

# Staple Parish Council.

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, at 7.30 pm in Staple Village Hall

## **Councillors present:**

Cllr. John Kirk (Chair), Cllr Dave Kirk, Cllr Roger Loukes, Cllr Glynis McCollum, Cllr. Neil McCollum, Mr Jonathan Mount (Parish Clerk).

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Trevor Bartlett  
Cllr. Sue Coulson

### **2. Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting:**

3.1 To approve any amendments and authorise signature of the minutes of the meeting held on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

The minutes were duly authorised. (Proposed: Cllr. Dave Kirk, Seconded: Cllr. Glynis McCollum)

3.2 Matters arising:

Queen's Jubilee celebrations: Cllr. Roger Loukes suggested the use of a brazier to celebrate the event. All the gas braziers have been sold. But there is an alternative of a proper beacon; similar to the one near Sandwich. Possibility of getting a price from the Sandwich Medieval Centre. Clerk mentioned it could go on top of a pill box as in Wickhambreaux. The logical place would be near the memorial garden. Cllr Neil McCollum reminded councillors of the need to pay for upkeep and maintenance. It would require a hole to be dug in the ground and concrete to secure it in the hole.

### **4. Public session:**

Mrs Tasmin Young spoke about the need to consider fire-risks when deciding on a location for the brazier. Mrs Morris spoke about public transport and the fact that it should continue. Mrs Morris also suggested that the District Council should promote the fact that the bus is available. Young people travel for only £1. Mr. Jon Aldridge spoke about community broadband. He is trying to get a scheme going for Rowling. Various conditions have to be fulfilled. He has had discussions with OpenReach, but they are very expensive. Various options have been considered. Most of Staple is eligible for Superfast Broadband. Staple already has good speeds. Twitham Court Farm has very low speed, serviced from Wingham. Cllr. Glynis McCollum asked what kind of help he was seeking? Mr Aldington said he would like to work with a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Neil McCollum asked if there would be any benefit to the rest of the village. Probably not much benefit, since the majority of properties already have access to reasonably fast broadband. The upgrade being discussed would be a full fibre connection into each house. There would be an increase in price to the householders. Would it be worth it? Cllr. Roger Loukes said that for most things, super high speeds aren't required. But an upgrade would benefit those with very low speeds. Cllr John Kirk said that a notice could go in the Escallop and on the Council's web site, asking people if they would be interested. Cllr Roger Loukes offered to work with Mr Aldington on behalf of the Parish Council. It was decided that Cllr Roger Loukes and Mr Aldington should draft a notice and should investigate likely costs to householders. It would not be a massive increase. Mrs Tasmin Young said she would be willing to help in the Summerfield Nurseries area.

### **5. Councillors' and PCSO Reports:**

5.1 Cllr. M. Connolly (DDC): Report has been circulated to Councillors. (Report appended to the minutes)

5.2 Cllr S Chandler (KCC): No report received

5.2 PCSO (Eva Winter): No report received

### **6 Finance:**

6.1 Approval of bank reconciliation for November 2021:

The bank reconciliation was approved. (Proposed: Cllr. Roger Loukes, Seconded: Cllr. Dave Kirk)

## 6.2 Cheques to be approved:

Cheque Nos. 200395	Clerk's Salary	£200
Cheque No. 200396	Cllr. Dave Kirk cleaning signs, general maintenance	£89.00
Cheque No. 200397	HMRC	£39.80

These cheques were approved. (Proposed: Cllr. Neil McCollum, Seconded: Cllr. Roger Loukes)

## 6.3: Other financial items:

Application from Staple Village Hall for a contribution of £800 towards the village Hall insurance.

This was approved. (Proposed: Cllr. Glynis McCollum, Seconded: Cllr. Neil McCollum)

## 7 Correspondence received:

### 7.1 Naming of the new street at The Three Tuns: To be named St. James Place

Cllrs. Supported the renaming but suggested that there should be an apostrophe.

### 7.2 Email from PCSO Eva Winter regarding facts concerning the defibrillator.

Cllr Roger Loukes said it is registered with SECAM and The Circuit. Maintenance is not required but it is checked weekly. It does an automatic reset itself.

### 7.3 The council received a letter from an Aylesham resident, asking that Staple Parish Council show its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. It was agreed that the Council would register its support for the bill.

(Proposed: Cllr. Glynis McCollum, seconded: Cllr. Neil McCollum.)

## 8 Reports:

### 8.1 Planning applications determined:

Land west of The Bungalow. Staple Road. 3 detached dwellings...refused

### 8.2 Planning applications submitted:

*The Rookery, Durlock Road.* Erection of detached dwelling, existing dwelling to be demolished.

Councillors voted to support the application. (Proposed: Cllr Neil McCollum, seconded: Cllr Dave Kirk)

*Land opposite The Row Barnsole Rd.* Minor amendment to approved application DOV/20/00053 3 no. additional windows to ground floor and internal alterations.

Councillors voted to support the application. (Proposed: Cllr Neil McCollum, seconded: Cllr Dave Kirk)

### 8.3 Village Hall and Recreation Ground Report:

Bookings are still very low.

Committee room has been tidied and looks much better.

VHC to ask Pre-school to remove/use/reposition the tyres that have been placed between the two containers.

### 8.4 SID/Speedwatch:

Cllr. Roger Loukes reported on Speedwatch and SIDs. (Report appended to minutes)

### 8.5: Footpaths:

The Clerk read out emails that had been passed to him from Cllr. Sue Coulson regarding an email she had sent to Mr Hulme concerning the state of the footpaths. There was also a reply to this email, which the Clerk read out, explaining that the footpaths had been cleared. No further report.

Cllr Roger Loukes said there were various footpaths that had not been reinstated for some time.

Further investigation to be carried out by Cllr. Sue Coulson.

## **9 Items for discussion:**

### **9.1 CCTV Policy and Procedure**

Councillors agreed that the document represented a very comprehensive policy and was well presented. The Parish Council then voted to formally adopt it. (Proposed: Cllr. Neil McCollum, seconded: Cllr. Roger Loukes.

## **10 Any other business:**

Additional correspondence, as permitted by the chair.

Cllr Roger Loukes mentioned that Cllr. Trevor Bartlett asked him to mention that at the top of Mill Lane, the hedge is overgrown and is hanging over the lane. The question of a fire hydrant being there was a possibility. Cllr. Dave Kirk replied that it was a sluice valve, not a fire hydrant. Cllr Neil McCollum will mention the problem of the hedge to the landlord of the Black Pig; since it is on his land.

## **11 Any confidential items to be discussed:**

Discussion concerning one item.

## **12 Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Signed:

Date: