions of the working group.

Cllr G McCollum asked if there would be an opportunity for the public to input to the Action Plan.

Cllr Conolly said he would raise this suggestion.

- (iii) Tides: the current pool is nearing the end of its life. A review of future options has been carried out looking at a refurb option or a demolish and re-site option. The former is the likely choice because of cost.

- (iv) Open Golf: Work on extending the platform at Sandwich station will start in November. The Sunday is already sold out so ticket applications for other days need to go in quickly.
- (v) Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens: As part of the Heritage Lottery grant the café is being rebuilt. Cabinet decided on October 7th that the catering would be managed in-house rather than leasing out. This will allow opportunities for apprentices to work there and for the unit to develop 'group' trade.
- (vi) East Kent Housing: Following Scrutiny review of the situation in September it was confirmed that DDC will prepare a consultation plan with tenants and leaseholders to assess their views on bringing social housing in-house. Making such a change will be a complex process.
- (vii) Waste and Street Cleaning Contract: The current contract with Veolia expires in 2021 and negotiations have started on a new contract.
- (viii) Maison Dieu: A revised plan for the future for this wonderful but outdated building is being prepared by consultants. A very positive meeting with the Fund was held on October 4th. They have encouraged DDC to further develop the draft plan and submit a formal application in Summer 2020.
- (ix) KCC: Following the retirement as Leader of Paul Carter, Roger Gough has been elected Leader of the Conservative Group. He will be nominated as Council Leader on October 17th.
- (x) Planning permission has been granted for a Travelodge at Discovery Park. Cllr G McCollum was glad to hear consideration was being given to bring in-house the services provided by East Kent Housing and welcomed the positive report on Kearsney Abbey and the opportunities for apprentices.

5. PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

No members of the public wished to speak.

6. SANDWICH CONNECT (previously, SANDWICH TAXI BUS SERVICE)

Cllr Mrs Coulson and Mrs Facey provided the following updates. So far there had been no reply from KCC on the matters raised at the last meeting. No date had been set for the next group meeting. A KCC Members' Grant from Cllr Sue Chandler has been confirmed for £1000, and Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund have approved a grant of £250. It was understood that these monies would reduce Staple's contribution to the overall bill.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to check with Cllr Chandler and Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund if the £1,250 grants would reduce Staple's overall bill.

In reply to a question about how many people were using the service, Cllr Mrs Coulson reported that KCC had been very pleased at the response from residents in Staple but there had been less of a response from Mongeham and Northborne.

There was a discussion about tweaking the route and improving access to the Ash doctors' surgery and other facilities for users from Staple.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to ask for the route to be redirected from Gilton to turn right and to go out of Ash along Chequer Lane.

7. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH & SID REPORT

The following report was read out by Mrs Haggart on behalf of Cllr Loukes:

"Speedwatch

During September we held 4 sessions and recorded 20 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Of these 16 were valid vehicles which means the accuracy in recording was 80% ~ not our best result! The maximum speed recorded was 45 mph which is 50% above the speed limit. 14 vehicles were recorded for the first time and 2 letters for speeding were sent by the Police to the registered owners. We are nearing one year of operation and generally our Speedwatch group has been received well. So far we have had 45 sessions since starting last November and 206 vehicles have been recorded for speeding

We would like more volunteers to come forward to support us for our second year of operating ~
Email me or phone if you are interested in giving 1 to 2 hours per month at a time to suit you.
roger43@gmail.com or 01304 812306

SID report (for September)

Lower Road – east direction

85 % of vehicles (14,066) were traveling at or below a speed of 34.5 mph
Max Speed = 60.0 mph on 04/09/2019 10:30 hrs
Total Vehicles = 16,548 counts
Average Speed: 28.7 mph

The Street - west direction

85% of vehicles (13,713) were traveling at or below a speed of 34.8 mph
Max Speed = 65.0 mph on 04/09/2019 08:00 hrs
Total Vehicles = 16,133 counts
Average Speed: 25.8 mph

The Speed Indicator Devices are being moved around their designated pole locations and hopefully they are having a slowing down effect on the traffic as can be seen by the average speeds. Unfortunately it appears that motorcycles are exceeding the 30 mph limit by some margin. They do pass through at random times (non-social hours) so will be difficult to note their details during a Speedwatch session.”

Cllr J Kirk reported that he has spoken to the resident at Fleming Road who has agreed to cut back their hedge to make room for a new location for the SID pole.

RESOLUTION: The new pole location at Fleming Road is to be referred to Cllr S Chandler to be actioned by KCC Highways.

8. PLANNING

The following matters were considered:

- (i) 19/00120 |Erection of 8 no. dwelling with associated parking and vehicular access |Land East Of The Courtyard, Durlock Road, Staple.

Cllr Bartlett left the room for this item and Cllr N McCollum took the Chair.

Ms Alison Thompson (Senior Regional Development Manager, English Rural Housing Association) provided an update about this local housing needs project. English Rural Housing builds affordable homes that cannot be sold on the open market and which can only be let to people with a local connection. The current design has been revised to reflect the character of surrounding homes and a ‘farmyard feel’. The one bed flats are now one bed cottages; heights of ridge lines have been dropped with velux windows being used. The development will be cross-subsidised by the sale of two bungalows which will be advertised locally for three months.

