



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

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

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

There were no questions or comments.

110723.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Williamson

110723.02 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.

110723.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 June 2023.

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

110723.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman listed the items on the action report:

Starcross Garage

As reported last month, 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. They have 8 weeks to comply. It is rumoured that the garage has been sold.

Swan Road Steps

The undergrowth has been cut back. This has exposed a wall which looks to be the adjacent property's boundary wall. If the vegetation is cut back to the wall, there would be room to walk. It was agreed to write to the adjacent landowner to try and resolve the issue.

Levelling Up

Council continues to work through these items.

Bus Shelter

No further update from either of the two parties.

VAS signs

The VAS sign has been operating on the stretch of road near the golf club. Cllr McNally advised that the battery needs to be replaced and the timings need to be adjusted.

Play park and Rhino Play

Cllr Chase advised that the nest swing chains have been replaced. They have also tightened the hand holds on the climbing wall. There is some wire protruding through the rope of the nest swing which needs either feeding back through or taping. Underneath the nest swing there is an unusual crack in the matting and earth, the cause of which is unknown.

The Park generally looks rather untidy; similarly there are large brambles on the Strand and the new shrubs are disappearing under weeds. The Chair advised that he has written to the contractors. Cllr Chase suggested that the contract may need amending to include weeding now that shrubs have been planted. A resident commented to her that she had seen dogs fouling in the playpark; it was agreed that the Committee would arrange for some signage.

Council is still trying to resolve the issue with the bench.

Ownership of Planter

With the ownership of the planter unestablished, members discussed whether they would like to claim ownership. Cllr Chase supported this; she also suggested that the tatty areas at the end of the Strand also be absorbed by the Parish Council so that it can make them more attractive. A show of hands supported (by majority) writing to Teign Housing and TDC and expressing the Council's desire to take ownership of the planter. With regard to the land at the end of The Strand, the Chair asked the Committee to email him details of the exact location of the land being referred to.

110723.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

There was no crime or speedwatch report. A copy of the gazette was circulated to all.

110723.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6.1 County Cllr Connett was not present at the meeting.

6.2 District Cllr Taylor advised that residents have contacted him about various issues including the speed of vehicles on the A379. He is therefore pleased to see the VAS signs now operating and he has also written to DCC about additional signage. Residents have also contacted him about overgrown hedges in the parish. He has written to Teign Housing about those for which they are responsible. He was also very pleased to have been on the very first train, calling at Starcross, to Marsh Barton. The Marsh Barton station is now officially open and should be hugely beneficial to residents of Starcross.

Cllr Rastall reported that the hedges along the Strand on the section owned by TDC (Powderham end) are very overgrown making it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists and share the path.

Cllr Allen commented that the new hedge planted by TDC at the end of the Strand is now dying as the plastic sleeves were never removed and it has not been maintained since it was planted.

Cllr Lovell asked Cllr Taylor to chase up the replacement 'no cycling' sign in Sercombes Gardens.

110723.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE (Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 14 June – 11 July 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 **General Report/Question & Answers**

The Chairman circulated details of the Council's reserves to members including sums which have been ringfenced. These were noted.

110723.08 PARKS, GARDENS AND FLOOD DEFENCE
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

8.1 Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

Most issues were covered in the action report at item 4. Cllr Chase added that Teign Housing have raised sections of the dyke. There is still a lot of debris at the bottom and the overflow pipe is still blocked. She will contact them again about clearing all of the growth at the base of the ditch.

8.2 General Report/Question & Answers

Due to other commitments of Committee members, Cllr Lovell volunteered to help on the Parks, Gardens and Flood Defence Committee for the time being to give additional assistance to that Committee.

110723.09 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

9.3.1 Proposal: To alert Enforcement to the condition of the two cottages on Well Street and suggest action is taken under the Untidy Land procedure
Proposer: Cllr Pegg; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

Concerns were raised about the condition and safety of the buildings, the presence of vermin and blow flies and the overgrown gardens and hedges at the rear. After discussion, it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to report the matter to Environmental Health.

110723.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

10.1 Proposal: To refund to Cllr Hopper £40.07 for purchases for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to refund Cllr Hopper £40.70 as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion Cafe

10.2 Proposal: To accept one of three quotes for repairs to the shower area in the home and away changing rooms in the Pavilion.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

The meeting was temporarily suspended to allow members to view the damage.

The Chairman advised that the matter was currently being investigated by the Council's insurance. The quotes were therefore not discussed but it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the Committee is given delegated powers to continue to pursue the matter over the summer and make any decisions where necessary.

10.3 General Report/Questions & Answers

None

110723.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

11.1 Cycle Path:

Members expressed their disappointment about the response from DCC dismissing the suggestions made by the Parish Council to make the cycle path safer.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Working Party gets together to plan next steps. It was further agreed to write to Sustrans for their advice and recommendations before responding again to DCC. Cllr Chase offered to draft a summary of the issues and response from DCC for the news page of the website.

110723.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

12.1 Proposal: To request TDC to display a record of the cleaning undertaken in the public conveniences

Proposer: Cllr Pegg; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED BY MAJORITY to write to TDC suggesting that a record of the cleaning undertaken is displayed in the public conveniences.

12.2 Proposal: To note the condition of some street signs and to arrange a volunteer day whereby overgrown vegetation is cut back

Proposer: Cllr Eyre

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that rather than arrange a volunteer day, the Council should communicate with TDC on the matter.

110723.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

110723.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

110723.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 September 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 – 11 July 2023

Summary of Bank Balances at 11 July 2023	
Current (C)	£47,920.91
Pavilion Trading (P)	£9,229.12
Allocated Reserves (A)	£38,218.26
Total	£95,368.29

Income: 13 June – 11 July 2023		
Dinghy licence	£40	C
Transfer of Community Speedwatch funds from Kenton Parish Council	£947.26	C
Pavilion café	£178.50	P
Pavilion hire	£644.40	P
Bank interest (30 June)	£36.09	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (July)	£562.02	C
S Rastall	Reimbursement for ink cartridges	£52.49	C
Plant Tech	Grounds maintenance – May and June	£1866.24	C
Plant Tech	Cleaning exterior walls of Pavilion	£120	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing and supplies	£217.49	P
Bramshaw Heating	Pavilion boiler service	£210	P
J Hopper	Items for Pavilion café	£40.70	P

Direct Debits: 13 June- 11 July 2023			
Octopus (15/6,16/6 & 19/6)	Energy	£1192.06	C
Bankline (15/6)	Banking fees	£22.00	C
Biffa (26/6)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£35.04	P

Clerk (July)	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

