

Staple Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 12th February 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
Cllr M Conolly
Parish Clerk: Lisa Acarnley
Four 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 8th January 2020 and to report any matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Clerk advised that both salt bins have been filled up on 17th January.

Clerk details have now been updated on DDC website.

Cantium - the current website provider for KCC are going to start charging for their service. Ash clerk Christine is going to do a report on other providers and will share her findings.

PKF Littlejohn are the auditors appointed to oversee Parish Councils accounts. Cheque to be posted.

Letters on signs entering and exiting the village which have partially rubbed off has been reported to KCC and logged on their system.

- minutes were approved.

4. Report from District Councillor - Mike Conolly

1. Application for housing development on Gobery Hill, Wingham: Representations have been received from farming businesses stating that the revised proposals for a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Preston Hill would make it impossible for their larger vehicles to access their farms. This new evidence means that the application will not go to Planning Committee in February, as had been expected, while the applicants review their position. Concerns remain about access onto this very busy road, especially at peak times.

2. East Kent Housing: Following the well-publicised problems with EKH last year the board of the company has been dissolved. An interim board consisting of the chief executives of the four parent councils has taken over. The CEO, Deborah Upton, has resigned and an interim CEO, Vivien Knibbs, has been recruited to oversee the changes needed. Consultations with tenants have now finished and these indicate that they favour a return to an in-house operation. This option is also favoured by the councils but it should be emphasised that this will not be a quick or easy operation, as we will need to maintain acceptable standards of service, largely with existing staff, while the reorganisation is implemented. It is also worth

remembering that the reason for the creation of EKH nine years ago was dissatisfaction with the in-house operation as it then existed.

3. Negotiations continue on the new Waste Collection and Street Cleaning contract as the current contract with Veolia expires at the end of 2020. It has been agreed that we will not take this in-house. A decision and announcement is expected by the end of June to allow a six month transition period.

4. A planning application for a major redevelopment of the Lydden Hill racing circuit to allow more days of activity on the track was heard at Planning Committee on January 30th. It was agreed that the number of days of motor racing would not be increased but that a wide range of 'non noisy' activities would be permitted. New access off the A2 will be created. A large number of stringent conditions have been imposed, especially around the monitoring of noise levels. It was also agreed that the circuit operators would not be allowed to change the published programme of racing days without three months notice to allow nearby residents to alter any plans they had.

5. Cabinet has passed the budget for 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan through to 2023. This will now go to Scrutiny, then back to Cabinet to discuss any proposed amendments and then to Council at the end of this month. As far as the General Fund is concerned the year ahead looks fairly solid but there are many unknowns in the years beyond and capital funds are not plentiful.

6. Tides is really showing its age and is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain. A lot of work has been carried out to review options and a 'patch and repair' option has been ruled out as not making long term sense. Consultants have been commissioned to assess various rebuild options, but these will not include changing location. Despite the opening of the District Leisure Centre DDC is still below the ideal number of swimming lanes and the pool is very heavily used, and lack of swimming availability is (almost) the only major complaint about the Centre. The likely option of a full 'all singing, all dancing' rebuild will create a significant funding gap to overcome and involve a long term closure of the 'wet' side. The tennis centre is unaffected.

7. Use of DDC Lotto funds: On Feb 19th, at 6.00 to 8.30, there will be an information and presentation event at the Astor Theatre, Deal, where charities and community groups can find out how to raise funds for their good cause through the Dover District Lotto. The Lotto has raised more than £40,000 for good causes since its launch last year.

8. DDC is engaging in direct consultation with the parish councils of Ash, Wingham, Eastry and St Margarets on the subject of their car parks and the pressures caused by all-day parkers blocking the car parks for short term visitors. The problem is particularly acute in Wingham. Some form of charging system was proposed but this has been strongly resisted, especially in St Margarets.

9. It has been announced that The Royal and Ancient will contribute £100,000 as part of its Open Legacy Fund to projects in the District. £75,000 of this will go to the redevelopment of Sandwich market square and the remainder, financially supported by DDC, Sandwich Town Council, Prince's Golf Club and the Discovery Park, will go to a Green Initiatives Grant Programme.

