

Staple Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual, on-line meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021, at
7.30pm via Zoom

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 None received |
| 2 | Declaration of interest Cllr T Bartlett declared an interest in item 9.2 (The Dover DC Local plan) owing to the fact he is the Leader of Dover District Council and part of the executive which will decide the new local plan. He agreed to leave the meeting, before the item was discussed. |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting |
| 3.1 | Approval of Minutes Proposed: Cllr. Dave Kirk Seconded: Cllr. John Kirk Passed unanimously |
| 3.2 | Matters Arising When the minutes are published, the details of location of the planning application should also be published. |
| 4 | Public Session Mrs Shelley Morris asked a question concerning the verges and their maintenance. She has been in touch with KCC concerning this. They are happy for us to plant them with wildflowers. Could the area opposite the 3 Tuns be planted, who owns it? Mr Beer said he was quite happy. The triangle opposite the turtle doves...who would maintain this area? Owners were identified. Area beside the memorial garden, is maintained by Mr Beer. Grass and weeds are a great problem. Could be planted if maintenance was taken on at the same time. There is unstable ground there owing to rabbit warrens. Mr Beer said that Anne Tingey has put some bulbs in, so it might be worth checking with her. |
| 5 | District Councillor's Report |
| 5.1 | District Councillor Read and explained by Cllr T. Bartlett. The full report is as follows: Following a meeting that DDC held yesterday evening members voted to support the recommendation for the proposed Inland Border Facility at White Cliffs Business Park. |

We recognise the national need for this facility and welcome the development for investment and the jobs that it will bring, however we also recognise the need for local impacts to be mitigated in a positive and timely manner together with commitments to improvements to the local and strategic road network especially to the Whitfield and Duke of York roundabouts.

The Council will be scaling up the Port Health function with up to 100 new jobs being created. Lucy Manzano has been appointed to the new post head of Port Health and Public Protection.

DDC have been awarded £3.2 million from the Government's future high street fund to support the revitalisation of Dover town centre, this is less than we had hoped for so we are looking at ways to reorganise the current proposals, however this will help immensely to rebuild parts of the town in a way which delivers long term prosperity.

We are still waiting for financial details from the government with opportunities for the district with more funding especially with the levelling up fund.

Local developers, Karlee Construction are to be congratulated on the most effective and efficient way they have renovated 8 flats on Folkestone Rd, called Ottaway house.

These flats are providing much needed interim homes for local residents facing homelessness and is now occupied by 8 families.

This project is part of our commitment to provide more affordable housing in the district and reduce reliance on B&B accommodation, DDC have an ambitious programme to build up to 500 new affordable homes across the district.

Ottaway House was named after, Cuthbert Ottaway a local Dover born sportsman, he captained England in their first football match and also played cricket for Kent and England.

It is now just over 18 weeks since the East Kent Services was returned to DDC, since then we have handled 10,526 calls from customers including setting up a new telephone system for the entire service with closely monitored voicemail arrangements and response services for those who would otherwise be held in queues, in fact the whole communication system has improved tremendously.

We have let 60 homes to families who have been waiting for houses and at present we are in the process of getting a further 47 homes ready to let.

It is encouraging that we have also installed 46 kitchens, 34 bathrooms, 5 flush showers and 16 replacement windows.

At the January Cabinet meeting we unanimously agreed on the action plan to help people with homelessness we have asked members and the public for their views on this in a eight-week consultation, which last until March.

We have also launched the draft Local Plan, this will set out our vision for the district which will be a place of aspiration, providing outstanding opportunities for sustainable living.

The local plan lies at the heart of the planning system and will guide the development of housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure in the district for the next twenty years.

Also agreed at a Cabinet meeting was the Climate Change Strategy which sets out our commitment to tackling climate change and making major contributions to reducing emissions in our district.

