

# Staple Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 11th March 2020

7.30pm at Staple Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Bartlett (in the Chair)  
Cllr Mrs Coulson  
Cllr N McCollum  
Cllr G McCollum  
Cllr D Kirk  
Cllr J Kirk  
Cllr R Loukes  
Parish Clerk: Lisa Acarnley  
Nine Members of the public

**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

No apologies.

**2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests.**

None

**3. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 and to report any matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

VE Day arrangements - Waiting to hear back.

Barclays - Cllr J Kirk has completed and returned the forms to the bank directly - hoping to hear in the next couple of weeks.

Previous clerk Miss Palgrave handed Cllr Bartlett some Barclays correspondence which was sent to her old address, but this was dated prior to a hold being put on any correspondence until the address is correct on Barclays system.

Cllr Loukes advised that he has enquired with his contact about the defibrillator demonstration, but currently this hasn't been arranged. Cllr Loukes will advise an update.

We are still waiting for a full report on Parish website providers, however, in the meantime, it was agreed to keep personal and Parish emails on a separate email address. Cllr J Kirk has now purchased a domain name - stapleparishcouncil.co.uk and this means that all Councillors can have their own email for Parish business.

- minutes were approved.

**4. Report from District Councillor**

DDC is offering grants of up to £10,000 to bring commercial properties back into use, or to upgrade or improve the appearance of empty premises in designated town centre areas in Dover, Deal and Sandwich. The grants cover up to 50% of the cost of the project up to a maximum of £10,000

Green initiatives Grant programme - Community groups, charities and not for profit organisations in Sandwich can apply for grants of up to £15,000 from a new Green initiatives Grant programme. The deadline for applications is 10th April 2020.

DDC Leisure Centre has been ranked Kent's best leisure centre for energy efficiency, carbon footprint and energy consumption. It is the only one of Kent's leisure centres to hold an A rating on its Energy Certificate.

The centre has celebrated its one year anniversary as of yesterday and membership is up a staggering 379% compared to the old leisure centre and a monthly footfall increase of 367%.

1125 people (mostly children) have taken part in the centre's Swim England accredited swimming lesson programme.

**5. To receive any updates on the “Sandwich Connect Pilot”.**

Mrs. Facey reported that KCC had formally notified that the evening journey will continue to operate until Thursday 9 April 2020. KCC had also suggested that reprinting the timetable provided the opportunity to alter the wording within the timetable booklet with the aim of encouraging passengers to make use of the service during the remaining pilot period. In reply it had been pointed out to KCC that with less than 3 months before the end of the pilot and without any change to the route, there was little chance of improving passenger numbers. Additionally, it had been indicated that it was far more likely passenger numbers will decrease in light of the current Covid-19 situation, and that it was hoped that KCC would take this into account when evaluating the result of the Sandwich Connect pilot. The third quarterly review meeting will be held at the end of April and Mrs. Facey suggested that immediately after that meeting the parishes concerned should get together with relevant KCC/DDC Councillors to discuss the way ahead when the pilot concludes.

The council thanked Mrs Facey for her ongoing efforts with this scheme.

**6. To receive questions from the public.**

A query was raised regarding the planning situation for 'Norlands' the Caravan club/Camping site on Lower Rd. It was asked whether planning permission for change of use was needed if this was a business and also was there a maximum number of caravans which can be on site at any one time. Clerk to follow up.

**7. To receive any updates on the Community Speedwatch and Speed Indicating Devices.**

Report from Cllr Loukes

**Community Speedwatch & SID Report**

**February 2020**

**Speedwatch**

During February we only held 2 sessions and 7 vehicles were reported to Kent Police for action ~ 1 of these resulted in letters being sent. The maximum speed recorded was 39 mph. The weather was against us and several sessions had to be cancelled.

We would like more volunteers to come forward. Again this is a problem and several volunteers are attending rather too many sessions. Hopefully we will pick up more volunteers as the weather improves.

Please contact me if you want further information:- [roger43@gmail.com](mailto:roger43@gmail.com) or 01304 812306

**SID report (for January)**

**Lower Road ~ East direction**

85th Percentile Speed = 34.5 mph

85th Percentile Vehicles = 12,141 counts

Max Speed =70.0 MPH on 08/02/2020 at 16:25  
Average Speed: 23.8 mph  
Total Vehicles = 14,283 counts

**Durlock Road – South direction**

85th Percentile Speed = 37.7 mph  
85th Percentile Vehicles = 8,585 counts  
Max Speed = 70.0 MPH on 21/02/2020 21:50  
Average Speed: 23.8 mph  
Total Vehicles = 10,100 counts

The Speedwatch team are in need of new volunteers. If anyone feels they may be able to give a small amount of their time, please contact Cllr Loukes.

**8. Discuss possible attendance to Dover District Town and Parish Council Event - 25 March 2020**  
Cllr N McCollum to attend on our behalf.

