



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett (7.50pm - 8.15pm) and two members of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

No questions.

090124.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr Chase
- Cllr McNally
- District Cllr Taylor

090124.02 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.

090124.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 December 2023.

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

090224.04 ACTION REPORT

There were no further updates.

090124.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

No reports.

090124.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6.1 County Cllr sent a written report – copy attached.

He added that if more money is needed for the community library, he has a small amount of funds left in his locality budget if required.

Cllr Connett also advised that he had received confirmation today that the traffic lights trial on the Strand will go ahead from 12th February – 28th March. The stretch will run approximately from the public toilets to the Spar shop. The idea is to trial whether

permanent traffic lights could work in the village. As well as generating their own video evidence, DCC will run a 'Have Your Say' event to allow residents to comment. Cllr Connett suggested that any questions members may have about the trail are collated and sent to him for Highways to respond to. The Chairman asked Cllr Connett if a copy of the plans for the scheme could be forwarded to him as a matter of urgency.

6.2 District Cllr Taylor sent a written report – copy attached

090124.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 13 December 2023 – 8 January 2024 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

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the budget proposals as presented. The cash to be requested from TDC for 2024-25 would therefore be £47,654.

ACTION: Clerk to send precept request to TDC

7.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

090124.08 PARKS & GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

8.1 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Allen reported that the 20mph sign on the Strand is slightly obscured with vegetation. The shrubs that were planted last year are doing well. It is noted that the boat car park is now a lot busier especially at the weekends. The quotation for the playpark fencing has been accepted. The contractor will let the Committee know when works are due to start.

090124.09 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

9.1.1 23/02184/HOU – 45 Counties Crescent, Starcross
Remodelling of dwelling for additional storey

Members had no objections to this application.

9.2 **Decisions:**

9.2.1 23/02253/AGR – Mowlish Farm, Kenton
Agricultural storage building

Members noted that TDC has confirmed that prior approval is not required.

9.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

090124.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

- 10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £16.24 for items bought for the Pavilion and the Cafe
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £16.24, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

- 10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £51.85 for purchase of food items for the Pavilion Café/Playpark
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £51.85, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

Committee Chair Report:

- 10.3 General Report/Questions & Answers
It was noted that the Council's application to the Library Support Fund has been successful and a sum of £195 has been granted. Cllr Eyre was thanked for her efforts in securing this. The community library will be set up in the corner of the Pavilion and will be operational on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is hoped that the library will be able to supply the Council with an initial stock of books.

090124.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

There has been a meeting of the Village Improvements Committee. They have a list of priorities which they are working through and the Council will be kept informed.

090124.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

None

090124.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

090124.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

090124.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 5 February 2024** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 5 February 2024

APPENDIX

County Councillor Connett's Report

County finances

Council Tax for Devon County Council is highly likely to increase by a total of 4.9% from April 1st. This is made up of the maximum 2.99% permitted by the Government PLUS a 2% increase in the levy to support adult social care services. In a report to the county council Cabinet for 10th January, the current year-end overspend is estimated to be £4.5million.

Alongside that, the overspend on the special educational needs budget is predicted to reach a cumulative total of £165 million by the end of March.

This deficit, under Government direction, will be carried forward to future years to be dealt with. The in-year increase is forecast to be just short of £40million.

South West Exeter update

It's been announced that the Southern Spine Road through the new Matford housing development has been dropped from the Government funded programme to deliver essential infrastructure.

In February 2019, Devon County Council was awarded just over £55 million by the Government from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to help deliver the infrastructure at South West Exeter. This included four signal junctions on the A379, upgrading the Devon Hotel roundabout, the pedestrian and cycle bridge, community centre/GP surgery AND the Southern Spine Road.

In a report to the county council Cabinet on 10th January to confirm a near £500,000 budget under the HIF programme to deliver 'Alphington Village enhancements' the county council included a line to say the Southern Spine Road is *'now proposed to be delivered by the developers without HIF funding'*. As you can imagine, I am asking for more details about this 'decision' and what the implications are for the development at **Matford**.

The Southern Spine Road will link (when built) the different development sites at Matford to the south of the A379. I am told by County officers that a **knock-on consequence for Exminster** is that the long awaited 'break' between Deepway Lane and Old Matford Lane, which would stop it being a through road, will now have to wait for the developers and their timetable.

