

Staple Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 13th November 2019
7.30pm at Staple Village Hall

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

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr McCollum for last minute work commitments.

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

None

3. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 and to report any matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Two amendments were noted

Point 6 from previous meeting reads as if Susan Facey was present at the last meeting. Susan Facey was not present at the meeting.

Point 8 (v) – Property is ‘Summerfield’ nursery and not Sunfield as stated in the minutes.

Minutes were approved and signed off

Cllr Mrs S Coulson stated that with regards planning applications – in future all councillors should be invited to attend site visits; not just individual councillors.

RESOLUTION – This was agreed by councillors, and minutes were approved.

4. Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Trevor Bartlett advised that he was recently voted as Leader of Dover District Council, due to the previous leader Cllr Keith Morris stepping down unexpectedly.

Cllr Sue Chandler was unable to take up the position, as she has recently taken up a new role at KCC. The new Deputy leader is Cllr Michael Holloway, and Cllr Bartlett’s previous role has been given to Cllr Oliver Richardson.

Cllr G McCollum extended congratulations to Cllr Bartlett, and this was echoed by everyone present.

LED district street lighting began on 11/11/19.

Climate change – This is something which the council are focusing on and trying to move forward with. Cllr Bartlett advised that they looked at few other councils and it would appear that they are no further forward than DDC at this stage. There is a workshop on 13/12/19, however, they would like to include the youth in this important issue, and therefore will consider doing an evening workshop, so that they may be able to attend.

5. To receive questions from members of the public.

It was pointed out that in previous minutes, councillors have been referred to without Mr or Mrs in their title, however, Cllr Coulson is noted as Cllr Mrs S Coulson. It was felt that this should be

brought in line, so that it is consistent. Cllr G McCollum advised that this was a personal preference and therefore this need not change, if Cllr Mrs S Coulson is happy with this.

It was suggested that the primary schools should be involved in the climate change discussions as they are all very keen.

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

Susan Facey reported that KCC were delayed in changing the timetable at the bus stops, and have therefore offered to pay for an extension of the late service for an extra three weeks. This means it will continue until late April.

It was reported that KCC have said they were pleased with the uptake of the service – however, this was mainly by Staple residents.

It was suggested that some changes could be made to the route on occasion, so that the bus goes to Canterbury, however it was advised to wait until the pilot scheme has ended before any changes are requested.

7. To receive any updates on the Community Speedwatch and Speed Indicating Devices.

Report from Cllr R Loukes

Speedwatch

During October we held 5 sessions and recorded 20 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Last month we had 100% accuracy in vehicle recording. The maximum speed recorded was 42 mph which is 40% above the speed limit. 17 vehicles were recorded for the first time and 3 letters for speeding were sent by the Police to the registered owners.

We have reached one year of operation and I have to thank our dedicated operators in our Speedwatch group. So far we have had 48 sessions since starting last November and 216 vehicles have been recorded for speeding.

Over the year 29 letters were sent out by Kent Police to drivers for exceeding the speed limit or repeated speeding within Kent.

We are still looking for more volunteers to come forward to support us for our second year of Speedwatch ~ 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 October)

Lower Road – west direction

85 % of vehicles (13,214) were traveling at or below a speed of 35.3 mph

Max Speed = 60.0 mph on 05/10/2019 19:45 hrs

Total Vehicles = 15,546 counts

Average Speed: 27.2 mph

The Street - east direction

85% of vehicles (17,130) were traveling at or below a speed of 34.2 mph

Max Speed = 75.0 mph on 22/10/2019 17:30 hrs

Total Vehicles = 20,153 counts

Average Speed: 25.7 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.

Judging by the figures, this does appear to be acting as a deterrent.

Cllr G McCollum suggested it would be useful for this to be tracked while the new building developments take place.

Cllr R Loukes was thanked for his efforts with this and asked to pass these thanks on to the rest of the team. As mentioned at the previous meeting, the new pole location at Fleming Road is to be referred to Cllr S Chandler to be actioned by KCC Highways. This has not yet been actioned.

RESOLUTION: Contact Cllr S Chandler, so that this can be actioned by KCC Highways.

8. To consider the following planning matters:

- (i) 19/01055 | Change of use and conversion into 3no. dwellings, associated parking and landscaping (amended drawings) | Barn At Staple Farm Durlock Road Staple CT3 1JX

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to support this application.

- (ii) 19/01317 | Erection of a detached dwelling with associated parking | Layham Garden Centre Lower Road Staple CT3 1LH

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to support this application

- (iii) To receive a report from the Clerk of recent planning decisions Bramley, The Street, Staple. Erection of first floor, side and single storey rear extension.