Ms Thompson confirmed that the six units will be owned and managed in perpetuity by ERHA, with the parish council being asked to verify the local connection of applicants for the units. It was hoped that the application would go to the DDC Planning Committee in November and building could start if the application was approved.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to continue to fully support this application.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed that Cllr N McCollum would speak on behalf of the parish council in support of the application, when it went before the DDC Planning Committee.

Cllr Bartlett returned to the room and resumed the Chair.

- (ii) 19/01055 |Change of use and conversion into 3no. dwellings, associated parking and landscaping |Barn At Staple Farm, Durlock Road, Staple.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to support this application.

- (iii) 19/00926 | Extension to existing outbuilding (retrospective application) | Barnsole House, Barnsole Road, Staple CT3 1LE. (Deferred from September's Meeting).
RESOLUTION: The Council would ask that should this application be approved, a condition restricting the use to non-commercial should apply to this extension.
- (iv) Enforcement. Further to the 11 September meeting, it was noted the land opposite Staple Village Hall had been sold as two plots. DDC Planning has made enquiries and will follow up possible breaches of planning policies regarding use of the sites.
- (v) Summerfield Nursery site, Barnsole Road, Staple. The developer, Rogate, had sent changed draft designs to the parish council for their information. The changes included: 17 rather than 16 units, larger central green area; two separate, narrower roads to prevent through traffic; design to reflect rural character; inclusion of affordable units.
It was noted that comments on poor access and lack of infrastructure could be made when the council considers the application. It was also noted that if all the new developments were considered together, the provision of affordable and / or social housing may exceed the number identified in the housing needs analysis. There may not be a housing benefit to the local community from all of the developments.

9. FINANCE

The following cheques was presented for approval:

Amount: £30.00
 Cheque # 200327
 To: TRBL Poppy Appeal
 For: Donation for Remembrance poppy wreath

Amount: £450.00
 Cheque # 200328
 To: T. Laker
 For: Rotary mower

Amount: £650.00
 Cheque # 200329
 To: Staple Village Hall
 For: Cost of insurance renewal

RESOLUTION: These payments were approved, and the cheques were authorised.

10. FOOTPATHS REPORT

Cllr Mrs Coulson reported that the owners had agreed to cut back their over-hanging trees on the bend of Lower Road and School Lane, within the next two weeks.

11. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

- (i) Councillors considered whether any comment or objection was required in respect of the proposed Stopping Up Order by the DfT under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for highway at Ashcroft, The Street, Staple, Dover, Kent CT3 1LL.
RESOLUTION: It was agreed that there were no objections to the Stopping Up Order.
- (ii) Councillors considered an email from Ms Leach regarding several matters in relation to the A257 Group.
RESOLUTION: It was agreed that Cllr Bartlett would ask Cllr Loukes if he would be available to attend the next meeting of the Group on Sat 12 October.
RESOLUTION: It was agreed to ask KCC Cllr Chandler to follow up with KCC Highways actioning a repair to the interactive sign at Rusham Road / A257 outside Northbanks.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed in principle to contribute £8 a year to the A257 Group room hire costs.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to refer back to the A257 Group and KCC Cllr Chandler the matter of signage in Shatterling for their input and guidance.

- (iii) Councillors considered attendance of the annual Parish Seminar for Dover and Thanet for matters relating to highways and transportation.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed that Cllr Bartlett would ask Cllr Loukes if he would be available to attend the KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste Annual Parish Seminar on 14 November 2019.

12. VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

Cllr J Kirk reported that the meeting of the management committee would be held soon and would discuss the Charity Commission's requirement for trustee details. Cllr D Kirk reported that maintenance had been carried out on the swings and the purchase of replacement parts will be considered at the meeting.

It was agreed to take Item 14 of the agenda next.

13. ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) There is a new PCSO for Denton, Wootton, Shepherdswell, Eythorne, Elvington, Aylesham, Wingham, Staple, Ash, Nonington, Preston, Goodnestone and Stourmouth - Richard Bradley.
RESOLUTION: It was agreed to reply to PCSO Bradley, thanking him for his e-mail, welcoming him to the area and inviting him to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

- (ii) Cllr D Kirk raised a query by a parishioner about the lay out of the tables at the parish council meetings and difficulties in hearing what was being said. Councillors agreed they should not talk between themselves at the same time as another councillor is speaking.
RESOLUTION: It was agreed that the tables stay in the same format and the Chair should make sure that residents can hear what councillors are saying.

- (iii) Cllr Loukes would give the report on Defibrillators at the November meeting.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: RECRUITMENT OF A CLERK TO THE PARISH

- (i) **RESOLUTION: It was agreed that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.**

Residents and Ms Acarnley left the meeting.

- (ii) **RESOLUTION: The appointment of Ms Lisa Acarnley as Clerk to the Parish of Staple was confirmed.**

15. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed by Cllr Bartlett at 21.30hrs

Approved: (Chairman)