We have also received £224,270 following a successful funding bid to the office for Zero Emission Vehicle's to significantly upgrade the provision of electric vehicle charging points at 18 locations in Dover, Deal and Sandwich.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year starts on 22nd February and runs until 7th March and DDC will be hosting a live event on Wednesday 3rd March at 1.30 pm with guest speakers who will be addressing the meeting and focusing on this year's theme "The Growing Challenges that Climate Change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade".

Recycling of paper/card has been suspended this week and will not be collected until next collection in a fortnights time, due to the severe weather conditions.

Please leave food waste containers out as Veolia are still planning on collecting them.

Waste collections are running behind at the moment, so bins should be left out.

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| <p>5.2</p> | <p>Cllr. Sue Chandler KCC</p> <p>Kent resilience forum has issued interesting information regarding Port traffic. More than 6000 lorries a day are now leaving from Dover which is up to expected levels. 2000 freight movements. Since the beginning of the year the Police etc. have managed to keep the traffic moving. KCC were given the authority to clamp lorries whose drivers were behaving in an anti-social way and parking in non-designated parking places. Over 600 have been clamped. Covid testing is going well and people are being encouraged to get tested every 2 weeks. The vaccination roll-out is moving at a good pace. Door to door testing in Maidstone continues, but there is still only one case of the South African variant. The Council budget is to be debated tomorrow. There is a consultation out at the moment concerning the road safety strategy which can be accessed by Parish Councils.</p> <p>Summerfield application was refused, as was the application for caravans on the site. An enforcement notice has now been issued.</p> <p>Flooding... There have been a number of instances of bad flooding owing to the volume of rainfall and also the state of the drainage. Work is starting tomorrow on improving the drainage in the affected areas.</p> <p>Cllr. John Kirk asked if there was any update on Piglet Place? No, not at the moment. The officer dealing with it has been reassigned. Speed Watch is not taking place at the moment owing to Covid restrictions. There have been additional pressures on the Highways Team. Cllr. Kirk stated that this has been going on for a very long time. It will not be forgotten, but it would appear that the site is probably not going to be acceptable. It was felt generally that there is an underlying theme of inefficiency on this subject. Cllr G. McCollum said that we have been fobbed off for some time about this issue; the problem has not gone away, and the issue needs to be kept live. Cllr Chandler reiterated that the problem will be kept live and not forgotten about. Cllr. J Kirk said that our SID is still in the same place where we asked it to be, there has not been any change. Cllr R Loukes said that Lower Road has had 21,500 vehicles along it and the maximum speed is 60 mph. That is a very high number of vehicles, with many speeding. 3000 vehicles exceeded the speed limit. Cllr Chandler said it is very important information and if vehicles are seen speeding, then the Police can be asked to do something about the problem.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett said that there are several areas where there has been severe flooding and there are many other areas that are also flooding. Cllr Chandler was asked to look into those areas. Cllr S Coulson said that going down the Staple road there is severe flooding, is it a burst water main? The water appears to be bubbling up, rather than just lying there. Cllr J Kirk mentioned that some parts of the road have been patched with tarmac, but it appears not to have been done professionally. Cllr S Chandler said that there is a response time for potholes (if in a bad condition, within 24 hours). The hole must be filled in within 24 hours if the pothole could cause damage to vehicles. Cllr Coulson said that there is a large pothole forming at the bottom of Buckland Lane heading toward Staple. General discussion followed about the state of the roads. Councillors and members of the public can report any road problems on the KCC website: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem.</p> |
| <p>5.3</p> | <p>PCSO (Eva Winter)</p> <p>PCSO's report has been circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr. Loukes said that the report mentioned that there was a lot of poaching taking place in the Staple area. If anyone sees any suspicious vehicles they should be reported as soon as possible.</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Finance</p> |
| <p>6.1</p> | <p>Approval of Bank Reconciliation for January 2021 Proposed: Cllr. J Kirk Seconded: Cllr. S Coulson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried unanimously</p> |

6.2 Cheques to be approved: Cheque No. 200363 Clerk's salary £190.00
 Cheque No. 200364 P. Heathfield £50.00
 Cheque No. 200368 R. Loukes £147.51
 Proposer: Cllr. N McCollum

Seconder: Cllr. J Kirk
 Carried unanimously

6.3 Wildlife Friendly Project Funding Bid

Cllr. N McCollum suggested that the fund should be increased to £300, rather than the amount asked which was £177.85.

