



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Coupe, Lovell, McNally, Pegg, Phillips, Rastall & Williamson

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and two members of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

There were no questions/comments.

140426.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr Taylor

140426.02 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.

140426.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

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

140426.04 CRIME REPORT

No report

140426.05 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No report

140426.06 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

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

6.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 9 March – 14 April 2026 and were asked to approve the payments listed (copy attached).
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the payments listed are made.

6.2 Proposal: To increase the hourly payment to Tom Greenslade for security and other services based on the new minimum wage of £12.71 per hour backdated to April 1st 2026
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to increase the hourly payment to Tom Greenslade for security and other services based on the new minimum wage of £12.71 per hour backdated to April 1st, 2026.

ACTION: Advise Tom & Trish Greenslade
FUNDING Precept

- 6.3 Committee Chair & Action Report
None
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140426.07 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

7.1 **New applications/appeals**

7.1.1 [26/00617/LBC – Brunel Tower, The Strand, Starcross](#)

Repairs and alterations to building exterior including repointing and crack repairs, repairs to Heavitree stone walling, repairs to limestone dressings, new weatherings and flaunchings, new parapet coping to chimney tower, replacement of guttering and rainwater goods, replacement of windows and doors and removal of other detracting features

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the proposal of the Planning Committee not to comment as there is insufficient information available.

7.1.2 [26/00576/HOU – Exeleigh Lodge](#)

New garage

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the proposal of the Planning Committee to raise no objections to this application.

7.2 **Decisions:**

7.2.1 [25/00180/LBC – Georgian House, The Strand Starcross](#)

Full roof and external render replacement, internal damp and window intrusive investigations and remediation

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional consent

7.3 Committee Chair and Action Report

Cllr Pegg advised that concerns had been made about the scaffolding around Hartwell House which was making it difficult for people to access the shop. This scaffolding has now come down.

140426.08 PAVILION, SPORTSFIELD AND BOATPARK
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Pegg)

- 8.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper a total of £339.31 for items purchased for the Pavilion and Shanty event (receipts submitted to clerk)
Proposer: Cllr Rastall Seconder: Cllr Williamson

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £339.31, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion

- 8.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall a total of £161.96 for items purchased for the Pavilion and Shanty event (receipts submitted to clerk)
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £161.96, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion

- 8.3 Proposal: To accept the quote from Plant Tech to clean the exterior of the Pavilion - £100
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quote from Plant Tech to clean the exterior of the Pavilion, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue Purchase Order
FUNDING: Pavilion maintenance

- 8.4 Proposal: To accept invoice from Rob Escott for urgent repairs prior to Shanty weekend on pathway lighting bollard - £120
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the invoice from Rob Escott for urgent lighting repairs, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to settle invoice
FUNDING: Sportsfield maintenance

- 8.5 Proposal: To allow free use of the Pavilion for a CPR and defibrillator training session (date to be arranged)
Proposer: Cllr Williamson; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to allow free use of the Pavilion for a CPR and defibrillator training session.

- 8.6 Committee Chair & Action Report

Report on Shanty accounts

Cllr Rastall reported that the event was not as successful as expected and despite a lovely afternoon, it was very quiet from 7pm onwards. There were also problems with the chip van as the Calor gas burners could not be lit. A post-Shanty meeting of volunteers has been held to discuss whether to host the event again next year. It was agreed to review this in a few months' time.

Report on Fire Assessment

Cllr Rastall reported that a fire assessment was carried out on 4 March. A summary of the issues raised were circulated to members and would be worked through over the coming weeks. The Pavilion hire agreement also needs to be updated so that hirers are aware of their responsibilities. Fire alarm checks are being carried out fortnightly by Cllr Pegg and the emergency lighting checks will be carried out by Cllrs Rastall and Phillips once a month.

140426.09 PARKS AND GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Lovell & Allen)

- 9.1 Committee Chair & Action Report

The Committee were pleased to report that the path is now complete. Unfortunately, there is some damage to the gate. The annual ROSPA report has been received and the Committee will be meeting to discuss this. It has been noted that there is structural damage to the basketball/goal. This will be taken down with a view to putting in a smaller goal slightly further up. The Committee will also be finalising work on the 'community corner'. Prices for planters have been obtained, and the Committee is trying to source some seating/benches from TDC. They will also look at a shelter for that area. It is intended to have a plan ready for approval in May or June's meeting.

