



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Coupe, 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.

No comments

121124.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr Chase
- County Cllr Connett

121124.02 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.

121124.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on held on 15 October 2024.

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

121124.04 ACTION REPORT

Members noted the action report which had been circulated to them in advance of the meeting.

Picnic table

A decision needs to be made about how this is to be sited. The Parks and Gardens Committee will liaise with the manufacturer.

Pavilion computer

Cllr McNally will look at resetting the account as soon as he has time.

Memorial plaque

Cllr Pegg advised that there a number of choices. He will list the various options for consideration.

121124.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

Crime

During the period 1 – 31 October, there were two crimes recorded:

Vehicle crime x 1, Violence less serious x 1

121124.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Taylor advised that residents are able to check on the Citizens Advice Teignbridge website whether they are eligible for pension credit (<https://citizensadviceteignbridge.org.uk/are-you-eligible-for-pension-credit/>)

He highlighted two consultations which are currently open:

- Proposed changes to the council tax reduction scheme
- The future of public conveniences (see item 13.1)

He commented on the large pothole on the A379 which is being repaired (again) this evening.

He advised that he has 'called in' a planning application at Mamhead House for the erection and replacement of the boundary fence (241600/FUL). This will be dealt with by the Planning Committee if the planning officer is minded to approve it. Whilst not in this parish, many objections have been received raising concerns about the movement of deer.

121124.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall, Eyre & Coupe)

7.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 16 October – 12 November 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 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 2024. The increase equates to 3.9%. Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

Committee Chair Report:

7.3 General Report/Question & Answers
Cllr Hopper continues to work on the budget.

121124.08 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

8.1 **New applications/appeals**
None

8.2 **Decisions:**

8.2.1 24/01489/VAR – Brickhouse Farm Barn, Mamhead
Variation of condition 3 on planning permission 23/00716/FUL (relocation of car park and erection of courtyard building, terrace and pergola in association with use as a wedding venue) relating to time limit for removal of temporary kitchen (extend until November 2026)

Members noted that TDC has conditionally approved this application.

8.2.2 24/01461/VAR – Brickhouse Farm Barn, Mamhead
Removal of condition 3 on permission 23/00717/LBC (erection of courtyard building, terrace and pergola in association with use as a wedding venue) relating to time limit for removal of temporary kitchen

Members noted that TDC has conditionally approved this application

8.3 Other/General Report/Question & Answers

None

121124.09 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, Pegg, Eyre & Coupe)

- 9.1 Proposal: To ask Steve Swift to provide a quotation for landscaping the rough strip next to the footpath in the sports field car park (approximately 50m).
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to obtain a quotation, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to contact Steve Swift

- 9.2 Proposal: To increase hire charges for Westbank from £11 + VAT per hour to £13 + VAT per hour. This equates to an increase of £8 + VAT per session. This is justified by energy increases and Pavilion maintenance costs. Increase to take effect from 1 December 2024.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to increase hire charges for Westbank, as proposed.

- 9.3 Proposal: To increase hire charges for the main hall so that all community bookings (keep fit, birthday parties etc) are charged £15 inc VAT per hour (currently community bookings are charged £13.50 inc VAT per hour and private hire is £14.40 inc VAT per hour). The Peacock Cookson Room will remain free of charge to small Starcross groups for discussions or meetings. Increases to take effect from 1 December 2024.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to increase the hire charges for the main hall, as proposed.

- 9.4 Proposal: To accept a quote from Richards Cleaning Services to clean the Pavilion hall and the Peacock Cookson room carpet for £160
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quote from Richards Cleaning Services to clean the Pavilion hall and the Peacock Cookson room for £160.

- 9.5 Proposal: To accept a quote of £75 from Paul Lappin of Zen Maintenance for repairs on and around the Pavilion including the boat park.
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Eyre

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quote from Paul Lappin for repairs on and around the Pavilion including the boat park, as proposed.

- 9.6 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £42.05 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Precept

Committee Chair Report:

- 9.7 General Report/Questions & Answers
To report any other matters
-

Committee Chair Report:

- 10.1 Proposal: To increase the current licence fees for dinghies at the boat park as follows:
 Rack spaces (x8) - to increase from £40 pa to £50 pa
 Flat spaces (x4) - to increase from £80 pa to £100 pa
 New fees to be applied from 1 April 2025
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to increase the current licence for dinghies at the boat park, as proposed.

- 10.2 Proposal: To purchase solar lights to illuminate the tree in the planter at a cost of £20.
Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase solar lights, as proposed.

ACTION: Members of the P&G Committee to purchase and install

- 10.3 General Report/Question & Answers

Cllr Chase circulated the following report:

Bonhay Park

All in good order on last visit although the full monthly safety checks need to be done this week. Dog signs and main park signs to be installed by the new contractor Jim and Sally have chosen. New picnic table and seating needs to be installed – details to be confirmed. The original plan for a concrete base was considered too expensive (quotes of £900 and £1500).