Cllr. R Loukes asked if the Wildlife Friendly Project could use the Parish Council's bank account?

The Clerk confirmed that this would be possible.

Proposed by Cllr. G McCollum

Seconded by Cllr. R Loukes

Carried unanimously

7 Correspondence Received

Frog and Orange Public House: We are being asked to lobby to get it classed as an ACV. Cllr. R Loukes pointed out that access to housing would be a real problem on such a main road. Cllr. G McCollum said that this would be a bit premature to take this step at the moment. Cllr. G McCollum said we should not act on the basis of one person complaining. Clerk to reply to the correspondent and say that Councillors have taken note of the concerns, but at this stage no action will be taken, but the Parish Council will remain aware of feelings in the village.

8 Reports

8.1 Planning applications determined

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| 20/01292 | Erection of 2 detached dwellings Land to South of Summerfield House | Refused |
| 20/01338 | Erection of single storey rear extension etc. Lower Shatterling farm | Granted |
| 20/1339 | Internal alterations Lower Shatterling Farm | Granted |
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8.2 Planning Applications submitted

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| 21/00061 | Temporary change of use from agricultural land to storage of timber, land to East of Rusham Road, Shatterling |
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Discussion concerning the above application:

They have started removing timber from the land and a local farmer has been asked to remove mud from the road.

Cllr. R Loukes pointed out that we have to agree to this since in all honesty, we have no other choice.

Clerk to send a letter to Ben Mansfield to make sure the road is cleared of mud.

Cllr. N McCollum asked if it can be made a condition of planning application that the road must be cleared of mud.

Proposal: that we accept the planning application with the condition that the road must be cleared of

mud.

Proposed by Cllr. R Loukes
Seconded by Cllr. J Kirk
Carried unanimously

- 8.3 Village Hall and Recreation Ground
Cllr J. Kirk said there have been several bad leaks and the committee had been proactive rather than waiting for more leaks to occur. The worst leaks will be repaired costing £12,700. Cllr Bartlett asked if there were any grants available. It was felt there could be, but any grant would be retrospective. 2/3 of the roof will be repaired for the above sum. Cllr T Bartlett will ask DDC if there are any grants available. Cllr. D Kirk said that when the builder did his quotation, he did offer a payment scheme, but that was not taken up owing to the risks involved in payment schemes.

- 8.4 SID/Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch & SID Report

February 2021

Unfortunately, the Pandemic is still with us and for the sake of health and safety we are not doing any Speedwatch sessions for the foreseeable future.

Kent Police will keep us informed of the any developments, and as we are governed by them, we will abide by their rules.

SID report (for January)

Durlock Road North

85th Percentile Speed = 32.5 MPH
85th Percentile Vehicles = 14,788 counts
Max Speed = 75.0 MPH on 28/01/2021 19:50:00
Total Vehicles = 17,398 counts
50th Percentile Speed: 16.1 MPH
Average Speed: 19.4 MPH
Total Vehicles August 18,698 counts
September 12,723 counts
December 16,494 counts

Lower Road - West

85th Percentile Speed = 30.2 MPH
85th Percentile Vehicles = 18,308 counts
Max Speed = 60.0 MPH on 22/01/2021 21:55:00
Total Vehicles = 21,539 counts
50th Percentile Speed: 10.6 MPH
Average Speed: 15.9 MPH
Total Vehicles September 14,877 counts
October 22,568 counts
December 10,633 counts

