

SEPT 2024.

STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Vacant
Website: stapleparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2024

Present: Cllrs: Bartlett (Chairman) Kirk, Davis-Marks, Ewart and Loukes. Several members of the public attended along with Cllrs Martin (District Councillor) and Chandler (KCC Local Councillor)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllr Georgina Cadman
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** None
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (paper copy available to view) –
 - 3.1. To approve any amendments and sign minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2024. All agreed and proposed and seconded. Signed by Chairman
 - 3.2. To report and discuss any completed actions/matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

No Matters arising

4. PUBLIC SESSION

Car parking at Gilton Corner is beginning to cause a problem with drivers by blocking a view around the corner. There is also a problem outside Nedderman's house coming into the village: several cars can be parked during day and night which is on the blind bend with potentially an accident waiting to happen. These drivers have been advised that they can park at the Black Pig but continue to ignore that advice.

ACTION Cllr Bartlett

There is also a problem with cyclists causing a problem on the A257 along the Shatterling section of the road near "Endeavour" where there are houses and exits from their properties onto the road. For safety they are riding on the pavement but this causes a problem for the owners exiting onto the busy road or walking in the area.

ACTION To be raised by Cllr Loukes at the next A257 meeting on 21 September

5. FINANCE

- 5.1. **Financial Statements for August 2024 to include income, expenditure and bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2024.**

No expenses in the months of July and August

- 5.2. **Bills to be approved (to include those received after the agenda was printed)**
Dover DC printing costs for programmes ~ amount to be declared next meeting but small amount so All agreed and proposed and seconded.

Approved

- 5.3. **Half cost of printing of Welcome and walk leaflets**

All agreed proposed and seconded for the amount of £127:50 Expenditure

Approved



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6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

7. Letter from Cllr Neil Baker as a follow up to the letter sent in August from A257 Chairman

7.1. Attached to email

7.2. Discuss what our PC would wish to take to the Full Group Meeting in our updated

Where the lines and repeater signs are worn out these should be reported on the KCC website.

Double yellow lines need to be raised on our HIP (Highways Improvement Plan)

Discussion on A257 including improvement for bus stop and roundabout. Cllr

Chandler explained that this had been discussed with Wingham Wildlife Park but had been ruled out on account of cost.

It was suggested that a pedestrian crossing could be installed. Pedestrians are at risk in crossing the road to the Park with speeding vehicles. This would need assessment by KCC; however Cllr Chandler pointed out that regulations required good visibility to allow vehicles to see the crossing and slow down safely.

Bus Stop markings could be improved with better signage to indicate stops.

This area is in a 50 mph zone ~ this may not be appropriate.

ACTION Cllr Loukes at the A257 meeting 21 September

Staple PC wishes to push for a 40-mph speed limit from Wingham to Ash By-pass with appropriate additional signs for bends (Vehicle Activated Signs). Those that were there have been removed as they cannot be repaired economically

ACTION Cllr Loukes at the A257 meeting 21 September

8. Discussion and comments on the "Welcome Pack" from Vanessa Nedderman

It was recommended that any new residents should be notified to PC.

9. REPORTS

9.1. District Councillor

Report circulated prior to meeting

A question was raised on enforcement ~ the group now under planning is overloaded. Travellers are a problem ~ If an eviction case goes to Magistrates Court they are so far behind the travellers would continue to do what they wanted to do. There is to be a follow up meeting with Ms S Platt in DDC ~ DDC need a strategy for the future. Little enforcement allows travellers to just carry on

- 9.2. County Councillor There are a number events to improve nature recovery with Workshops at Quex park on 17th September if anyone interested ~ mainly for Rural businesses, environmental groups and individual groups.

KCC are currently resolving budget issues ~ this is a problem all over the country. Many services will be cut or reduced..

Potholes ~ there has not been enough money allocated by the Government. Kent has more main road mileage than most other counties.

A comment was made to Cllr Chandler about knowing where and when road works are starting ~ Cllr Chandler recommended Onenetwork.com. Emergencies have to be done immediately and may not appear on the Onenetwork web page but all.

Utilities have to put forward plans for work and sub contract third party for road signs . After the work is complete they then contact the third party to remove the signs ~ this can take time ~ meanwhile the road is open. It is noted that if KCC do any work then they are responsible for signs etc. KCC are working with Utility

companies to work better. Contractors need to be more aware of clearing signs after work.

9.3. Village Hall and Recreation Grounds

Nothing to report

9.4. Highways (SID, Speedwatch, footpaths)

9.4.1. Drain clearance

A response has been received following a request from a member of the public. A program exists and clearance is done in priority order ~ the order determined within KCC – safety issues are prioritised. Lower road is a problem. Where are we on the list of priority.. The financial budget has been reduced for clearing drains. The climate changes and the force of the rain has caused the mud and field detritus to fill and block drains.

ACTION Cllr Chandler to follow this up

9.4.2. Parking on The Street.

This is believed to have been resolved as the cars are parked off road most of the time.

9.4.3 Local Transport Plan

No comments so far

9.5. Planning

An update from Cllr Davis-Marks

6 applications still current.

1. Travellers on Mill road

2. Summerfield travellers area South of Sparrows Hatch ~ One house build has been proposed as a solution. We need to watch the progress of this application carefully

3. Staple House various build changes

4. Barnsole Vineyard. Change to a dwelling house. The Vineyard is not profitable and has not been sold

5. Garage extension at Somersham House on the Street.

6. The Old Rectory – extension to property ~ Approved

Summerfield Nurseries ~ it is noted that there has been patchy reparation to road after Summerfield development Mill Lane.

ACTION

9.6. Kent Police

The last Bulletin for Parish Councils was circulated by our local beat Policeman

10. TO DISCUSS the Councillor Vacancy and vacancy for Parish Clerk

Cllr Bartlett will ask around local PC to see if any Clerk could take on Staple. The advert has been added into the KALC news

11. TO DISCUSS the finger post on Buckland Lane

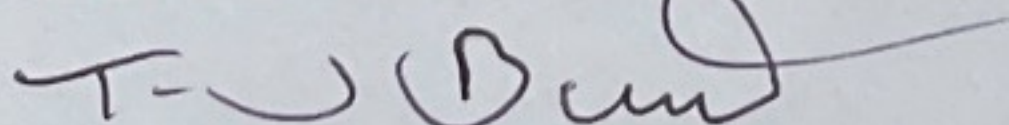
It is still awaiting welding at R Cadman

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9th October 2024

- The deadline for Agenda items to be included is the end of the day on the 2nd of October 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Parish Council

Signature:



Date:

Chairman: Cllr T Bartlett