



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Coupe, Lovell, Pegg, Phillips (after item 3), Rastall and Williamson

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor, three applicants for the position of Parish Councillor (to be agreed at item 3) and one member of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

No comments.

100625.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr McNally

100625.02 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.

100625.03 CASUAL VACANCY

To receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy

The Chair closed the meeting to members of the public.

Candidates were asked to be seated in the small meeting room and were invited, one at a time, into the main hall in alphabetical order. They were each introduced to Councillors and asked if they had any additional information or comment on their application, or any questions.

The meeting was reopened to members of the public.

Members of the Council proceeded to vote by paper ballot.

The Clerk counted the votes and it was declared that June Phillips had received an absolute majority. She proceeded to sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place on the Council.

100625.04 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13 May 2025.

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

100625.05 ACTION REPORT

Updated Standing Orders and Finance Regulations to be considered at the next meeting.

100625.06 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

Crime

During the period 1 – 31 May, there were five recorded offences:

Breach of restraining order x 1, Burglary (residential property) x 1, Criminal damage (motor vehicle) x 1, Drug driving x 1, Possession of drugs x 1

Community Speedwatch

No report

100625.07 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Taylor advised that the government is proposing reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. This includes:

- introducing a national scheme of delegation so there is greater consistency and certainty about which decisions go to committee;
- requiring separate, smaller committees for strategic development so there is more professional consideration of key developments; and
- introducing a requirement for mandatory training for all planning committee members so they are more informed about key planning principles.

He also advised that there is a minor modification to the TDC Local Plan relating to development on Staplake Road. The proposed number of properties for this site has been reduced from 15 to 10 houses due to site constraints.

100625.08 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall & Coupe)

8.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 13 May – 8 June 2025 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 Williamson for food purchases for the Annual Parish Meeting - £41.67

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Williamson £41.67, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Café purchases

8.3 Proposal: To consider a request from Starcross Dons to increase storage on the sports field and to agree that the F&G Committee take the necessary decisions

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the F&G Committee will liaise with and take the necessary decisions relating to the request from Starcross Dons about increase storage on the field.

8.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

100625.09 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

9.1.1 25/00012/REF - Westlake Farm, Kenton

Appeal against the refusal of planning application 24/01842/FUL – demolition of barns to create five new dwellings

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to make no additional comments.

9.2 **Decisions:**

None

9.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

100625.10 PAVILION
(Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper a total of £173.17 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café and Annual Parish Meeting

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Williamson

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £173.17, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall for 2 x large kitchen rolls (£13.98) and 1 toilet seat (£31.00) – Total £44.98

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Williamson

ACTION: Clerk to refund

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £44.98, as proposed.

Committee Chair Report:

10.3 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

The Chair advised that McAvoy are going to carry out scheduled works on the Pavilion from Monday 18 August to Friday 5 September. A security plan will be sent to the Council's insurers for approval. The Thursday café will still operate during this period.

100625.11 SPORTSFIELD AND BOATPARK
(Cllrs Hopper, Rastall, Pegg & Coupe)

11.1 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

There is a canoe attached to the rack which does not appear to belong to any of the licencees. The clerk will make further investigations to establish ownership and, in the meantime, it has been moved so as not to block access.

100625.12 PARKS AND GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Lovell & Allen)

Committee Chair Report:

12.1 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

The main areas are generally tidy and look well-maintained. Overgrown brambles in the park and along the Strand have been trimmed back and no longer present a hazard. It has been reported that the railing bordering the road along the Strand is in a

poor state, with some support posts missing - this will be reviewed to see if it presents a hazard. The catches on both gates in Bonhay Park have been damaged and need replacing, which is being attended to. The group needs to revisit the RoSPA report and plan for some of the items that were marked as “advisory” to be picked up in future years’ budgets (safety matting for example). Safety checks were completed satisfactorily this month.

The Wildlife Group has produced a strategy document for the ongoing management of that area of the park. Thanks to Shelley Rodman-Monday for this. It outlines a vision for the project and describes ways to support the ecological development of the area, encourage community involvement and (hopefully) an understanding of why its appearance will change at different times of the year (basically to enable the growth of beneficial plants and minimise weed incursion). Shelley and Alison McGregor have developed good links with Teignbridge and the Exminster group so that, while operating under the Parks and Gardens Committee, there is a good level of expertise behind what we do.

Plans have been drawn up for a community seating and garden area inside the park, at the planter end, and we are actively looking for grant funding. With regard to the other green areas in the village, it appears we are still waiting to hear from Teignbridge regarding the repairs to the path through Millennium Garden and the possible acquisition of the land at the end of the Strand.

100625.13 EXTERNAL PROJECTS
(Cllrs Coupe, Hopper & Williamson)

The Chair sought the opinion of the Council as to whether matters relating to Swan Steps, the position of the bus shelter outside Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club and the condition of pavements in Starcross should be revisited. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that these were matters which Council should continue to pursue.

100625.14 WORKING PARTY REPORTS
None

100625.15 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS
None

100625.16 RESIDENTS’ CORRESPONDENCE
None

100625.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8 July 2025** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 8 July 2025

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 – 10 June 2025

Summary of Bank Balances at 8 June 2025	
Current (C)	£35,325.31
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,948.94
Allocated Reserves (A)	£71,466.41
Total	£114,740.66

Income: 13 May – 8 June 2025		
Pavilion hire	£900.80	P
Pavilion café	£418.50	P
Bank interest (30 May)	£64.56	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (May)	£621.12	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (May)	£1113.12	C
Plant Tech	Additional works at Bonhay Rd playpark	£300	C
Devon County Council	Contribution to Exe Estuary Management Partnership 2025-26	£279	C
V Williamson	Reimbursement for refreshments for the APM (see item 8.2 June)	£41.67	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for kitchen rolls and toilet seat (see item 10.2 June)	£44.98	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café & APM (see item 10.1 June)	£173.17	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies, weeding dinghy park (May)	£250.61	P
South West Water (Source for Business)	Pavilion water (estimated)	£145.32	P

Direct Debit: 13 May – 8 June 2025			
Bankline (15/5)	Banking fees	£25.85	C
Octopus Energy (27/5)	Electricity/Gas	£202.11	C
Talk Talk (16/5)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£31.92	P
Biffa (27/5)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£41.23	P

Clerk (May)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£572.95	-	£572.95	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£19.20
TOTAL				£621.12