140426.10 WORKING PARTIES, EXTERNAL PROJECTS & NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS
(Updates and Action Reports)

- 10.1 Traffic & Speedwatch (Cllr McNally)

A session was held a couple of weeks ago outside the school. 100 vehicles passed them, 15 of which were exceeding the speed limit. The batteries in the two signs are going to be replaced.

- 10.2 Bike Track Project (Cllrs Coupe and Williamson)
Members discussed the survey/consultation which is required to support the business plan. It was reported that contact has been made with the school but, as yet, no response has been received. In the meantime, and given the requirement to demonstrate local support for the project in order to access funding, it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to publish an online survey by various means with a view to having the results in time for the next meeting.
- 10.3 DCC Highways (Cllr Phillips)
Cllr Phillips summarised the points discussed in a meeting on 31 March with Rhys Andrews (Neighbourhood Highway Officer):
- The Starcross Improvement Scheme was raised. He will investigate this as he is unclear as to the status of the situation.
 - Pedestrian crossing at school: Several options were suggested as to how the Parish Council could progress the installation of a pedestrian crossing outside the school.
 - Pavements: Disappointed was expressed in DCC's failure to respond to the Parish Council's survey. The schedule for pavement works have now been set for 2026-27 so the earliest work would be scheduled would be 2027-28. The two areas that need urgent attention are The Strand and Primary School area.
 - Swan Steps were discussed in the Assets meeting with TDC
 - Flooding. Recent weather has emphasised areas which are vulnerable. Estuary Road Corner, Southbrook Cottage, Southbrook New Road and New Road/Golf Course Bridge.
- 10.4 TDC Assets (Cllr Chase)
Cllr Chase reported on a meeting with TDC to review progress on the current asset transfer discussions. Specific assets were discussed, including:
- Play park (Parkers Close)*
It was confirmed that Starcross Parish Council would not pursue any transfer of this area.
- Public Toilets*
Starcross Parish Council has no desire or ability to transfer these.
- Strand Gardens*
Interest has been expressed over a small L-shaped area adjacent to the car park/white gate. TDC Estates to identify/progress.
- Swan Steps (Swan Road)*
Starcross Parish Council identified an unofficial path dropping down the slope on to New Road on TDC land. TDC will investigate this.

140426.11 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE
None

140426.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 May 2026** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 May 2026

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 14 April 2026

Summary of Bank Balances at 14 April 2026	
Current (C)	£29,906.17
Pavilion Trading (P)	£6,081.09
Allocated Reserves (A)	£72,064.26
Total	£108,051.52

Income: 9 March – 14 April 2026		
Dinghy storage (10/12 licences paid)	£780	C
Pavilion hire	£352.50	P
Pavilion café	£173.12	P
Shanty	£792.55	P
Starcross Dons	£176	P
Bank interest (31 March)	£55.63	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (March)	£649.99	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (March)	£933.12	C
Zen Maintenance (P Lappin)	Playpark path	£1430	C
S McNally	Reimbursement for replacement batteries for VAS (Community Speedwatch) – funds already ringfenced	£201.91	C
Playsafety Ltd	Annual ROSPA inspection	£256.80	C
J Hopper	Items purchased for Pavilion & Café (item 8.1 April)	£339.31	P
S Rastall	Items purchased for Pavilion & Shanty (item 8.2 April)	£161.96	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies (March)	£258.43	P
South West Water	Pavilion supply	£211.41	P
R Escott	Lighting repairs (Pavilion entrance and bollard lighting) (item 8.4 April)	£120	P
Suns Lifestyle	Pergola repair parts, supply and install (insurance claim)	£1500	P

Direct Debit: 9 March – 14 April 2026			
Bankline (16/3)	Banking fees	£22.70	C
Octopus Energy (16/3)	Pavilion energy	£140.20	C
Octopus Energy (14/3)	Pavilion energy	£724.02	C
Talk Talk (16/3)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£31.92	P
Biffa (23/3)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£56.82	P

Clerk (March)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£591.50	£3.60	£587.90	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£19.20
Stamps (for dinghy licences)				£13.92
TOTAL				£649.99