Staple Parish Meeting
Staple Village Hall
Wednesday 14th May 2025
7.30pm

Minutes

1	**Apologies: Cllr Evans**
2	**Minutes** These were already signed off.
3	**Matters Arising** There were no matters arising**.**
4	**Staple Parish Council Chair Report**. I would like to start the report with 'Thank Yous'- we were delighted that after a short spell as our interim clerk, Sophie Gaskin decided to take on the role. We also welcomed a new councillor Nigel Roger-Hudson. My fellow Parish Councillors, our District Councillor Cllr Martin Porter and our County Councillor Sue Chandler and thank her for her support to the council. Following the recent election, we welcome newly elected Cllr Peter Evans to the role, we wish him well and hope we will soon see him here in Staple. All village volunteers and residents who have attended meetings, reasoned to consultations, taken part in the village events and kept our village clean and tidy. The Parish Council has limited resources both financially and in terms of manpower however we have tried to achieve as much as possible during the past year. We continue with the HIP - Highway Improvement Plan especially on the A257 and thank you to Cllr Loukes for attending the regular A257 action group meetings and to resident Yvonne Leach from Shatterling. The Parish Council have supported the village hall with an annual grant and we recently have helped pay towards the printing of Welcome Pack for new residents to the village and for the new lawn mower that is used to cut the grass in the old church yard which is the responsibility of the parish council. Many thanks to the team of volunteers who keep the church yard looking clean and tidy especially Alan Cooke. We supported the D-Day celebrations and more recently

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	the VE Day, both events were led by a short service by Rev. Michael Morris with flying the flag and lightning of the village beacon. Cllr Martin represented the council at the Remembrance Service by laying a wreath. Each month we will make a recommendation to DDC on various planning applications if the council decides to do so. Enforcement or the lack of it has taken up a lot of discussion at the meetings, this has proved extremely frustrating. However we did finally get a report from the planning inspector on the triangle land in Mill Road and we wait to see what will now happen as the owners have been asked to leave the site. The finger post at Animal Farm was repaired and re-sited, many thanks to those who helped with this. The KALC aware for Community Service was awarded to Roger Loukes in recognition of his contribution to SID, Speedwatch the Church the Parish Council and the community in general. Many thanks were given to Roger.
5	**Finance Report** The clerk offered a short report. The council had an opening balance of £4190 in May 2024. The council received a precept of £12735. Total expenditure was £7998. This meant the council has a closing balance in May 2025 of £6197. This means the council has a healthy reserve. This has been helped by the clerk's vacancy for several months in 2024.
6	**District Councillors – Cllrs Trevor Bartlett and Martin Porter.** Cllr Martin delivered the report on behalf of the DDC councillors. The new bus in Dover is not, in fact electric, but diesel. Ash car park charges are up for consultation. If people think that these should remain free, please respond to the consultation. If charges are increased then local businesses will suffer.
	Kent County Councillor – Cllr Evans was unable to attend the meeting. He offered his apologies but had a previous engagement in London.
7	**Guest Speakers – Charlie, Alice and Roger Dunn** Three members of the Chandler family delivered an extremely enjoyable talk about their family farming business, Chandler and

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	Dunn. They discussed the history of the farm, the various enterprises; cattle, top fruit and the butcher. They also told us about the campsite and other diversification enterprises. They gave us a really good understanding of the joys and the stresses of running a multi-generational farm in the modern world. After their talk, Cllr Martin offered them a round of applause for such an interesting talk and we were able to sample their excellent sausage rolls, scotch eggs and Jazz apples.
10	**Date of next SPC meeting** The next Staple Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7.30p.m.

Sophie Gaskain (Clerk)

15/5/25

Signed as a true record: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

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