Other local issues:

KCC has agreed to commit £17.8 million to the building of Thanet Parkway station

The Government has delayed its decision on granting a Development Control Order for the return of aviation to Manston until May.

The engineering problems associated with the burst sewage pipes and ground slippage on the A256 near the Discovery Park and under the River Stour are complex and no date has been published for the work's completion. Because of this the start date for the renovation of the Sandwich Toll Bridge, which will require its closure for several weeks, has been postponed to the end of March.

5. To receive report from Councillor Loukes from Dover Are Committee Meeting

In light of the GDPR rules, it was advised that the Parish Council members do not need separate computers or different email addresses for parish work. It is helpful to have a different email address for personal and parish business, although not essential.

Cllr J Kirk confirmed that the Parish Council's web presence currently comprises a section of the staple-online website; and that this is a secure site, as should be the case.

Cllr J Kirk will amend the Parish Council element of the website so that it follows the standard format for parishes.

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

Mrs. Facey reported that the second quarterly meeting to review the Sandwich Connect bus service had been scheduled to take place in December 2019 but had been postponed by KCC. No alternative date has been identified and KCC has instead provided data relating to revenue and passenger figures for comment by stakeholders by February 21st. The data contains a number of inconsistencies and anomalies and KCC have not provided an overall assessment as to how it perceived the service to be operating. The lack of a face to face meeting with stakeholders was disappointing and unsatisfactory.

The sustainability of the pilot projects will be determined based on a number of criteria including an evaluation of the pound per passenger journey subsidy and the benefits to the local area. With this in mind, Staple, Northbourne and Gt. Mongeham devised a passenger satisfaction questionnaire which asked passengers to comment on the benefits the service provided and the impact if the service were to be withdrawn. The information provided will be passed to KCC.

The parish council-funded evening service had originally been due to cease on 22nd March but, due to mistakes and delays in the printing and posting of the revised timetable, KCC has agreed to fund the evening run for a further three weeks.

Having been accepted by Ash Parish Council, the proposal to extend the service into Ash was now being reviewed by KCC and will be subject to their governance process before any decision is made on implementation.

Mrs. Facey emphasised that the continued support of parish councils and local councillors would be of vital importance during the last phase of the pilot.

All councillors agreed that the scheme was fully supported and seen as a great benefit for the village. Thanks were also given to Mrs Facey for her ongoing commitment and work with this.

7. To receive questions from the public.

None.

8. Receive update from Cllr Loukes regarding KALC meeting (GDPR)

See item 5.

DRAFT

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

Report from Cllr Loukes

January 2020

Speedwatch

During January we held 3 sessions and 10 vehicles were reported to Kent Police for action ~ 3 of these resulted in letters being sent. The maximum speed recorded was 46 mph along Lower Road with a White Transit Van.

We are starting to note drivers who are on their mobile phones which of course is an offence; however not sure if the Police will action these offences.

We are currently 3 operators down meaning that we are looking for new volunteers who can spend an hour or so each month helping. I have placed adverts on Staple and Staple Village Facebook sites but no-one so far has come forward. One person has dropped out due to a conflict with their personal interests and two are inactive due to ongoing medical problems. We therefore have seven operators on call each month.

Please contact me if you want further information:- roger43@gmail.com or 01304 812306

SID report (for January)

The Street – East direction

85th Percentile Speed = 34.9 mph

85th Percentile Vehicles = 12,215 counts

Max Speed = 60.0 mph on 01/01/2020 07:40:00

Average Speed: 28.9 mph

Total Vehicles = 14,371 counts

Durlock Road – North direction

85th Percentile Speed = 34.5 mph

85th Percentile Vehicles = 18,253 counts

Max Speed = 70.0 MPH on 09/01/2020 22:05:00

Average Speed: 22.5 mph

Total Vehicles = 21,474 counts

I note that the average speed is reasonable there are still reckless drivers (Motorcycles??) who disregard speed limits.

10. To consider any planning applications

(i)

20/00053 | Reserved matters application in pursuant to DOV/16/00470

(outline application for the erection of four dwellings) -

for determination of means of access, landscaping, layout, scale and appearance | Land Opposite The Row Barnsole Road Staple CT3 1LE

Staple Parish Council object to this application on the same concerns as previously raised..

