



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Eyre, Lovell, Pegg and Rastall

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor and three members of the public.

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

David Blount, Chairman of Kenton Parish Council, spoke to an emergency item regarding the responsibility for the VAS signs (item 5.2) and the request by the VAS group that Starcross and Kenton Parish Councils accept the ongoing management and responsibility for the signs and the volunteers operating them. Kenton Parish Council will support the decision of Starcross Parish Council as it would not be practical for one Council to work independently of the other.

130623.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Zawadzka
- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr McNally

130623.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

130623.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Members present received the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2023.
- 3.2 Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 May 2023.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY by those members present that these minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of that meeting.

130623.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman listed the items on the action report:

Starcross Garage

No further action currently.

Cycle Path and Pavements

Cllr Pegg will report on this later in the meeting.

Swan Road Steps

Cllr Lovell will talk to an adjacent landowner about clearing the vegetation which has grown back.

Levelling Up

The Council is gradually working through these.

Bus Shelter

It is assumed that this is The Chairman spoke again with Fernbank and they asked to be put in touch with Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club which he has done. They will liaise with them direct about the resiting of the shelter.

Play park

See report at item 8.1. Cllr Chase also advised that a meeting needs to be arranged with Rhino Play to discuss various issues. The matter of regular safety checks and general maintenance of the equipment was also raised. Similarly, a calendar of maintenance checks for the Pavilion would also be desirable. It was agreed that a volunteer is needed to produce a list of safety checks for the Pavilion and play park; this person should also be capable of general maintenance of the play park equipment.

130623.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

5.1 No crime report. A copy of the gazette was circulated to all.

5.2 Community Speedwatch

The Chairman advised that he had circulated the latest correspondence relating to the VAS signs to all members. In summary, unless Starcross and Kenton Parish Councils take on the responsibility for both the signs and the volunteers operating them and thus incorporate them within their own insurance policies, the VAS group will not be able to operate the signs.

After brief discussion, it was **AGREED BY A MAJORITY** of members (7 for, 1 abstention) that Starcross Parish Council accepts the ongoing management and responsibility for the signs and the CSW volunteers operating them in Starcross.

It was also proposed that the balance of any surplus funds held by Kenton Parish Council is transferred to Starcross Parish Council to manage any future expenditure relating to the management of the VAS signs.

The Chairman and Cllr Pegg will meet with Cllr McNally (VAS group) to establish more detail about how the signs are being operated.

130623.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Connett advised that the resurfacing work on the A379 will commence before the summer holidays start. He thanked the Parish Council for its persistent campaigning to get the scheme in. He has written to TDC asking them to consider suspending the parking charges in New Road for the period of the works to help residents. A response is awaited.

District Cllr Taylor advised that TDC are considering suspending charges in New Road during the roadworks. He has also been approached by residents about the provision of residents' parking permits which he is exploring with TDC. With regard to the storage in front of the Old Vicarage, he has referred this to a TDC officer. He also advised that an Untidy Land notice has been served by TDC on the owners of Starcross Garage requiring the roof to be reinstated to the main building. If there is no appeal, the notice will come into effect on 28 June with two months' notice given to them to comply. With regard to the demolition of a wall on the outskirts of the village (in the setting of a Listed structure), he has given some advice about possible actions which can be taken.

130623.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE (Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 16 May – 13 June 2023 and were asked to approve the payments listed (copy attached).
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the payments listed are made.

7.2 Proposal: To agree revised Committee membership, as circulated

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the revised Committee membership, as circulated.

7.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None

130623.08 PARKS, GARDENS AND FLOOD DEFENCE
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

8.1 **Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)**

Cllr Chase circulated a report following the wildlife consultation event:

'We held this event at the Pavilion on the afternoon of 30 May, during half-term – in the hope of attracting more young people and families. Despite a reasonable amount of advertising and even a school assembly on the subject, there were a lot of apologies citing holidays or work commitments and I would say that attendance was lower than we had hoped for but, actually, enough people attended to keep us busy and make it feel worthwhile. From this, we have been able to draw up more concrete plans based on a lot of enthusiastic input and some valuable offers of help from SAFT and Easter Hill Nursery.

The plan has been worked up to incorporate 4 main "structural areas" of planting:

1. Willow hedging which will screen off the area between the grass and Bakers' Boatyard – the aim of this is to screen off the patch of hemlock that appeared this year, prevent any disturbance of the existing wildlife corridor and make access into the boatyard more difficult for adventurous children. This has actually been completed, with willow cuttings donated by Nick Hawkins, and planted up by a group of volunteers a week ago.
2. A broken hedge of native plants which will weave across the open space roughly level with the farthest pieces of play equipment to demarcate the wilded area. This will be interspersed with ornamental trees which should give added shape and colour. These will be provided by the Woodland Trust, through Starcross Action for Trees (SAFT), but the Parish Council is required to give consent for the planting on its land.
3. The creation of a small community orchard toward the Heywards Drive entrance. This has been a long-standing objective of SAFT, who are donating the trees and will add some much needed shade to the proposed picnic area.
4. Willow trees, kindly donated by Megan Debenham, which will ass further screening and potentially help with the flooding problems towards the top left corner of the park.

