



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Cadbury, Chase, Eyre, Lovell, McNally and Pegg

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor, PCSO Bunce and one member of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

A resident who attended the last meeting to make representations against planning application 24/00172/FUL (Westlake Farm) advised that it has been withdrawn. He anticipates that it will be resubmitted at some point with amendments

090424.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Rastall
- Cllr Coupe
- Cllr Allen

090424.02 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.

090424.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 March 2024.

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

090424.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman advised that he will be revising the action report so that it is in a more workable format.

090424.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

PCSO Bunce advised that there were two crimes recorded in March (1 x fraud, 1 x burglary). Domestic related crimes have been excluded from this report.

090424.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Taylor reported that TDC has been struggling to cope with the number of planning applications and determining them within the required time frame. An interim head of department has been recruited and contractors employed in order to reduce the backlog and as a result, in the last quarter, 95% of applications received have been determined. The new Local Plan has been submitted for inspection. A public inquiry is anticipated in the summer with a view to adopting it by the end of the year. In particular, it contains some strong policies relating to climate change and affordable housing at social rents.

A question was asked about permits for blue badge holders. Cllr Taylor advised that these are available to purchase for £210 and will allow badge holders to park in all TDC car parks for 3 hours.

Cllr Taylor was asked about the lack of activity at the Starcross Garage site which remains very untidy since its demolition a year ago. A question was asked about whether an Untidy Land Notice could be served. Cllr Taylor offered to follow this up to see whether it was still an enforcement matter. A question was also asked about the enforcement order on Beech Farm and how this was progressing. Cllr Taylor also offered to look into this.

090424.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg and Rastall)

- 7.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 13 March – 9 April 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 Proposal: To accept Plant Tech's quotations for maintenance of The Strand, Bonhay Park and the Sports Field as attached for a period of three years (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2027)
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept Plant Tech's quotations for maintenance of The Strand, Bonhay Park and the Sports Field as attached for a period of three years (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2027)

Proposal: To accept Tom Greenslade's quote for the Millennium Corner for the same period with an annual increase of £60 (1 April – 31 March 2027)
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept Tom Greenslade's quote for the Millennium Corner for the same period with an annual increase of £60 (1 April – 31 March 2027)

ACTION: Confirm to both contractors
FUNDING: Maintenance contracts

- 7.3 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None

090424.08 PARKS & GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson, McNally and Allen)

Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)

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

Bonhay Big Park

The fencing has been completed by Nick England and his team from Mamhead Sawmills and, going by the responses we've received in person and the comments on the item on Facebook, this has almost unanimously been regarded as a huge improvement. There have been a couple of comments regarding problems caused to hedgehogs (which we're dealing with) and for elderly people who may wish to use the benches but find the grass rather too slippery to walk on. This is also something we're considering how to solve - possibly by repairing and re-siting the damaged bench, possibly through the addition of walkway matting which has been included in a grant application made to Woodroffe Benton. Finding suitable funders for the residue of the costs for the fencing has not been easy, but is still being pursued.

There has been a report that the fencing had warped in the rain but it would appear that either persons unknown have tried to remove the gate or it has been subjected to very rough treatment...we have asked Nick to investigate and fix the problem.

One other issue that has arisen is that of dogs in the park. Councillors will be aware that the primary objective of the fence was to improve safety - predominantly by creating a contained area for children. The hazards from dogs and dog mess on the field were certainly a major part of this but we have not gone so far as to state that dogs are actually banned. In fact the general hope has been that responsible dog owners would already have recognised that this is a play area and the fencing would act as a visual reminder. To clarify matters, it should be noted that the existing park signs already state that dogs are not allowed on the grass so that, in effect, they have been prohibited from using the park for as long as those signs have been there. The signs are rather faded (the Bowls club end more so than that at Heywood Drive) and could do with renewing but, in the short term, it may be possible to repaint the bit relating to dogs and hope that this gets the message across to all users. There have been requests for another dog bin at the Heywood Drive end and complaints that the existing one by the Bowls Club is often over-full.

The annual RoSPA report is due this month. Other than that, the equipment was all found to be in good order this month with the exception of the matting under the Nest Swing...an ongoing issue which we will tackle in drier weather.

The wildlife (sub) group is meeting in a couple of weeks to discuss maintenance of the wildlife area and future actions...just a reminder that all input is welcome but overall management remains with the Parks and Gardens Committee.

Strand, Millennium Garden and Memorial area

These are all generally neat and tidy although somewhat wind-blown thanks to the weather. Plant Tech have been asked to trim the shrubs along the Strand as a couple are obscuring the speed sign opposite the Atmo. The Teignbridge section of this area has been negatively reported to us on several occasions now; their mowing cycle does not tie with ours and it often looks uncared for, giving a poor outlook as one enters the village.