- 8.5 Footpaths

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| 8.6 | <p>Nothing to report, except they are in poor condition owing to the weather.</p> <p>Village Notice Boards Update</p> <p>Cllr. Coulson has obtained several quotes. One was very cheap and probably not worth looking at. The best one appears to be the local one from Fitzpatrick Woolmer based in Sittingbourne.</p> <p>Cllr. R. Loukes said that the quote using recycled plastic material would last longer.</p> <p>Cllr. G McCollum asked about the ease of using them and were they comparable, also will the overall appearance be attractive as well as being user-friendly? There does not appear to be much difference in them.</p> <p>Cllr D Kirk said that the recycled plastic stands a better chance of being maintenance free, rather than a wooden one which would need to be dyed etc. They should not become brittle in sunshine.</p> <p>Discussion about how they could be mounted.</p> <p>Cllr. J Kirk they should have the original Staple Parish Council name put on them.</p> <p>Cllr S Coulson said that the one opposite the Church does not have any heading on it, so would it be possible to transfer from one to the other? Cllr. D Kirk felt that this would be possible.</p> <p>Proposal: that we should go for the reconstituted plastic notice board from the firm in Sittingbourne.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. D Kirk</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. N McCollum</p> <p>Passed unanimously</p> <p>Discussion about where it is to be delivered; It was decided that if a delivery date and time could be obtained, it could be delivered to the Village Hall and that this address should be passed to the company.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Items for discussion</p> <p>9.1 Highway Improvement Plan/Action Plan</p> <p>Proposal: that the Parish Council record the thanks of the village to Matthew Cullen for clearing the roads for the benefit of all the village.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr. S Coulson</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. T Bartlett</p> <p>Salt bin in Pedding Lane at Shatterling has been damaged and needs repairing. Cllr. S Coulson asked who should pay for the damage? Cllr. S Chandler said it should be reported to KCC and they should replace it. Empty salt bins can also be notified to KCC. Cllr. R Loukes will report the empty salt bins. Cllr. D Kirk pointed out that salt bins provided by the Council were yellow, whilst others were green. Cllr. T Bartlett said he would contact the farmers there and find out who maintains the bin.</p> <p>Corner of School Lane/The Street is a very bad corner.</p> <p>Comments have been received by Cllr. R Loukes about speeding and what the PC are doing about it.</p> <p>Cllr. G McCollum said that we need a collated list of comments from the general public, so they can be heard in the round. It has dragged on for some time now and needs to be actioned.</p> <p>Councillors to collect any points raised by the General Public and forward them to the Clerk. The Clerk to collate the list, circulate it and then put it on the agenda for the next meeting, near the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>9.2 Cllr. T Bartlett left the meeting at this point. Cllr. N McCollum took over as Chair of the meeting.</p> <p>Dover District Local Plan</p> <p>R. Loukes attended the meeting representing the local councils. Cllr. N McCollum also attended a meeting. He felt that the general public will probably not get involved, so it is up to the Parish</p> |

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| | <p>Councils to respond. There is only one area that might impact on Staple and that is the area adjacent to the current development in Durlock Road. The only other area that might impact on Staple is the traffic flow through the village from a development they are proposing to carry out in Wingham. Cllr. N McCollum asked if we wanted to respond as a Parish Council? It was not felt that it really impacted on Staple so was probably not worth it. Cllr. J Kirk said that it was not really specific enough and that there were no massive developments in the plan. Cllr. N McCollum suggested that we should just monitor things as they go along but not respond at the moment. Cllr. J Kirk agreed.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Confidential items to be discussed</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned that he had put in a VAT refund for £146.82 for the present financial year. Discussion followed about VAT refunds. Cllr. J Kirk asked if the Asset Register could go on the Parish Notice Board with the AGAR. It was decided that in future, the Asset register should go on the Parish Notice Board along with the AGAR and that both should also be published on the website along with the accounts.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Additional correspondence as permitted by the Chair</p> <p>There was none.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th March 2021</p> |

Signed by Cllr. Trevor Bartlett _____ Date: _____