Permission has been granted.

Ashcroft, The Street, Staple. Alterations to existing means of access to a classified road, including retrospective change of use of amenity land to a residential parking area.

Permission has been granted.

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

- (i) Cheques for approval.
No cheques for approval.

(ii) To consider the purchase of a defibrillator

Cllr R Loukes advised that government funding is available for nurseries and playgroups. This funding includes the training, the defibrillator and a case. In theory, this would mean that a defibrillator could be put up on the outside of the village hall. It would need a weatherproof casing. It was confirmed that the village hall would most likely be happy to pay for the weatherproof case and the upkeep of the defibrillator. This would include new batteries/pads.

Also, the British Heart foundation are running a scheme offering a £600 contribution towards the cost of a defibrillator. It was asked whether it may be a possibility for a second one to be put inside the church porch.

Cllr T Bartlett thanked Cllr R Loukes for his research in to this.

RESOLUTION – Parish clerk to follow up funding for this.

10. To receive any footpath updates.

Cllr Mrs S Coulson confirmed there was nothing to report.

11. To receive any highways and transport updates, including:

- (i) A report from Cllr Loukes regarding a dangerous bend on The Street and consider how to proceed.

There was another incident a few weeks ago when a speeding car hit the thatched cottage. The car was a stolen vehicle and the driver ran away. Unfortunately there has been no progress from KCC with this yet.

RESOLUTION – To resend report to Cllr Sue Chandler, so this can be followed up with KCC Highways

- (ii) To receive a report from Cllr Loukes following the A257 Full Traffic Group Meeting on Saturday 12th October 2019.

Saturday 12 October 2019

I attended on behalf of the Staple PC and our representative Yvonne Leach.

A new group should be set up to include both Canterbury and Dover District Councils since it is the whole length of the A257 east of Canterbury that is a problem.

All groups agreed to contribute towards the hall hire ~ information will be circulated as to how this should be done.

The A257 programme will be presented to the KALC conference on 26th October.

With reference to the house damage to a house in Shatterling ~ there needs to be better signage ~ revision to plan required.

The speed limit along Shatterling section should be reduced to 40mph except near Little Shatterling Farm

The group needs to respond to the KCC proposal issued on the day before the meeting ~ which I did not see ~ Staple PCC need to respond at the next core meeting to the speed reductions suggested ~ my view there are too many changes along the whole route and cannot a constant speed limit be maintained, as who will enforce the variable limits proposed.

There was no input from our MP on this occasion

Staple's representative Yvonne Leach attended the A257 proposal meeting and gave the following update:

We discussed the reaction of KCC Highways and, as you will see, there will now be a traffic survey, and a possible reduction in speed to 40MPH through Shatterling itself. It is unlikely they will reduce the whole of the road to 40mph. There is a very specific problem just along this little stretch of road, and if traffic is moving more slowly there are three very important benefits as follows:

Traffic pulling out of Rusham Road to turn right towards Wingham can take about 5 seconds to be in position (point a) and proceeding towards the village. There is a blind spot towards Sandwich because of the bend. Once a vehicle comes into sight from that bend it can be in position (at the same point a) travelling at 50 mph within 5 seconds, and totally unaware that a car is pulling out in front of it into the stream of traffic. So to slow the oncoming traffic down gives a valuable split second to cars joining the A257 from Rusham Road.

Bearing in mind that there are also often very slow moving vehicles, e.g. farm vehicles pulling out from both Rusham Road and Beaute Lane at this cross-roads.

Vehicles travelling in this stretch of road towards Sandwich (particularly at night) might not be aware of the 'angle' of the bend and there have been countless incidents of vehicles mounting the pavement at this point, in recent years twice damaging the property situated on the bend. Possibly a speed reduction would help, and there is an additional plea from the resident there to have signs/chevrons (which reflect at night) indicating the bend to approaching traffic. – This is not recorded in the plan as two incidents mounting the kerb and destroying property happened after the plan was developed. This may be something we can address locally.

Each village made comments about the reactions of Kent Highways, and whilst it is positive that discussions and surveys will take place, it was agreed that we have to keep talking and pushing for action where and when it is possible. To this end a further meeting has been requested with Kent Highways in December or early in the New Year.

12. To receive a Village Hall & Recreation Ground report.
Cllr J Kirk advised that he was still awaiting a response from the contactors regarding a quotation for the renovation/renewal of the guttering..
RESOLUTION – Cllr D Kirk will follow up
13. Any additional correspondence as permitted by the Chairman.
14. The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7.30pm.

Cllr Bartlett closed the meeting at 8.32pm

Mrs L Acarnley
Clerk to the Council