



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and two members of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

No questions.

121223.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Williamson
- County Cllr Connett
- District Cllr Taylor

121223.02 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.

121223.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 November 2023.

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

121223.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman circulated the action report to members. There were no further updates.

121223.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

PC Ben Chadwick has been appointed as the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager replacing PC Clarke Orchard.

Cllr McNally reported that the VAS sign has been triggered 120,000 times over the two locations in the four months since it was installed. 75% of vehicles travelling on New Road triggered the sign (ie. they were exceeding the speed limit of 20mph) and 15% of vehicles travelling on the A379 have triggered the sign (ie. they were exceeding the speed limit of 30mph). Vision Zero South West will be collating the information with a view to installing average speed cameras.

121223.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports.

Cllr Eyre had no further update regarding the community library. The Chairman offered to follow-up on this.

121223.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 15 November – 12 December 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 consider the draft budget and precept request for 2024-25

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Chase

The Chairman advised that there might be some adjustments to a couple of the items in January (particularly the cost of grass cutting) though the final figure is likely to remain as proposed.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the proposed budget for 2024-25 pending confirmation of some items of expenditure. A final decision to be made in January's meeting.

7.3 Proposal: To consider the revised Safeguarding Policy

Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to adopt the revised Safeguarding Policy, as proposed. Leaders of activities hosted in the Pavilion involving vulnerable adults or children to be reminded to read and familiarise themselves with the policy.

7.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

121223.08 PARKS & GARDENS

(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

8.1 Proposal: To consider the installation of fencing and gates in Bonhay Park (quotations circulated to members in advance of the meeting)

Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the proposal and quotation from Mamhead Sawmills for £4700 + VAT.

FUNDING: £1000 from 2023/24 budget, £1000 from 2024/25 budget, £1705 from Devon Communities Grant and balance to be raised by the Parks and Gardens Committee by application to the County and District Councillors' locality budgets.

ACTION: Parks and Gardens Committee to accept quotation for works to be carried out in the new financial year.

8.2 Proposal: To consider the replacement of the two park signs

Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to defer this until the Spring once the fencing has been completed.

8.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

None

9.2 **Decisions:**

None

9.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

With reference to the two cottages on Well Street, the Chairman advised members of the Empty Dwelling Management Orders – a process whereby the District Council can take possession of a property which has been empty for more than six months (without affecting rights of ownership) with a view to making it habitable for the rental market. The District Council will recoup any expenditure it has incurred restoring the property through any rental income generated and a charge will be registered on the property. Cllr Pegg advised that the owner has tidied the front gardens and suspects that he may have been asked formally to do this. The Chairman offered to make some further enquiries.

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £30.59 for purchase of food items for the Pavilion Café

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £12.50 for expenditure on terrace plans

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

10.3 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £52.65 for items bought for the Pavilion Christmas Café planned for 14 December

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

10.4 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £5.99 for striped safety tape for use in the Pavilion car park

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

10.5 Proposal: To purchase a lockable cupboard for the Peacock Cookson room, same type as the existing one. This will replace three old cupboards. Cost £157.50 + VAT.

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase a lockable cupboard for the Peacock Cookson room, as proposed.

- 10.6 Proposal: To consider an application for a burger van to operate from the Pavilion car park
Proposer: Cllr Hopper

The Chairman proposed that the application is refused. This was **AGREED BY A MAJORITY** of members (1 absention)

Committee Chair Report:

- 10.7 General Report/Questions & Answers

The Chairman summarised the finances of the Pavilion Café to date:

Expenditure: £405, Income: £1549

He thanked Cllr Rastall for running it and all of the other volunteers for their assistance and support.

121223.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

FLOODING

- 11.1 Proposal: To contact SW Water requesting information on failures at the Bonhay Road Pumping Station. A copy of the correspondence drafted by Megan Debenham was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Proposer: Cllr Hopper: Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to contact SW Water, as proposed

ACTION: Megan Debenham to forward letter to SW Water. Cllr Chase to also forward a copy to Teign Housing.

121223.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

Cllr Rastall advised members that the Over 60s club has given a donation of £200 to the Pavilion for allowing the Whist Group to use the Peacock Cookson room over the last 12 months.

121223.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

121223.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

121223.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 9 January 2024

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 12 December 2023

Summary of Bank Balances at 12 December 2023	
Current (C)	£12,473.46
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,750.82
Allocated Reserves (A)	£69,106.96
Total	£89,331.24

Income: 15 November – 12 December 2023		
Pavilion café	£201.60	P
Pavilion hire	£54.00	P
Bank interest (30 Nov)	£74.21	A
Ivy Education Trust (School contribution to sportsfield maintenance)	£600.00	C

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Nov + back pay from April)	£786.62	C
HMRC	PAYE	£55.40	C
Plant Tech	Grounds maintenance (Nov)	£933.12	C
C Collings	Hedgecutting	£180	C
Chip Hosting (reimburse to S Hughes)	Website domain name	£9.99	C
M&D Hire	Pavilion patio and pergola	£15,102.00	A
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items for Pavilion Café & admin costs (see items 10.1 & 10.2 on Dec agenda)	£43.09	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Nov)	£200	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Pavilion items (see items 10.3 & 10.4 on Dec agenda)	£58.64	P
South West Water	Pavilion water	£230.16	P
Bramshaw Heating & Plumbing	Annual service and repairs to boiler	£247.91	P
Tamar Security	Annual maintenance contract (Fire alarm)	£289.74	P

Direct Debits: 15 November – 12 December 2023			
Bankline (15/11)	Banking fees	£22.40	C
Biffa (27/11)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£28.03	P

Clerk (November + Back pay)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£796.25	£55.40	£740.85	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£786.62