From this, the idea is to let the grass grow in the area between 1 and 2, with mown paths cut in for access and to create further shaping. This will mean a change to the current mowing contract and requires discussion with the contractor. As you can see, there are ideas of willow structures, stepping stones, water features and other "hard items" which we hope to acquire through donations or at a minimal cost – and then there will be ideas for planting which we aim to develop as we go along. The project appears to have attracted enough interest already, in terms of people willing to offer time and physical effort that we are confident in making a start and feel it will be possible to manage with assistance from volunteers. It is suggested that overall management remains with the Parks and Gardens Committee but, as specialist knowledge is required, all activity should be routed through the working group that currently involves the Wildlife warden, SAFT, 2 councillors and 3 volunteers. This group may need formalising in the near future.

Finally, it must be stressed that this isn't an overnight makeover; to attract wildlife, to encourage an interest in conservation and nature and to reach a point of maturity with this project is going to take several years but should then be a valuable feature for many more years to come.'

Members were asked to consider the following proposals:

- 8.1.1 Proposal: To authorise SAFT to request native hedging and trees from the Woodland Trust for later planting on site
- 8.1.2 Proposal: To approve the creation by SAFT of a mini-orchard consisting of native fruit trees on the site

Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED BY A MAJORITY to approve these proposals (7 for, 1 abstention)

8.2 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Chase will confirm whether the monthly checks have been carried out and will undertake them herself if they haven't.

130623.09 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

- 9.1 **New applications/appeals**
None
- 9.2 **Decisions:**
None
- 9.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None

130623.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

- 10.1 Proposal: To refund to Cllr Hopper £58.96 purchases for the Pavilion Café (teacakes, butters, coffee)
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to refund Cllr Hopper £58.96 as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Cafe Account

- 10.2 Proposal: To refund to Cllr Rastall £36.78 for sealant, adhesive and tape for repairs to the changing room floor in the Pavilion
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to refund Cllr Rastall £36.78 as proposed.

10.3 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

Cllr Rastall advised that plans were being worked on for improvements to the outside area of the Pavilion. The Committee is also looking into ways in which the football club might use the Pavilion hall, kitchen and patio area for their refreshments rather than the tuck shop. A report is currently being drafted.

130623.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

- 11.1 Bonhay Circle:
Cllr Eyre advised that according to their maps, TDC do not own the circle. Teign Housing have also verbally denied ownership. It was mooted, however, that the lines on the boundary map were not accurate. The Chairman advised that the bricks used

for the Teign Housing bungalows is the same as Bonhay Circle. He therefore intends to go back to Teign Housing to advise them of this. Cllr Eyre advised that assuming it will be okay to go ahead with the works to the circle, they have approached Powderham Forge and have discussed ideas for a piece of art.

130623.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

12.1 Proposal: To consider/amend/approve the report from Cllr Pegg re the village cycle path

Cllr Pegg circulated an initial report following a survey carried out by him and Cllr Lovell:

We approached the route from the Strand car park to Royal Way.

All painted icons on route from car park to Atmospheric car park are obliterated and will need refreshing to indicate walkers and cyclists.

There is a need for warning signs in both directions for cyclists to be aware of vehicles manoeuvring through the car park. Icons needed at foot of Station steps. We would suggest a dispenser with existing cycle route leaflets be placed at these steps also. (we spoke to cyclists who had just got off the ferry who had no idea which direction to take for Exeter)

There is need of a sign indicating that the route through Well Street is shared with walkers, vehicles and horses. A painted "STOP" sign is required here to ensure safety of bus users.

Remove the cycle icon at end of Well Street/New Road junction, replace with "STOP" sign with arrow indicating diagonal left.

On Courtenay Terrace/New Road junction, "STOP" sign painted on road to remind cyclists that there is continual traffic both ways.

Painted icons required past Doctor surgery to Royal way. Where Royal Way meets the Strand at the split path the icons are faced to nothing and need re-painting in both directions, further icons needed on pathway last golf course both directions.

A NO CYCLING sign is needed on lamppost at Royal way/Strand junction near to Spar shop.

A NO CYCLING sign is needed at bottom of Bonhay road on grass verge leading to Bonhay Close.

The overall opinion was that the current signs are inadequate, and almost all of the painted road signs are non-existent. We thought that at least the painted signs could be given strong consideration to ensure safety for those that choose to walk the coastal route and those who cycle through the village.

After discussion, it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to prioritise the proposals before sending the report to DCC.

130623.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

130623.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

130623.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 11 July 2023

Note: Where a document or paper is referred to on the Agenda, this document will be available on request from the Clerk by emailing starcrossp_for_cclerk@gmail.com

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 13 June 2023

Summary of Bank Balances at 13 June 2023	
Current (C)	£48,729.73
Pavilion Trading (P)	£9,059.71
Allocated Reserves (A)	£38,182.17
Total	£95,971.61

Income: 17 May – 13 June 2023		
Pavilion café	£125.00	P
Pavilion hire	£241.11	P
Bank interest (31 May)	£37.05	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (May)	£562.02	C
T Greenslade	Cleaning of boat park	£20	C
J Hopper	Stock for Pavilion café (item 10.1)	£58.96	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing and supplies	£214.95	P
Tamar Security	Maintenance contract – intruder alarm	£132.19	P
Source for Business	Pavilion water	£95.37	P
Richard's Cleaning Services	Carpet cleaning	£80	P
S Rastall	Adhesive, sealant and tape (item 10.2)	£36.98	P

Direct Debits: 17 May – 13 June 2023			
Octopus (19/5)	Energy	£228.36	C
Biffa (30/5)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£28.03	P

Clerk (May)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£516.25	£0	£516.25	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£562.02