Council object to proposal due to potential parking and drainage issues. The design is not ideal as it leaves less space at the front of the development. Objection to 4 separate driveways, with preference to a single driveway with sufficient parking for visitors. Drainage is a concern as surface water flows down the hill. Work on drainage would be required as part of the development.

(ii)

To receive update on any planning decisions or correspondence

To include 19/00024/S78 | Reserved matters application in pursuant to DOV/16/00470 (outline application for the erection of four dwellings) - for determination of means of access, landscaping, layout, scale and appearance. | Land At Barnsole Road Barnsole Road Staple Kent - **Appeal Dismissed**

19/00031/S78 | Erection of a detached dwelling, detached garage and associated vehicle parking. | Land South East Of Mill Cottage Mill Road Staple Kent - **Appeal Dismissed**

20/00016 Erection of single storey barn at Land, north side of Mill Road. To store Agricultural machinery. - **Prior approval refused**

19/01361 Erection of 2no. detached dwellings, associated parking and landscaping (existing barn and shed to be demolished) Site at Summerfield Farm, Barnsole Road, Staple - **Granted**

Discuss planning decision for

Dov/19/00120 Land East of The Courtyard, Durlock Road, Staple for the erection of 8 dwellings -

This has been given permission by DDC to go ahead, and is supported by Staple Parish Councillors.

11. To receive an update on any financial matters, Including;

(i) cheques for approval

Cheque for clerk salary approved and signed.

Cheque for Malcolm Barden for lawn mower costs approved and signed.

(ii) To discuss Parish budget

It is recommended that parishes hold between 3 and 12 months 'average spend' in the account, and this is reflected in the accounts.

We are currently having some issues with changing the correspondence address for the statements and the removal and adding of signatories. Clerk has been in contact with the bank and a form has been posted out to be signed etc. So, currently, we do not have an accurate bank statement. Update next meeting.

12. To discuss lawn mower costs.

Strimmer - service required (£60), plus spark plug replacement (£5.63).

Hedge Cutter - the fuel pipes in the engine need replacing (£45)

Hover mower - no service required as yet, but the blade/fan assembly needs repairing (£29.70)

Total £140.33 - cheque signed as above

The council would like to express their thanks to Malcolm Barden.

13. To discuss ideas for VE day

The church may be holding a service to mark VE day and a representative from the council would attend. It was suggested that a get together be held at the local pub - The Black Pig in order to commemorate this day. This would be held on the 8th May. Update at next meeting.

14. To receive any highways and transport updates and discuss Highways Improvement Plan

The huge pot hole on Mill Road was previously logged, but seemed to have disappeared from the system. Cllr N McCollum has logged this again on the KKC site.

Cllr D Kirk has received an approximate verbal quote for the fingerpost sign of around £100. He will then be able to fit this and paint the white areas.

Give way lines have been painted at the Buckland Lane Junction/The Street/School Lane, but there are still no Give Way signs, so this is not ideal.

Still waiting for permission to mount the SID on another pole, but no response has been received regarding this still.

The Highways Improvement Plan for the village which is to be completed by the council was discussed. Cllr G McCollum suggested that the public are encouraged to attend the Annual Parish meeting in April and put forward their suggestions for the plan.

Clerk to invite Cllr Sue Chandler to next Parish meeting so she may be able to give an update.

15. To receive a village hall and recreation ground report.

Nothing to report.

16. Any confidential items to be discussed.

None

17. Any additional correspondence as permitted by the chairman

Cllr Loukes will try to book the defibrillator demonstrator for the Annual Parish Meeting.

A complaint was received from a resident regarding two drainage pipes which are draining in to her grounds from a neighbours extension. Clerk to check original plans to see where the drains should be going.

Cllr G McCollum to draft a letter to send to villagers, inviting them to the Annual Parish Meeting in April, where they will also be able to share their views for the Highways Improvement Plan.

18. The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th March 2020

Cllr Bartlett closed the meeting at 9.24pm

Mrs L Acarnley
Clerk to the Council

Signed
Chairman – Cllr Trevor Bartlett