Next meeting of the Wildlife Group should be 26th November to plan spring planting, acquisition of 2 small apple trees from SAFT as replacements for ones that did not take and separation of the wildlife corridor (and the hogweed in particular) from the main grass area. The group would like to continue meeting in the Pavilion.

Strand Gardens

Grass has been recently cut but the shrubs are still looking untidy in places. There are a few spots where there are just brambles or where newer shrubs have been taken over by taller weeds. Have had no response from Plant Tech querying when the autumn pruning is planned and it appears there are still birds roosting in the area, so this will be chased up again.

Millennium Garden

It was agreed to organise a meeting between Starcross in Bloom (Megan) and Tom and Trish regarding management of the shrubs and the planter as both areas continue to look overgrown and rather tatty. Nick England has been asked to quote to replace the slats in the benches as a possible improvement - no feedback as yet.

Memorial Garden

Nothing to report...area is generally tidy.

Planter/Sercombe's corner

A purchase order has been issued for the brickwork repair. The new tree has been positively received but the committee is still debating a way forward regarding the tree guard as the preferred option (a sturdy ironwork frame with design items reflecting Starcross heritage) is rather pricey. The committee is also working on further plans to improve the area as a community focus with ideas to make this planter more eye-catching and to utilise the space behind the shrubbery on Sercombe Gardens corner planter.

Community Gardens Grant

We didn't apply for funding after all due to the short timescale, lack of agreed plans and the difficulty in obtaining firm prices that were required by the terms of the grant. We also noted concerns about future-proofing some aspects such as ongoing (post-grant period) finance and maintenance which also applies to projects that are currently supported through volunteer effort and these are points that we will be addressing as part of a work programme for the coming year.

121124.11 EXTERNAL PROJECTS (Cllrs Coupe, Hopper, Eyre & Williamson)

None

121124.12 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

- 12.1 Proposal: That Starcross Parish Council writes to Cllr Connett and Martin Wrigley MP asking for their assistance with the Council's concerns about safety on the cycle route through the village. Information document circulated to members.
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Eyre

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the Parish Council writes to Cllr Connett and Martin Wrigley MP, as proposed.

121124.13 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

- 13.1 To consider the Council's response to TDC's consultation on the future provision of public toilets.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey online:
[Public toilets consultation - Teignbridge District Council](#)

This will run until 23 December.

The Chair will draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council to send to TDC objecting to any closure.

- 13.2 To consider an invitation from Cllr Connett to submit requests for parking and waiting restrictions
There were no requests.
- 13.3 Members noted the response of GWR (with regard to the Council's request that station announcements (in both directions) be silenced from 10.40 to 11.10am on Sunday 10 November to allow for a period of remembrance at Starcross Memorial to be carried out undisturbed) advising that they were unable to stop announcements being made but were able to reduce the volume during that period and reduce the number of announcements to the absolute minimum required.
- 13.4 To receive an offer of a free landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust
It was agreed to accept the offer of a tree. The Parks and Gardens Committee will inform the clerk of their chosen species and consider a suitable planting location.
-

121124.14 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE

None

121124.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10 December 2024** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 10 December 2024

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 12 November 2024

Summary of Bank Balances at 12 November 2024	
Current (C)	£18,689.72
Pavilion Trading (P)	£6,152.83
Allocated Reserves (A)	£70,946.09
Total	£95,788.64

Income: 16 October – 12 November 2024		
TDC (CIL)	£2842.66	C
Ivy Education Trust (School contribution to sports field maintenance)	£650	C
HMRC Pavilion VAT	£487.30	P
Pavilion hire	£482.40	P
Pavilion café	£200.60	P
Bank interest (31 Oct)	£77.37	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Oct)	£736.62	C
HMRC	PAYE	£34.00	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (Oct)	£562.08	C
T Greenslade	Boat park cleaning	£20	C
Safety Sign Warehouse (Reimbursed to the clerk)	Disabled parking cone signs x 2	£68.34	C
Plants Direct (SW) Ltd	Tree for planter	£249.60	C
S Swift	Planting tree in planter and supply wood chips	£600	C
S Swift	Hedge cutting	£480	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café (see item 9.6 on November agenda)	£42.05	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Oct)	£239.75	P
F Eyre	Armchair & table	£126.14	P

Direct Debits: 16 October – 12 November 2024			
Bankline (15/10)	Banking fees	£24.50	C
Shell Energy (16/10)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£24.68	P
Biffa (28/10)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£33.26	P

Clerk (Oct)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary (including back pay from April 2024)	£724.85	£34.00	£690.85	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£736.62