



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Monday 5 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Coupe (after item 2), Eyre, Lovell, Pegg, Rastall and Williamson,

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett and District Cllr Taylor

Before the start of the meeting, the Chairman asked members to remember former Parish Councillor and friend, Colin Stanley, who died last week after a long illness. Colin was a councillor for eight years from 2009 and was most active in the Highways and Sports Field Committees. Besides the Parish Council, Colin was heavily involved in voluntary care of prisoners and his ever increasing responsibilities unfortunately impinged on his time and he had to resign from the Council. He was an avid 'allotmenteer', lived for many years on The Strand and will be greatly missed by friends and family. Members stood for a moment's silence to remember him.

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

No members of the public were present.

050224.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr McNally
- Cllr Chase
- District Cllr Taylor

050224.02 CASUAL VACANCY

An application was received from Adam Coupe. Having confirmed his eligibility, and there being no other applications, Adam was co-opted. He signed the declaration of acceptance of officer and proceeded to join the meeting as a member of the Council.

050224.03 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.

050224.04 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 January 2024.

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

050224.05 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman reported as follows:

- The play park bench remains unrepaired
- The matter of moving the bus shelter is still being negotiated (see 12.2)

- The ownership of the planter has not yet been established. Teign Housing has confirmed they are not the owners; TDC's Assets department are still looking into it.

050224.06 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

No reports.

050224.07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman thanked County Cllr Connett for recent grants from his community fund towards the library and playpark projects. Cllr Connett advised that he had no report but would be happy to answer any questions relating to county matters and contribute to any discussion about the traffic lights trial.

District Cllr Taylor reported that he has spent his locality budget this year but the Parish Council would be welcome to apply at the start of next financial year. He has received a report about the toilets being closed on the Strand; he is awaiting a report from TDC as to why that might be. Cllr Lovell advised that they were closed for repair.

TDC's proposed budget for 2024/25 is making its way through the various Committee stages and, further to public consultation, it will be considered by Full Council on 27 February. At Full Council on 16 January, the council tax reduction scheme for 2024/25 was approved and a package of support for care leavers (incorporating a council tax discount, free membership to TDC's leisure centres and work experience opportunities) has been adopted.

050224.08 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

- 8.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 9 January – 5 February 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.

- 8.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £17.40 for A1 print of the traffic light scheme
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

- 8.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None
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050224.09 PARKS & GARDENS

(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

- 9.1 Proposal: To accept a quotation from Steve Swift for removal of the oak tree
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quotation from Steve Swift for £800 for removal of the oak tree in the play park. It was agreed that the Committee would ask Steve if he can cut and leave some wood to be used in play park for seats and stepping stones.

ACTION: Clerk to raise Purchase Order
FUNDING: Precept

- 9.2 **General Report/Question & Answers**

The Strand is very tidy and the contractor has started to undercut the bushes. The installation of the play park fencing will be commencing soon. A resident has planted a

tree at the entrance to the park near the bowling club without the permission of the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the tree has been planted where the contractor accesses the park with his mower. It was agreed to contact them and ask them to remove it; replanting of the tree in a more suitable location should be done in consultation with the Parish Council.

050224.10 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

10.1 New applications/appeals

10.1.1 24/00087/HOU – Exeleigh Lodge, Starcross
Side and first floor extensions and new windows and doors

Members had no objections to this application.

10.2 Decisions:

10.2.1 23/02312/AGR – Higher Cofford, Farm, Kenton
Covered silage pit

Members noted that TDC has confirmed that Prior Approval is not required.

10.3 General Report/Question & Answers

None

050224.11 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

11.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £87.86 for purchase of food items for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £87.86, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

11.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £205 for agreed purchase of three sets of shelving for Pavilion library purchase from Ikea (£170.83 + VAT)
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £204, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

Cllrs Eyre and Pegg were thanked for assembling the shelves.

11.3 Proposal: To purchase a Hose and Reel for Pavilion maintenance - £51.64 + VAT from Toolstation
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase a Hose and Reel for £51.64 + VAT

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to purchase; clerk to refund

Committee Chair Report:

11.4 General Report/Questions & Answers

Cllr Rastall reported that the Café is becoming very popular. The ramp is nearing completion; it is just awaiting the installation of the railings.

050224.12 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Members received a report from the Village Improvements Committee outlining progress to date:

Quiet Lanes/Home Zones Legislation

Contact has been made with Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport Meg Booth requesting information as to how we progress an application. We also suggested that a meeting with the responsible department might be useful. After chasing this we had an apologetic reply that our enquiry has been passed to our Neighbourhood Highway Officer. Areas for consideration are Well Street, Longfields and the back lanes from Staplake Road through to Brickyard Lane.

Cycle Path

Cllr Pegg and Cllr Eyre completed a walkthrough with reps from Sustrans during which additional signage was marked. We still have some work to do regarding discussions with Highways and possible diversion.

