**Staple Parish Council**

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9thJune 2021, at 7.30pmin Staple Village Hall

**Councillors present**

Cllr T Bartlett (Chair)

Cllr S Coulson

Cllr N McCollum

Cllr G McCollum

Cllr D Kirk

Cllr J Kirk

Cllr R Loukes

Cllr S Chandler

Parish Clerk: J Mount

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence**  There were none |
| **2** | **Declaration of interest**  There were no declarations of interest |
| **3**  3.1  3.2 | **Minutes of previous meeting**  Approval of previous Minutes Proposed:Cllr. John Kirk  Seconded: Cllr. Neil McCollum  Passed unanimously  Matters Arising  There were none |
| **4** | **Public Session**  There were no members of the public present |
| **5**  5.1  5.2  5.3 | **Reports**  District Councillor  Cllr T Bartlett gave a report.(Full report to follow)  Cllr R. Loukes…is chewing gum a problem?Cllr Bartlett confirmed that it wasn’tand gave details of a firm who will deal with itwere it to become a problem.  Cllr. Sue Chandler (KCC)  Cllr S Chandler gave a report.(Full report to follow)  Last week was volunteers’ week. Thanks to all volunteers in Kent for what they have done. Thanks particularly to all the local volunteers. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children area problem. Accommodation is now full. Safe care of residents is being put at risk. Legal steps towards a JR are being put in place. Low Carbon Team has won an award.  Cllr N McCollum asked what steps the government are taking to clarify the national transfer scheme? Cllr Chandler replied that under the current scheme,KCC could not transfer any of the young people to another authority. An announcement by the government is unlikely to change the situation.  Cllr T Bartlett asked if the site at Richborough was likely to retain the booking system? Cllr Chandler replied that the system is working well and there are no queues and people are making fewer visits and taking more when they go. Great deal of pressure at the moment. but will be reviewed as lockdown restrictions are removed.  PCSO (Eva Winter)  No report presented |
| **6**  6.1  6.2  6.3 | **Finance**  Approval of Bank Reconciliation for May 2021  Proposed:Cllr. J. Kirk  Seconded:Cllr. G. McCollum  Carried unanimously  Cheques to be approved:  Cheque No. 200378 Clerk’s Salary £190.00  Proposer:Cllr. Cllr J Kirk  Seconder: Cllr. N. McCollum  Carried unanimously  Other financial Items |
| **7**  7.1 | **Correspondence Received**  Highways improvement plan was briefly discussed. Together with A257 Group Information.  Cllr. R. Loukes highlighted the section of the A257 which was within the Staple parish boundary.  The possible provision of a roundabout and additional white lines was discussed.  Cllr S. Chandler spoke about the speed along the road.  Cllr Chandler stated that the Police had been contacted about the speeding traffic, but that nothing was likely to be done until there was another incident.  It was agreed that while speed is a major contributory factor; other factors, such as driver behaviour are also responsible for accidents. Were the whole length of the road to be restricted to no overtaking, people would be likely to ignore any further instructions. It was felt that further road markings are unlikely to be implemented. It was suggested that the erection of Informative signs should be considered. A considerable amount of further discussion ensued.  Cllr. J. Kirk said that discussions should not focus solely on the accident that occurred outside the Wingham Farm Shop; as this was just one of a large number of serious accidents and incidents that have taken place along that stretch of road over many years.  Cllr Chandler stated that the cost of any road improvements would need to be met from parish funds.  The meeting was informed that the owner of Wingham Wildlife Park had offered land, free of charge, to facilitate the widening of the road at that point. The cost of the road-widening would be in the order of tens of thousands of pounds; and Wingham Wildlife Park are unlikely to fund this, due to the loss in revenue during the pandemic.  Cllr. J. Kirk acknowledged that the KKC's system for rating the need/urgency of safety measures was based upon fatalities having occurred. But suggested that a long track record of serious accidents/near-fatalities, collectively ought to be sufficient to trigger action by KCC.  Cllr. R. Loukes pointed out the difference in altitude in various parts of the road; the number of bends, and the fact that drivers cannot see round bends. He also pointed out that drivers generally do not adhere to the speed limit.  Cllr. S. Chandler said that overall speed assessment has to be done using the rubber strips across the road method.  It was noted that although there are arrows and signage round the bend; there are none on the straight stretches.  Cllr. N. McCollum said that speed cameras do help, but that no new ones have been installed for a long time.  Cllr. T. Bartlett asked if there was anything we could do as a Parish Council.  It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cabinet member for highways, David Brazier.  Cllr. S. Chandler left the meeting at this point and was thanked by The Chair for attending.  An e mail from a resident relating to the possible addition of yellow lines in The Street was discussed at length.  Cllr. R. Loukes raised the subject of silent electric cars and said that he had received correspondence from a partially sighted lady who nearly got run over by a silent electric car.  It was suggested that representations be made to the local MP, requesting that when travelling below 30 mph, cars should not be silent.  The Clerk will write to the Minister for Transport, Grant Shapps. (Copy to Craig McKinlay.)  Cllr. R. Loukes said that the proposed Sandwich bus route does not include the areas we asked for and was going along the wrong roads. (It should be going along Chequer Lane).  Clerk to send an e mail to Cllr. Ellen, public transport. (ruralbusschemepilots@kent.gov.uk ) |
