



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

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

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

There were no questions or comments.

120923.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr Eyre
- Cllr McNally

120923.02 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.

120923.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 July 2023

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

120923.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman listed the items on the action report:

Starcross Garage

There was nothing further to report. District Cllr Taylor offered to follow this up with TDC as it has been well over eight weeks since the serving of the Untidy Land notice.

Swan Road Steps

The Chair advised that later in the meeting it is proposed to set up a new Highways Working Party which could include looking at Swan Road.

Playpark bench

This is not yet resolved

Levelling Up

This will be dealt with by the Highways Working Party.

Bus Shelter

The Chair advised that the Fishing and Cruising Club have agreed in principle to the resiting of the bus shelter but they are not agreeing to the advertising panel being on the north side as it would restrict sight of cars coming out of the car park. It may be an option to negotiate a

transfer of the land to the Parish Council in return for the cost of removing the tree stump which is currently restricting the site.

Public toilets record of cleaning

It was agreed that the clerk would write to TDC to ask whether the a record of cleaning could be displayed.

Planter

An idea was put forward for a metal sculpture (possibly a seagull). The Chair and Cllr Eyre will be making further enquiries. TDC and Teign Housing both deny ownership.

120923.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

There was no crime or speedwatch report. It was noted that 4 new batteries have been purchased for the VAS signs.

120923.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6.1 District Cllr Taylor advised that a proposal has been put forward by the Executive today for residents' permits to be available in the New Road car park. The same charging schedule as that in the Strand car park will apply. Initially, this will run for a trial period and permits will be available for 1, 3, 6 and 12 months. The proposal will be put forward to Full Council on 28 September. If it succeeds at that meeting, it will be advertised and will come into effect on 1 November. It will not guarantee residents a space in the car park but it will help frequent users of the car park having to go visit the machine every day to pay for parking.

Proposed costs:

12 months £280, 6 months £140, 3 months £80, 1 month £40

If accepted by Full Council, the details of the proposal will be worked through by officers including the number of permits sold, how a Starcross resident is defined etc.

The Chair advised that some questions have been asked by residents about weeds in the village. Cllr Taylor advised that TDC manages its own green spaces; a schedule and details about how pernicious weeds are managed has been requested. He informed members that he had asked Teign Housing to cut the hedges on a service path at the rear of 41-54 on the Longfields Estate. He was pleased to report that this has now been done.

A resident has complained about parking on grass verges, in particular on Coronation Terrace. This is the responsibility of DCC Highways.

Cllr Allen commented specifically on the amount of weeds growing in the gutter and kerbstones. The mechanical sweeper is not clearing them.

Cllr Lovell requested that Cllr Taylor chases the missing 'No Cycling' sign near the car park

6.2 County Cllr Connett reported that he has asked parishes to put forward their requests for non-contentious waiting restrictions for consideration by DCC by 21 September. He has had a request from a resident to extend the double yellow lines on the junction of The Strand and Royal Way to be extended down Royal Way in order to protect the cycle way from cars which he will include.

He has recently spoken to the Deputy Director of Highways about the continued development in Dawlish and the impact on the A379, particularly around the pillars in Starcross. They are proposing to trial traffic lights at the pillars around Easter time next year.

120923.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

- 7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 12 July – 11 September 2023 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 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None
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120923.08 PARKS, GARDENS AND FLOOD DEFENCE
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

- 8.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £4.49 for items purchased for playpark (swing nuts)
Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed

8.2 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Chase reported that the monthly checks were carried out just over a week ago. The chain on the nest swing and the hand grips have been replaced. The mats are splitting under the nest swing but there is no obvious reason why. It was agreed to keep an eye on it.

The maintenance contracts were discussed and it was agreed that the Finance and Governance Committee should meet to review the contracts. The main concerns were around the visual appearance of the play park.

Cllr Chase advised that she had drafted some Terms of Reference setting out the Parish Council's intentions and expectations with the wild area and Bonhay Park. She invited comments in advance of the next meeting.

120923.09 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

- 9.1.1 23/01332/FUL – Green Pastures, Staplake Lane, Starcross
Replacement dwelling

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that insufficient information about the application is available and therefore members were unable to comment.

- 9.1.2 23/01494/HOU – 49 Longfield Estate, Starcross
Single storey side extension and porch

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to support this application.

- 9.1.3 23/01551/TPO – Courtenay Mews, The Strand, Starcross
T1 Holm oak and T2 Holm oak – remove any deadwood over 50mm,
crown lifting to 5 metres over car park and 3 metres over platform

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to support this application.