Few bulbs have appeared in the other two parks and it appears they have been mown down again.

Boat Park

This report was going to state that the area is ok, we're seeing generally high usage with all dinghy slots full and more vehicles in the car park but, since inspecting the area, there have been reports that the dinghy frame needs some attention and it would appear that the area flooded on the morning of the 8th April.

090424.09 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury, Lovell & Zawadzka)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 New applications/appeals

None

9.2 Decisions:

9.2.1 24/00172/FUL – Westlake Farm, Kenton
Replacement of existing barns with 4 new dwellings

Members noted that this application has been withdrawn.

9.2.2 24/00195/NPA - Hartwell House, Starcross
Application for Prior Approval under Part 3 Class MA and paragraph W of the GPDO for change of use/conversion of existing commercial premises (Class E) to form 5 residential dwellings/apartments (Class C3)

Members noted that Prior Approval has been refused.

9.3 **Other/General Report/Question & Answers**
None

090424.10 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, McNally and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

- 10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £63.65 for Easter café prizes and cakes and for 1 ink cartridge for Shanty posters and general Council business
Proposer: Cllr Cadbury; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £63.65, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

- 10.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £10.55 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Cadbury; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £10.55, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

- 10.3 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £768.12 for items purchased for the Shanty Festival
Proposer: Cllr Cadbury; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £768.12, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

- 10.4 Proposal: To make a donation of £25 to the Cockwood Shanty Festival

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to make a donation for £25 to the Cockwood Shanty Festival.

ACTION: Clerk to pay
FUNDING: s137

- 10.5 Proposal: To refund Cllr Hopper £10 for Sumup tests
Proposer: Cllr Cadbury; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £10 for Sumup tests

- 10.6 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Eyre £58.06 for the cost of purchasing a new toaster and for labelling materials for the library.
Proposer: Cllr Cadbury; Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Eyre £58.06, as proposed.

ACTION; Clerk to refund

- 10.7 General Report/Questions & Answers
None
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090424.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS
Planter Working Party

To receive a report on progress to date and discuss:

Proposals:

- All shrubbery and roots be removed in the circular planter next to the Bonhay Road play park entrance by Plant Tech at a cost of £300 + VAT

- All shrubbery in the adjacent corner bed next to Sercombe Gardens to be pruned by Plant Tech at a cost of £150 + VAT

Proposer: Cllr Eyre, Seconder: Cllr Williamson

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept these proposals.

Members agreed that alternative uses for the planter should be considered and costed.

090424.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

The matter of correspondence was raised and a question about how this is managed by the Council. The clerk advised that sometimes it is not always relevant to send correspondence to all members when it is a matter that can be responded to immediately by the Chair or relevant Committee. A quick response is often more desirable for the correspondent. If correspondence requires a decision by the Council, it will be tabled as a proposal for consideration by all members. The Chair stated that this could be reviewed if members felt that it was unsatisfactory approach to managing correspondence. In the meantime, he will, when relevant, blind copy members in to future responses.

090424.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

None

090424.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 14 May 2024** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 14 May 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 – 9 April 2024

Summary of Bank Balances at 9 April 2024	
Current (C)	£2,992.00
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,500.78
Allocated Reserves (A)	£59,428.25
Total	£69,921.03

Income: 13 March – 9 April 2024		
Dinghy licences	£440	C
Pavilion hire	£124.50	P
Pavilion café	£166.40	P
Cockwood Shanty Festival income	£819.41	P
Sum-up tests	£3.92	P
Bank interest (28 Mar)	£71.19	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (March)	£602.02	C
HMRC	PAYE	£6.80	C
Cockwood Shanty Festival	S137 grant as listed at item 10.5 (April agenda)	£25	C
DALC	Annual subscription (taken from first instalment of precept)	£582.53	C
Pennon Water Services	Pavilion water	£260.61	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café (£10.55), Shanty Festival (£768.12) and Sum up tests (£10) as listed at 10.2, 10,3 and 10.5 (April agenda)	£788.67	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Easter café items and ink cartridge as listed at 10.1 (April agenda)	£63.65	P
F Eyre	Reimbursement for new toaster and library labels as listed at item 10.6 (April agenda)	£58.06	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (March)	£216.94	P
Tamar Security	Fire and intruder alarm maintenance visits	£428.54	P

Direct Debits: 13 March – 9 April 2024			
Bankline (15/3)	Banking fees	£22.00	C
Shell Energy (18/3)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£21.99	P
Biffa (25/3)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£38.16	P

Clerk (March)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£551.25	£6.80	£544.25	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
16 x 2 nd class stamps (dinghy licences)				£12.00
TOTAL				£602.02