



Starcross  
Parish Council

# STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Coupe, Eyre, Lovell, 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

---

**101224.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr McNally
- Cllr Williamson
- County Cllr Connett

---

**101224.02 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.

---

**101224.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

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

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

---

**101224.04 ACTION REPORT**

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

Well Street Cottages

It is understood that the owner has been given two years by TDC to improve the buildings. No internal works have been carried out. Parish Council to follow up at a later date.

Bus shelter

This has reached a stalemate. The Parish Council is unable to take any further action at this time.

Picnic table

Paul Lappin will build and install it and purchase some safety matting (see item 11.1).

Pavilion computer

Cllr McNally will look at this after Christmas.

Memorial plaque

Cllr Coupe volunteered to follow this up.

Sportsfield path border

It was agreed not to pursue this as residents adjacent to the path do not want trees to block their view.

Planter

Stuart Gray has been issued with a purchase order but the brickwork has not yet been carried out.

---

**101224.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT**

Crime

During the period 1 – 30 November, there were four crimes recorded:

Road traffic collision x 1, Violence less serious (assault) x 1, Violence less serious (harassment) x 1, Drugs (possession with intent to supply) x 1

Community Speedwatch

The batteries in the Vehicle Activated Signs are being changed during the first week of January.

---

**101224.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

District Cllr Taylor advised that TDC will be receiving a government settlement before Christmas.

The toilets are privately owned and leased to TDC. He will continue to make representations to TDC to keep them open.

The planning application at Mamhead House for the erection and replacement of the boundary fence (24/1600/FUL) has been refused.

County Cllr Connett was unable to attend but advised that he had forwarded a report on the cycle path through the village to the Highways officers who attended the walk through last week.

He also thanked each Councillor for all they do for the parish throughout the year. It really is appreciated. He sent his best wishes for Christmas and for a happy and healthy 2025. This year, in place of cards, he has made a donation to Hospiscare. Hospices nationally are underfunded by the Government and this is the case especially for Hospiscare. It relies very heavily on fundraising and the goodwill of the community to provide its invaluable services.

---

**101224.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall, Eyre & Coupe)

- 7.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 13 November – 9 December 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 donate £200 to assist with stock for use by the Starcross Food Larder  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall*

**AGREED BY MAJORITY** to donate £200 to assist with stock for use by the Starcross Food Larder.

FUNDING: Precept - S137 grant

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to advise Mark Brown. Clerk to arrange transfer.

- 7.3 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper for stationery (files) - £4.95  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Eyre*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Hopper £4.95. as proposed.

FUNDING: Precept - stationery

ACTION: Clerk to reimburse

- 7.4 Proposal: To approve the draft budget and precept request for 2025-26 previously circulated and attached

*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve the draft budget and precept request for 2025-26. The sum to be requested from TDC for 2025-26 is £52,280 (an increase of 9.9%).

ACTION: Clerk to inform TDC

**Committee Chair Report:**

- 7.5 General Report/Question & Answers  
None

---

**101224.08 PLANNING  
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)**

**Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)**

- 8.1 **New applications/appeals**  
None
- 8.2 **Decisions:**  
None
- 8.3 **Other/General Report/Question & Answers**  
None

---

**101224.09 PAVILION  
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Eyre)**

- 9.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall as follows:  
£22.49 for white feeder kitchen rolls  
£80.00 for Christmas cafe food items and including crackers , lights. batteries, napkins etc  
£23.00 for Ink cartridge required to print 81 song sheets for Christmas cafe  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Eyre*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Rastall £125.49, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Precept/Pavilion cafe

- 9.2 Proposal: To reimburse Jess Hayes and Jackie Barton (both volunteers in the Cafe ) for obtaining their DBS certificates at a cost of £18 each.  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse café volunteers, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Pavilion cafe

- 9.3 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £81.11 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Hopper £81.11 for Café items, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Precept

### **Committee Chair Report:**

#### 9.4 General Report/Questions & Answers

Cllr Rastall reported that the Christmas Café was very successful and everyone enjoyed themselves. A carol singing event is being held on 18 December.