| **8**  8.1  8.2  8.3  8.4  8.5 | **Reports**  Planning applications determined   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 19/01362/1 | Summerfield Nurseries. 2. Biodiversity | Condition Approved | | 19/01362/F | Summerfield Nurseries. 14 – Landscaping | Condition Approved |   Planning Applications submitted   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 21/00743 | Land to South of Summerfield House. Erection of 2 no. dwellings, car ports, vehicular access and associated parking. Clerk to make the same representation as was made before. |   Village Hall and Recreation Ground  Cllr. J Kirk reported that the VH Committee were taking provisional bookings for the post-June 21st period. If the lockdown easing measures proposed for June 21st take place, then it will be a case of business as usual. Several enquiries have already been received.  Cllr. D. Kirk reported on the latest day-to-day maintenance issues; and listed some of the tasks he had carried out, including the fitting of a new lock to the front door, the re-painting of the front doors, the installation of a new door handle, the painting of the repaired area of soffit and the purchase/installation of a new mat in the entrance hall.  In response to a question from Cllr. S. Coulson, Cllr. D. Kirk said that the installation of a new CCTV camera was imminent and that the play area's equipment was all in good order / working satisfactorily.  Cllr. D. Kirk informed the meeting that during the recent renovation/repair of the Village Hall roof, over 900 new tiles had to be purchased.  SIDs/Speed watch  Cllr R Loukes gave a report.  We have been doing sessions since the beginning of April and are continuing with 8 active members. Since April to date we have completed 12 sessions.  43 vehicles were reported for exceeding the speed limit (35 mph or above) and 37 were valid vehicles meaning we had an 86% accuracy in recording registration, make and colour.  The maximum recorded speed was 48 mph. (60% above limit)  The Police sent out 7 notices to speeding vehicles that had either recorded more than one occasion of speeding or exceeded the limit by 50%.  We are now able to carry out sessions at any of our designated sites and at any time during daylight hours, but our busy times are 08:00 to 10:00 am and 3:00 to 4:30 pm.  Stourmouth are currently not active, but we still do sessions every 2 weeks; I do not think with the numbers of volunteers we could increase our number of sessions. Reporting between 01‑04‑2021 and 08‑06‑2021  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Current Volunteers | = | 12 |  | |  | | | | | Summary for this Period | | | | | Number of Sessions this period | = | 12 |  | | Total Vehicles exceeding limit | = | 43 |  | | DVLA Valid vehicles | = | 37 |  | | Accuracy | = | 86% |  | | Maximum Speed recorded in 30 limit | = | 48 | mph(+60%) | |  | | | | | Police Actions this Period | | | | | 1st Record Observed | = | 30 |  | | Letter Sent FO1 | = | 4 |  | | Letter Sent MO2 | = | 3 |  | |  | | | | | Overall | | | | | My group started Recording\* on | = | 12‑12‑2018 |  | | Number of Sessions since start date | = | 82 |  | | Vehicles recorded exceeding limit since start date | = | 319 |  | | Maximum Speed recorded in 30 mph limit | = | 53 | mph(+76%) |   Footpaths  Cllr S Coulson gave a report…several footpaths are overgrown with cow parsley, Thanks to Mervyn Laker for clearing the path that goes down behind the church and goes up to Crixhall. Cllr N McCollum reported that the footpath by the chicken farmis overgrown. Cllr. S Coulson said that she would contact the farmer concerned and ask him for his help in reinstating the footpaths following ploughing. |
| **9**  9.1  9.2 | **Items for discussion**  Date and format of Annual Parish Council Meeting  We have nothing on the agenda yet for election of Officers. Cllr G McCollum asked if we have to have an APCM? Cllr T Bartlett said that all the other councils do have one. not election of councillors, just the officers. Clerk to check KALC and see if they are giving any advice. To be discussed at the next meeting following advice sought.  Defibrillator Service  Cllr R Loukes said that it is maintained by R Loukes, so does not really need a professional to check it. It does a self-check. Recommendation to not take any further action. |
| **10**  **11** | **Any Other Business**  Additional correspondence as permitted by the Chair  None mentioned.  Any confidential items to be discussed  Pecuniary disclosure  Clerk Salary  Thanks were recorded to The Clerk for his work throughout the year. |
| **12** | **Date of next meeting:** July 14th 2021 at 7.30pm |