**9. To discuss preparation for the AGM next month**

Clerk to arrange flyers for door drop. These will then be distributed amongst Councillors to deliver to roads allocated by Cllr Bartlett.

HIP packs to be prepared.

Cllr G McCollum to ask whether a representative can come and talk about 'Staple in Bloom'

Clerk to invite a Highways representative.

Councillors to bring some refreshments along.

Report on defibrillator demonstration.

**10. To consider planning applications**

**(i)** 20/00189 | Erection of single storey side and rear extensions (existing single storey rear extension to be demolished) | 3 Church Cottages The Street Staple CT3 1LN

**It was agreed to support this application**

**(ii)** 20/00216 | Change of use of land for the siting of a static caravans for residential use (retrospective) | Land To The South Of Summerfield House Barnsole Road Staple CT3 1LD

**This was discussed at length and it was agreed by the Council to object to this application. The reasons are as follows**

**The site is surrounded by 3 Grade 2 listed properties and therefore is not keeping within the appearance of the area.**

**Access to the property is not adequate for the traffic.**

**It is next door to a Turtle Dover Sanctuary and this will impede their ability to nest and cause disturbance to their habitat.**

### **(iii) Receive an update from the clerk on Planning decisions**

19/01534 | Erection of a single-storey rear extension and creation of vehicular access and associated parking | 6 Jubilee Cottages Lower Road Staple CT3 1LH

**Granted**

19/00926 | Extension to existing outbuilding (retrospective application) | Barnsole House Barnsole Road Staple CT3 1LE

**Granted**

19/01317 | Erection of a detached dwelling with associated parking | Layham Garden Centre Lower Road Staple CT3 1LH

**Granted**

### **11. To receive an update on any financial matters, including:**

#### **(i) Amendment to mower payment.**

Chq no 200338 for amount £140.33 returned from M Barden and chq no 200341 issued to Trevor Laker Engineering for £173.33 as this now covers the Strimmer head which was needed.

#### **(ii) Cheques for approval**

Clerk Salary £190 approved. (no 200339)

Cheque for £14.26 to clerk approved for online domain name payment.(no 200340)

### **12. To receive any footpath updates**

A tree has snapped and is overhanging over a footpath - up Crixhall Lane heading towards Claypits. Cllr S Coulson will report this to KCC. This footpath is repeatedly being used by motorbikes and horse riders although this is not permitted

### **13. To receive any highways and transport update**

Several drains are still not cleared as the areas continue to flood. These have been noted at Durclock rd, Chapel Lane, and Fleming rd. Cllr N McCollum to contact KCC regarding this.

There have been complaints regarding the branches and off cuts from the conifer trees, which were cut down in Mill Lane. There is still some debris from this in the road which needs clearing properly.

#### **Report received from Cllr S Chandler (Not read at meeting)**

The Budget approved by the County Council in February has an increased budget for Highways improvement and repair, the pothole blitz will continue at pace when the weather allows. I understand that the junction marking you requested is programmed in to the work programme.

Southern Water have now agreed a revised schedule of works for the A256 which will see these repairs completed and the road open by the end of the month. The tankers will, however continue their round of Sandwich for some weeks to come while the new sewer main is bored under the River Stour. KCC continues to charge SW for the road closure and the income received will be used to make repairs to the roads in and around Sandwich which are being badly affected by the tankers constant use.

The repairs to the Toll Bridge are due to start on 30th March and will take 7-8 weeks.

The next stage in your Highway Improvement Plan would be to arrange a meeting with Parish Councillors, myself and Louise Winch the Highways Officer to go through the plan and establish which items are practicable and fall within the remit of KCC, other Parishes have found that some items they identified are within the maintenance programme or are the responsibility of the Police or District. There may not be time to do this before the Annual Parish Meeting but you might want to find a date everyone can do.

Steve Manion and I are working together to ensure the success of the Sandwich Bus pilot is properly noted and how it may be taken forward.

As always if Councillors or residents have any specific questions do send them to me or they can, of course, email me directly. - Cllr S Chandler

**14. To receive a village hall and recreation ground report.**

Updating of CCTV has been agreed for the hall and grounds. The committee are currently obtaining prices for the equipment and installation.

It was felt that new recording equipment was needed, as there have been some reports of activity in that area. These incidents have been reported to the police.

**15. Any confidential items to be discussed.**

None

**16. Any additional correspondence as permitted by the chairman**

Our new PCSO Jacqui Brooks has been in touch and would like to have a meeting. We will invite her to our AGM. It will be an opportunity to meet with her and she will be available to talk through any issues or questions you may have.

The new 'finger post' sign is being delivered to Cllr D Kirk. He will then fix it up.

**17. Due to the current circumstances and government guidelines regarding Coronavirus, the AGM which was due to take place on Wednesday 8th April is regrettably cancelled.**

Cllr Bartlett closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Mrs L Acarnley  
Clerk to the Council

Signed .....  
Chairman – Cllr Trevor Bartlett