Devon Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

Proposals for the local cycling and walking infrastructure plans were published for the county council cabinet meeting on 10th January. The key areas are:

- Heart of Teignbridge
- Barnstaple with Bideford and Northam
- Exeter

It's quite a substantial set of documents which I am still working through.

There is a proposal (E17) to invest in a cycle/walking link from Ide to Marsh Barton Station and Industrial Estate.

However, it's not until you get to the end of section 5 of the Exeter Plan (para.5.6.1) that there is this reference:

"As part of the Exeter LCWIP potential opportunities for cycling connections to the wider villages and settlements and growth areas that are outside Exeter have been proposed. This will support active travel access from areas on the edge of the city through new infrastructure links and/or creation of green lanes; and provide strategic connections to existing settlements and areas of future development within cycling distance of Exeter. Potential opportunities are shown at figure 6..." **Kennford, Exminster and Ide** are referred to and the report adds *"These have been derived from an initial review of priorities, in combination with professional judgment by officers about the likely feasibility."*

Personally, I am disappointed that the clear, obvious and much needed route to **Kennford** and beyond that for people to be able to cycle (or walk) to Haldon appears not to be an ambition included within the plans. Similarly, for **Kenton**, a safe route to reach the Exe Estuary cycle path would be a real bonus and help deal with the ever-present risk presented on the A379.

Mobile Libraries

As previously reported the mobile library service has been cut and, I understand, ends next month. By separate email, I have sent Clerks details of and a link for the grant funding pot (maximum £300 per bid) if parish councils/communities wish to set up a reading room or buy books to help stock a village/parish library etc.

The mobile libraries visited **Dunchideock, Exminster, ide, Kenn and Kennford, Kenton and Starcross.**

And finally..

Over 28,800 potholes were reported to Devon County Council between April and the end of November last year.

At the start of December there were 1,505 potholes awaiting repair according to County Hall.

In **Kennford**, I have asked the Highways Inspector to inspect the re-instatement of the main road in the village, near Gisson and the old Weighbridge, following utility work by contractors.

I continue to report potholes and general highways matters including, at **Kenton**, the overgrowth of muck and vegetation along the pavement at South Town.

District Councillor Taylor's Report

The first draft of the 2024/2025 TDC budget was considered by the Executive Committee last week. Proposals included additional support for tackling climate change as well as maintaining the 100% council tax reduction scheme.

Due to rising costs Teignbridge is proposing to increase its share of the council tax by 2.99% - the equivalent of under 11p per week for an average band D property.

The additional funding is needed to continue to provide important council services such as waste and recycling, street cleaning, planning, licensing, car parking, environmental health and homelessness - while also supporting people in financial hardship, investing in housing and job creation. A new annual blue badge car parking permit is among the proposals, while the councillor community fund - used to support local good causes - is to be maintained at the current level.

Executive members supported the recommendation for full council to approve the proposals including the council tax base, which will now taken forward through the committee phases as set out in the budget timetable.

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 9 January 2024

Summary of Bank Balances at 8 January 2024	
Current (C)	£12,035.53
Pavilion Trading (P)	£8,076.54
Allocated Reserves (A)	£69,186.55
Total	£89,298.62

Income: 13 December 2023 – 8 January 2024		
Pavilion café	£271.35	P
Pavilion hire	£891.20	P
Bank interest (29 Dec)	£79.61	A
Starcross Dons Pitch Hire	£1438	C
Starcross Dons Café & Changing rooms	£114	C

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (December)	£590.22	C
HMRC	PAYE	£6.80	C
Plant Tech	Grounds maintenance (Dec)	£933.12	C
Steve Swift	Tree report for two oaks	£360	C
Roadform	Footpath surfacing	£5425.08	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items for Pavilion Café/Playpark (see item 10.2 on Jan agenda)	£51.85	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for cupboard purchased from Viking Direct (as approved in December's meeting)	£189.00	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Pavilion items (see items 10.1 on Jan agenda)	£16.25	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Dec)	£168.63	P

Direct Debits: 13 December 2023 – 8 January 2024			
Bankline (15/12)	Banking fees	£24.80	C
Biffa (27/12)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£35.04	P
Shell Energy	Pavilion telephone and broadband	£21.99	P

Clerk (December)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£551.25	£6.80	£544.45	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£590.22