



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

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

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

A resident spoke about his planning application to be discussed at item 9.1.1 and sought the support of the Parish Council.

A resident requested that the Parish Council provides a recycling facility on the field and in the Pavilion. The Chair advised that there is a cost implication but that the Parish Council is continually reviewing this.

141123.01 RESIGNATION AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Members received and noted the resignation of Cllr Zawadzka.

1.2 Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Pegg
- Cllr McNally
- Cllr Williamson
- County Cllr Connett

141123.02 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.

141123.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 October 2023.

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

Cllr Eyre thanked Cllrs Cadbury and Lovell for cleaning the signs at the railway steps which look considerably better now.

141123.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman listed the items on the action report:

Playpark bench

This is still in need of repair.

Bus Shelter

Chairman to write to the Fishing and Cruising Club.

Planter

Chairman to write to TDC and Teign Housing.

Well Street

Cllr Taylor to report at item 6.1.

Traffic Lights

No further update.

Nest swing

Cllr Chase will fill the split underneath the swing with earth and grass seed.

141123.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

No report

141123.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6.1 District Cllr Taylor advised that he continues to pursue matters relating to the empty properties on Well Street. Cllr Eyre informed the Council that she had been advised that Senior Enforcement Officers have contacted the owner about taking steps to cut back the overgrown vegetation and improving the appearance of the properties within the next two months.

District Cllr Taylor reminded members that the Parish Council has the ability to request that planning applications be determined by TDC's Planning Committee if it is able to demonstrate a strong planning reason.

6.2 County Cllr Connett was unable to attend the meeting.

141123.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 10 October – 14 November 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 reimburse Cllr Hopper for the following items: Swift Print (Pavilion Terrace Plans) £9.50 + Swift Print (A3 village maps) £4.00 + Tool Station (Green marker) £6.98. Total £20.48

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Eyre

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Stationery

7.3 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023. Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

7.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Chase advised that her and Cllr Rastall have updated the Safeguarding poster and will make a proposal regarding process next month.

141123.08 PARKS & GARDENS

(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

8.1 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Chase circulated the following report:

'Another eventful month; we've had a Planting Day in October during which four single-minded ladies hauled logs and rockery stones kindly donated by the new occupants of The Card over to the new wilded area. We've now got some log features which have proved of some interest to children, created an insect-friendly log pile and used the stones to protect a number of willows (kindly donated by Megan Debenham) that we helped her to plant.

Mike of Plant Tech has visited the area and knows now to let the grass grow at the back end of the park while also cutting a wavy path through it. SAFT have the fruit trees on order and will be organising a planting day when they arrive over the next month or so.

The wildlife group is now meeting monthly and overseeing the development of ideas for the area. It's still a very small group and we're hoping to widen involvement on a voluntary basis, really by word of mouth and regular items in the Newsletter. We're also trying to engage with Peacock Place management and involve residents thereto our mutual benefit. Ali McGregor, our local wildlife warden is acting as a liaison point between the wider wildlife activities in Devon and ourselves so we do feel we're getting expert guidance on how we move this project forward.

Our main focus over the next six months is around getting the shape of the area right...so we have the wildlife corridor along the fence with Bakers Yard, we have our little willow glade and will be pursuing the willow tunnels Easter Hill have offered, the woodpile and then the community orchard. Next consideration is how we could either utilise the large football goal but moving it to make a nicer sized juvenile pitch or replacing it completely with something similar that still includes basketball facilities as there have been several comments from residents in favour of that.

All the equipment in the park is sound. We have received several new hasps from Rhino Play for the nest swing and I will pop over and replace the temporary one I put on as soon as possible. Where the matting has split underneath, we just need to infill with some silver sand and grass seed...I'll do that at the same time. Grass cutting took place last Friday. There's been no further vandalism at the time of writing although the new sign for the log pile was pulled up and thrown in the hedge within days of installation.

The garden areas are all in good order although we were expecting a winter trim of the shrubbery, especially along The Strand, which is looking straggly along the roadside edge but now affecting traffic. This is another area of the contract we aim to be more specific about when it's renewed.

The car park has been inspected a few times in recent weeks and it's noticeable that it's in much greater use especially out of working hours so it seems that the charging policy in New Road may well have pushed some car owners out. We will monitor this to see what happens once people do (or don't) take up permits for New Road.'