9.2 **Decisions:**

- 9.2.1 23/00007/HOU & 23/00008/LBC – Brickhouse Farm Barn, Mamhead
Conversion of storage barn and horse engine house to wedding/function venue including new access track, associated parking and landscaping

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

9.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None

120923.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

- 10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £83.13 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Allen

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion Café

- 10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £34.59 for food and other items purchased for the Pavilion
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Pegg

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion Café

- 10.3 Proposal: To accept a quotation from M&D for relaying the Pavilion terrace plus foundation work for the proposed pergola (details of quotation circulated to members) - £12,585 + VAT
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quotation from M&D for relaying the Pavilion terrace plus foundation work for the proposed pergola, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue purchase order
FUNDING: Reserves and precept

- 10.4 Proposal: To accept a quote from Signs Express for an aluminium sign and posts. There will be an additional cost of maximum £100 for labour to erect the sign. Total £238.40 (details of quotation circulated to members)
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quote from Signs Express for an aluminium sign and posts, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue purchase order
FUNDING: Reserves

10.3 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

None

120923.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

- 11.1 Highways – To receive Chair's report and proposal:
'The DCC approved plan for the A379 through Starcross together with the plan for the Mamhead Road were both turned down by DCC so that the situation is entirely the same as it was before we started the process around 10 years ago. Our efforts to at least have the surfaces of the pavements repaired at the same time as the road surface were ignored and my request for information on exactly what was meant by additional small works was repeatedly ignored. It subsequently turned out that this was primarily pavement work at the Cockwood bus stop where 40 yards of new pavement was installed while our need for resurfacing of damaged pavements through Starcross was ignored - AGAIN.'

I wrote to County Cllr Connett in a personal capacity following his e-mail of 18th July where he listed “asks” which had been completed pointing out that my main concern was pavements along The Strand which had not been attended to in favour of two projects which have a benefit to a limited number of properties, the Cockwood bus stop in particular, and were not on the PCs list of priorities.

Personally I am still in favour of widening pavements on The Strand but at least re-surfacing should be a matter of priority. They make a mockery of the ACTIVE TRAVEL policy of DCC it being a signposted route of the SW Coast Path and a death trap for family groups walking through the village. I fear the new road surface which includes no new markings to indicate reduced width, has increased traffic speeds and that continued house building in the Dawlish area will add to the dangers.

I suggest that we re-instate our Highways Working Party which should act as a pressure group to bring forward our concerns regarding safety the A379 and also to pick up again on our views of the Cycle Route directions through Starcross which have also been ignored by DCC’

After discussion, members supported the reinstatement of the Highways Working Party; the was also wholeheartedly supported by County Cllr Connett.

120923.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

- 12.1 Members received an email from a resident about the safety of children playing and riding their bikes around Brunel Road and in the village generally. She is seeking a collaborative approach to help reduce the speed of traffic, increase awareness of children playing in the area and educate children about road safety. Cllr Connett will be providing some contacts at DCC and she will be contacting the PCSO. Cllr Pegg advised that the police have arranged meetings with the school to include these issues. Members agreed to support this.

120923.13 COUNCILLORS’ PROJECTS

None

120923.14 CORRESPONDENCE

- 14.1 Invitation to attend meeting aimed at fostering a stronger and more collaborative relationship between Teignbridge District Council and parish councils: Thursday 12 October at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Forde House, Newton Abbot. There was no interest in attending this meeting at this time.

120923.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 September 2023

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 – 12 September 2023

Summary of Bank Balances at 12 September 2023	
Current (C)	£26,125.22
Pavilion Trading (P)	£9,890.64
Allocated Reserves (A)	£47,947.24
Total	£83,963.10

Income: 12 July – 12 September 2023		
National Lottery Grant (Pavilion Access project)	£9,999	C
Pavilion café	£464.70	P
Pavilion hire	£1,151.90	P
Bank interest (31 July & 31 August)	£104.98	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (July & August)	£1,108.74	C
Plant Tech	Grounds maintenance (July & August)	£1866.24	C
Powderham Estate	Half yearly rental for allotments	£105	C
Silver Fern	Repairs to Pavilion showers	£10,070.99	C
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	£378	C
TDC	Emptying of bins	£5,091	C
TDC	Election charges	£331.30	C
Stocksigns	VAS batteries x 4	£473.40	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for swing nuts (see item 8.1 on Sept agenda)	£4.49	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items for Pavilion Café (see item 10.1 on Sept agenda)	£83.13	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing and supplies (July & August)	£400.50	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Pavilion items (see item 10.2 on Sept agenda)	£34.59	P
Tamar Security	Fire alarm – replacement of batteries	£76.25	P
Pennon Water Services	Pavilion water	£95.97	P
HMRC	Pavilion VAT	£133.79	P

Direct Debits: 12 July – 12 September 2023			
Octopus (19/7 & 24/8)	Energy	£673.40	C
Bankline (17/7 & 15/8)	Banking fees	£46.00	C
PWLB (22/8)	Loan repayment	£1619.41	C
Biffa (31/7 & 29/8)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£56.06	P
Shell Energy (17/7 & 15/8)	Pavilion telephone and broadband	£23.47	P

Clerk (July)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£516.25	£0	£516.25	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£546.72

Clerk (August)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£516.25	£0	£516.25	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£562.02