The Swan Road Steps

Discussions have taken place with property owners and suggestions made. Again we need to discuss with Highways on possible widening at the crucial area.

Parking

This is difficult. We feel that until/unless the situation at New Road car park is solved there will be little enthusiasm from TDC to source new parking areas. Discussions continue.

Properties on Well Street

We added the two empty houses in Well Street to our list of improvements. These are potentially good accommodation besides being historically interesting, being part of the original village. We are in touch with TDC and have supplied a recent time-line and photographs. A Housing Meeting is taking place this week.

Traffic Lights on the Strand

Our time has been taken by the DCC proposals to install a trial of traffic lights on the Strand. Other than a plan drawn on a 2013 inaccurate map we have no idea how this will work.

Next meeting

The group will meet again during the next couple of weeks to pick up on how to proceed.

050224.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

- 12.1 Members considered the proposal by DCC to install a trial of a traffic lights system on The Strand.

The plan has been based on a 2013 map which shows the knocking down of part of the Fishing and Cruising Club wall to widen the road down near Alexandra Mews. The traffic lights are outside the charity shop and the Courtney Mews car park. It was noted that the actual width of the road is only 4.5m (rather than the required minimum 5.5m)

Cllr Coupe advised that the Fishing and Cruising Club has written to DCC expressing its concerns about the trial, in particular members leaving the club car park will be unaware of the orientation of lights (they could turn right traveling north when the traffic travelling south has right of way). The response was that at busier times of the day, the orientation of flow will be apparent. The Fishing and Cruising Club's concern is that many members leave later at night when it is less obvious and could result in a collision.

Cllr Connett emphasised that this is trial. Cameras will record what happens and this information will feed into whether traffic lights in the village are feasible. He supported the timing of the trial and 6 weeks will give a fair indication of whether it is something worth pursuing or whether other solutions need to be explored. The trial will cost around £4,000 to which he has contributed through his community fund.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY not to formally comment on the proposal at this stage.

- 12.2 The Chairman updated members on the bus shelter matter and advised that there is currently a deadlock. Fernbank do not want to push the shelter too far back as the advertising will not be visible from the road. They are willing to push it back two feet towards the tree stump and must have the advertising on the north wall. The Fishing and Cruising Club, however, are concerned about visibility exiting their car park. The Chairman has drafted a letter to try and resolve the deadlock. The Parish Council wants advertising on the north facing wall (if it is on the south wall, it means people can't see the bus coming) and to move the shelter back two feet on to a new base which Fernbank would supply. If the Fishing and Cruising Club can't agree to this, the only answer will be to replace the shelter in its existing position with the advertising on the north wall. The contract with Fernbank runs out in two years so if this is not resolved, Fernbank could potentially move the bus shelter away from this location.
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050224.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

The Council has been approached by the Cockwood Shanty Festival who wish to use the Pavilion as part of their festival on 23/24 March. This was supported by members of the Council.

050224.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 March 2024** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 March 2024

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 – 5 February 2024

| Summary of Bank Balances at 5 February 2024 | |
|--|-------------------|
| Current (C) | £5,545.71 |
| Pavilion Trading (P) | £11,813.70 |
| Allocated Reserves (A) | £69,277.25 |
| Total | £86,636.66 |

| Income: 9 January – 5 February 2024 | | |
|--|----------|---|
| HMRC (Pavilion VAT) | £4057.26 | P |
| Pavilion hire | £399 | P |
| Bank interest (31 Jan) | £90.70 | A |
| Grants (Library and Playpark) | £795 | C |
| Starcross Dons Café & Changing rooms | £54 | C |

| Payments for approval | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------|---|
| Clerk | Salary & disbursements (January) | £590.02 | C |
| HMRC | PAYE | £7.00 | C |
| J Hopper | Reimbursement for items listed at 8.2, 11.1 & 11.2 on Feb agenda | £310.26 | P |
| T Greenslade | Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Jan) | £208.55 | P |
| C Collings | Cutting inside of sports field hedge | £129.00 | P |
| Silver Fern Developments | Ramp works (to be paid on completion of the works) | £10,134.24 | P |

| Direct Debits: 9 January – 5 February 2024 | | | |
|---|---|--------|---|
| Bankline (15/1) | Banking fees | £23.60 | C |
| Biffa (29/1) | Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection) | £30.53 | P |

| Clerk (February) | Salary | Tax | Net | Disbursements |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|---------|----------------|
| Salary | £551.25 | £7.00 | £544.25 | |
| Telephone and Internet | - | - | - | £5.00 |
| Using home as an office | - | - | - | £8.67 |
| Mileage @ 45p per mile | - | - | - | £15.30 |
| Quickbooks | - | - | - | £16.80 |
| TOTAL | | | | £590.02 |