

MINUTES OF STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at Staple Village Hall

These minutes are considered as a draft until agreed by the Parish Council as a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting held.

Councillors present:

Cllr. John Kirk, Cllr. Dave Kirk, Cllr. R. Loukes, Cllr. Sue Coulson, Cllr G. McCollum, Cllr. G. McCollum and the Parish Clerk, Mr Jonathan Mount, Cllr. Mike Conolly, PCSO Jacqui Brook

Members of the public present

There were no members of the public present

1. Apologies for absence: There were none

2. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Sue Coulson declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8

3. Minutes of the meeting of 9th November 2022 were received, approved, and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr. John Kirk, Seconded Cllr. Roger Loukes

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

5. Public Participation – adjournment of the meeting

6. Highways

- Cllr. Neil McCollum spoke about a letter he had received from Summerfield Nurseries ref. item at the last meeting. Cllr Loukes said he was happy to attend a meeting in January with Cllr Neil McCollum in January 2023. The Chair asked if the PCSO could raise the matter concerning access to the site at Summerfield, but was informed that it is basically a matter for KCC Highways to deal with.
- The flashing speed sign, along the Shatterling Road is still not working, despite having been reported several times. Cllr Mike Conolly was asked to investigate.
- Thanks to Cllr McCollum for putting the Ice signs out during the cold weather.
- Further mention of other problems on roads owing to ice.
- Clerk to send an urgent plea for something to be done about the water flooding along Staple Road, outside Twitham Farm. Clerk to write to KCC Highways: stephanie.wadhams@kent.gov.uk
- Mill Road is in a terrible condition, there are many potholes etc. 30 mph sign has still not been replaced.

7. District Councillor's and PCSO Report

- PCSO report: Clerk did not receive a report. Nothing of note applied to Staple in particular. The PCSO spoke about various matters not directly involving Staple Parish. The PCSO also spoke about the centralisation of The PSCO administration that is likely to be based in Wingham. Mention was made of a WhatsApp farm group (farm watch) that connects with the rural task force. Various other matters were mentioned that are in the PCSO's monthly report. The Chair asked about the reallocation of the PCSOs that is currently taking place: More information will be available at a later date.
- District Councillor's report: Report had already been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Conolly spoke about the financial situation of Dover Council. Change will take place as far as garden waste is concerned (type of bag/bin to be used in the future). There was a jackpot winner for the council lottery. Cllr Glynis McCollum asked a question about the precept set for Dover Council. It has to be approved in March.

8. Financial report and items for payment and receipts

- To receive the bank reconciliation up to the end of October 2022. This was received and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting

Cheque No.	Recipient	Reason	Amount
BACS	J. Mount	Clerk's salary	£217.20
BACS	J. Mount	Expenses	£216.00
BACS	J. Mount	Back pay in arrears	£120.40
BACS	Harmer and Sons	Grounds Maintenance	£1344.00

RESOLVED: The payment to the Clerk was approved, Proposed: Cllr. John Kirk, Seconded: Cllr. Glynis McCollum

Mention was made of the fact that attachments to emails must be included in the future.

Resolved: The payment to Harmer and Sons be paid. Proposed Cllr Neil McCollum, seconded Cllr John Kirk. Discussion took place about the payment to Harmer and Sons for grounds maintenance. It was decided that the work they had done was of a very good standard and represented good value for money.

9. Correspondence received:

- Letter ref. Summerfield Nurseries. This was discussed under item 6. Cllr Neil McCollum enquired as to which road is being used to access the site. Further discussion took place about the loading and unloading of heavy equipment outside nearby properties. Clerk to write to the author of the letter to say that his points have been noted. It was noted that it was part of the approved site management plan that vehicles should travel along Mill road; and KCC have said that this will remain. Letter to be sent to Cllr Bartlett for approval before being posted to the correspondent.
- Help for the aged and people who need transport: The transport hub spoken about in the past is a large organisation. It was pointed out that any driver can partake in the scheme, and that volunteers can charge up to 45p per mile. We would be piggybacking what they already do. It was decided that Staple PC could help organise it if there is a need for it and if there are volunteers willing to help. Article to go in the magazine and also to go on the Facebook page.
- Discussion about a letter received concerning the coronation and whether or not the brazier could be used again. It is not recommended that it be lit for this event; but there is nothing to stop us the PC from using it, should they so wish.

10. Planning and Other Reports:

Planning application no:	Location	Summary	Status
19/01055/D	Barn at Staple Farm, Durlock Road	Construction management plan	Awaiting decision
19/01/1055/C	Barn at Staple Farm, Durlock Road	Scheme for disposal of foul sewage	Awaiting decision
19/01/1055/B	Barn at Staple Farm, Durlock Road	Disposal of surface water	Awaiting decision
19/01/1055/A	Barn at Staple Farm, Durlock Road	Materials	Awaiting decision
22/01/01498	Summerfield Nurseries	Vary plans previously approved (erection of 11 detached dwellings)	Awaiting decision
22/01/01483	Barn at Shattering Court Farm	Prior approval for the change of agricultural building into a dwelling	Awaiting decision
20/00053/C	Land opposite The Row, Barnsole Road	Non-material minor amendment to approved application	Awaiting decision

- **Village Hall and Recreation Ground**
Nothing to report
Pre-school will not be starting in January as previously hoped; and may not re-start until September. Discussion took place about the amount that they would have to raise in order to start again. The youth club will probably not be starting in the foreseeable future. Cllr Glynis McCollum asked about the number of regular hirings of the village hall and about the hall's finances. The level of regular bookings is still very low. The hall's finances are fine.
- **SID/Speedwatch (Report circulated)**
The report has been circulated. Speeds have not changed much at all recently. Discussion about a trials motorbike that has been causing a nuisance in the village.
- **Footpaths**
Nothing of significance to report.

Slurry has been discharged onto various footpaths which is causing a problem. It was pointed out that it is part of country life.

10.Items for discussion:

- Trevor Laker Servicing quote: Cllr D. Kirk said he would research the problem and get alternative quotes. He mentioned that the 3 local lawn mower servicing firms have closed down, so we might have to stick with the original quote. Cllr Loukes mentioned that John Hall might be able to service the mowers or Warners of Ash. Cllr Dave Kirk will continue to research the options available.
- Discussion about the erection of a flagpole at the church. It was stated that the flagpole had already been discussed at previous meetings; and that the PC had formally requested approval from the PCC for its erection in the churchyard. As mentioned at the previous PC meeting, a faculty will be required; but there is still plenty of time for this to occur in time for the item to be in place for the coronation.
Cllr Bartlett will remind Vanessa Nedderman about applying for a faculty.

11.Any other business:

There was none

12.Any confidential items to be discussed:

There were none.

13.Date of next meeting:11th January 2023 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Signed:

Date: