

JULY 2024.

MINUTES OF THE STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **Wednesday 10th July at 7.00pm** in Staple Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bartlett (Chairman), Kirk, Loukes, Davis-Marks and Ewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr S. Chandler (KCC). There were two members of the public also present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for arriving early.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Martin and accepted by the Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Bartlett declared an interest in item 7.5 – Planning application 24/00039

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

3.1 To approve any amendments and sign minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th May 2024.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed unanimously by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Matters arising

3.2.1 New village hall sign – Cllr. Kirk is following this up.

3.2.2 Budget – will be the responsibility of the new clerk when appointed.

4. PUBLIC SESSION (Max. 15 minutes) Opportunity for members of public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 4 minutes and should direct comments to the chairman. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wishes to speak, the chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

4.1 A member of the public requested that all changes/alterations/additions to planning be as carefully considered as the original application and was assured that this was the case.

4.2 A member of the public reported that banks along Buckland Lane had been undermined by a large vehicle and that the drain at the top of Buckland Lane by The Forge was blocked. **ACTION** Cllr. Chandler took note and will speak to Highways.

4.3 A member of the public reported that parked cars are causing potential safety problems in this village. **ACTION** Cllr. Loukes will speak to the owner of the house in question.

4.4 A member of the public reported a worn white line **ACTION** Cllr. Loukes will report this.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Cllr. Bartlett reported that at 28th June 2024 the Council had balances of £13,056-90 in it's business current account and £2,175-44 in its business savings account.

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5.2.1 Cllr. Kirk proposed and Cllr. Ewart seconded that Mr Kilbee's audit fee of £100 should be paid.

5.2.2. Cllr. Bartlett and Cllr. Loukes will meet with our previous clerk, Hannah Biggs-Halles, in August to complete the formalities of handing over including working out the final salary payable to her.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None

7. REPORTS

7.1 District Councillor - Nothing to report.

7.2 County Councillor - Cllr. Chandler advised us that budget consultations with KCC for 2025/2026 are ongoing and residents can have their say until 7th August 2024. Details are on the KCC website. All discussions with the new Government indicate that KCC are not likely to have extra resources so the budget will be managed within existing resources.

The criteria for Adult Education is changing and the Council cannot fund courses where the function is purely leisure and the emphasis will be on back to work skills or health and well-being.

Kent Resilience Forum – Dover residents will receive a letter about Op. Brock. Lots of work is being done to ensure emergency services can attend even if there is congestion in the town itself. The KCC website has more detail on how safeguards re Op. Brock will work.

7.3 Village Hall and Recreation Grounds - Cllr. Kirk reported that bookings have improved and the hall is now running at a slight profit each month based on the past six month's figures. A lady who used to run the Youth Club will be attending the next meeting. Cllr. Bartlett raised the cost of hiring the hall by the Council for the DD celebrations and it was unanimously agreed that £25 be paid (half of the usual cost as it was for a charitable event).

7.4 Highways (SID, Speedwatch, footpaths) – Reports attached.

7.5 Planning – Cllr. Davis-Marks reported that he had received an email from the DDC Enforcement team in reply to the email he sent on 19th June (in which he requested a reply be made in good time for this meeting) at 4.30 today, 10th July. (application 24/00280). Cllr. Chandler clarified the Human Rights Legislation and it was agreed that we would continue to strongly object to this planning notice. There is a new Enforcement Team at DDC and District Cllrs. Bartlett and Porter will meet the new team.

Application 24/00039 was approved unanimously by all councillors (excepting Cllr. Bartlett who had declared an interest).

7.6 Police Report – June report attached.

8. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

No-one has applied to the advert so we can now co-opt. Councillors were asked to consider whom might be a good candidate and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Handwritten signature and a heart symbol.

9. FINGER POST ON BUCKLAND LANE

This is kindly being dealt with by Cllr. Martin in liaison with KCC

10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT for 2023-4 and 2022-3

In the absence of a clerk, Cllr. Bartlett confirmed that everything has been signed, sent off and AGAR has confirmed receipt.

16. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND, PENDING THIS, A LOCUM

No-one has responded to the advert in the Escallop and several suitable people have been approached but without interest so far. Appointing a locum is not practical because of the timescales and potential cost involved. **ACTION** Cllr Loukes will place an advert in CALC and Cllr. Bartlett will continue to approach other parish clerks who may be interested in taking on the role.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11th September 2024 (no meeting in August). The deadline for Agenda items to be included is the end of the day on 2nd September 2024.

T. J. B. Cllr



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