141123.09 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 New applications/appeals

- 9.1.1 23/01877/HOU – Cove Cottage, Starcross
Conversion of upper floor above garage to additional living accommodation and new roof

Members had no objections to this application.

9.2 Decisions:

- 9.2.1 22/02289/FUL – Land at Ngr 297273 81384 Staplake Lane, Starcross
Single storey storage shed

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant planning permission.

9.3 General Report/Question & Answers

Members were advised that TDC's Local Plan addendum consultation is now open.

141123.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD (Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

- 10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £82.10 for purchase of food items for the Pavilion Café

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £82.10 for purchase of food items for the Pavilion Café.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Pavilion Café

- 10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £4.60 for cleaning items for the Pavilion

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £4.60 for cleaning items for the Pavilion.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Pavilion

- 10.3 Proposal: To accept a quote for tarmacing the path along the side of the Pavilion car park from one of the following:

- SS Surfacing - £2881.33 + VAT
- Roadform - £10460.90 + VAT
- Devon Surfacing - £13,840 + VAT

(Full details of each quote available at the Parish Council meeting)

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quotation from Roadform.

ACTION: Cllr Rastall to provide details to the clerk for issue of Purchase Order

FUNDING: Reserves

- 10.4 Proposal: To accept one of two quotations from Silver Fern Developments for installation of an access ramp as detailed below. Final decision on which method to be made by the Committee.

- Brick elevations with slab pathway £7663.98 + VAT
- Block and render elevations with concrete pathway £7305.61 + VAT

Works include:

- Excavation and laying of foundations for side elevations
- Construction of ramp (brick or block and render)
- Laying ramp surface including cavity infill (slabs or concrete)
- Installation of safety balustrade
- Removal of all waste materials and excavated ground

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept one of two quotations from Silver Fern Development as proposed. Final decision on which method to be made by the Committee.

ACTION: Committee to make decision.

FUNDING: Grant in Reserves

Committee Chair Report:

10.5 General Report/Questions & Answers
None

141123.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

11.1 Proposal: To form a new Working Party to formulate an overall plan for Starcross. Committee membership Cllrs Hopper, Eyre, Allen, Cadbury and Lovell.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to form a new Working Party as proposed.

ACTION: Committee to produce initial plan and priorities

141123.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

Cllr Eyre referred to DCC's decision to terminate the mobile library service. It was noted, however, that DCC is happy to work with Parish Councils to help set up a community library. After a discussion, it was agreed that it could be run as a booking swapping service in the Pavilion Café. Cllr Eyre agreed to contact DCC to express and interest in setting up a community service and to enquire about accessing funding.

Cllr Chase reported on a meeting with Teign Housing about the monitoring and inspection of Sercombe Gardens culvert and the proposed actions to ensure that it is kept clear and that the flow is maintained.

141123.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

141123.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

141123.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 December 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 – 14 November 2023

Summary of Bank Balances at 14 November 2023	
Current (C)	£14,119.57
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,880.43
Allocated Reserves (A)	£84,134.73
Total	£106,134.73

Income: 10 October – 14 November 2023		
Allotment rent	£411.00	C
Pavilion café	£190.20	P
Pavilion hire	£267.30	P
Pavilion VAT	£1563.40	P
Bank interest (31 Oct)	£61.02	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Oct)	£569.67	C
Plant Tech	Grounds maintenance (Oct)	£933.12	C
Exe Estuary Management	Contribution	£270	C
T Greenslade	Strand/War memorial grass cutting	£270	C
T Greenslade	Cleaning and weeding – boat park	£20	C
Poppy wreath	RBL	£20	C
Chip Hosting (reimburse to S Hughes)	Website hosting	£125	C
Signs Express	Car park sign	£166.08	P
Suns Lifestyle	Pavilion pergola	£4200	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items for Pavilion Café & admin costs (see items 7.2 & 10.1 on Nov agenda)	£102.58	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Oct)	£250	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Pavilion items (see item 10.2 on Nov agenda)	£4.60	P

Direct Debits: 10 October – 14 November 2023			
Octopus (9/11)	Energy	£491.93	C
Bankline (16/10)	Banking fees	£24.00	C
Biffa (30/10)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£48.62	P
Shell Energy (16/10 & 13/11)	Pavilion telephone and broadband	£43.98	P

Clerk (October)	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	-	-	-	£22.95
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£569.67