---

#### **101224.10 SPORTSFIED & BOAT PARK (Cllrs Hopper, Rastall, Pegg & Coupe)**

##### 10.1 General Report/Questions & Answers

Concerns were expressed about certain residents allowing their dogs to foul on the sportsfield without clearing up after them. It was agreed that contact would be made with the dog warden about how to deal with this.

---

#### **101224.11 PARKS & GARDENS (Cllrs Chase, Lovell, Allen & Eyre)**

### **Committee Chair Report:**

- 11.1 Proposal: To accept a quote from Paul Lappin to cement in the legs for the new picnic bench (being supplied by DCW) for £198.00  
*Proposer: Cllr Chase; Seconder: Cllr Eyre*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Paul Lappin, as proposed.

FUNDING: Reserves

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO and send to Cllr Eyre for action

##### 10.2 General Report/Question & Answers

Cllr Chase circulated the following report:

#### **Bonhay Park**

All in good order again; Plant Tech have cleared the mounds of grass cuttings and spread them on the area we originally requested. Following a recent meeting of the Wildlife Committee, it has been decided to use this mulching method as the best way of suffocating the growth of the hogweed. We will ask Plant Tech to pile the cuttings in a specified area and volunteers will spread them over the relevant area.

Paul Lappin should by now have been advised exactly where to situate the dog signs and hopefully they will be installed shortly. He has also been asked to cement in the legs of the new picnic bench and we are just awaiting a delivery date from DCW.

Play equipment appears in good order as of the last visit but this month's check is due.

#### **Wildlife Committee**

The Committee met earlier this month and discussed a range of topics. There are reports of increased wildlife activity in the area, which is very pleasing and we are considering ways to manage the grassed area to promote wildflower growth while minimising unwanted plants creeping into the main park area. More volunteers/interested parties are coming forward which is also good news. The committee has some funds to purchase spring native bulbs and will plan a volunteer session to plant them in the near future. Given the growing interest, we would like to install a notice board which would be updated monthly to feature seasonal activity and, hopefully, raise awareness of this little area. We would aim to seek grant funding for this. In addition, we would like to run another event (like the launch session) in the Pavilion in the Spring to promote the overall ethos of the wild area.

#### **Strand Gardens**

There has been no further work carried out here. The brambles are still covering some shrubs, the weedy area has not been touched and there is not sign of the autumn trim having taken place. Plant Tech will be contacted to discuss what is/ isn't happening and firm up their schedule.

### **Millennium and Memorial Gardens**

Both areas look neat and tidy although some thought may be given to the shrubbery in the planter. Although this has been trimmed recently, it doesn't still look rather crowded. Cllr Hopper has written to TDC regarding the uneven path in the Millennium Garden which poses a trip hazard, but there hasn't been a reply as yet.

### **Planter/ Sercombe's corner**

This is still causing some concern. The dilemma is that it is a large area to redesign with insufficient funding/ no firm funding source to carry out a complete makeover. The tree is surviving well due to the care it is receiving. The wood chip is not an ideal long term solution to covering the surface and we may have to consider other ideas looking at cost and practicality. Freda has worked hard compiling ideas and following up some suggestions on how to make the area more attractive within budget constraints, including making a feature of specially-designed tree protection metal railings and trialing low level solar lights. We have the costings for covering the planter with different materials and need to make a decision in the new year as to how the overall area should be developed. Hopefully we can look to apply for grants which will give us more scope with the final design.

### **Other issues**

After some thought and a route march by Cllrs Hopper and Eyre, it's been decided not to rush into a landmark tree as we haven't identified the combination of right tree/right place and really don't want to rush into this. The Parish Council always has the option to purchase a tree itself when a suitable site and reason for said tree has been determined.

In a similar vein, the option of many orchard trees also requires more thought as to where they might be sited and whether they could be split across a couple of areas. They could be acquired and held dormant if we are able to use the good offices of SAFT and Easter Hill nursery again. There is already a mini-orchard in Bonhay Park where two trees need replacing.

There has been an acknowledgement of our letter to TDC regarding the land at the end of the Strand and we await the outcome of their thoughts on this matter.

---

**101224.11 EXTERNAL PROJECTS**  
(Cllrs Coupe, Hopper, Eyre & Williamson)

None

---

**101224.12 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

None

---

**101224.13 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS**

It was suggested that the Council writes to Steve Swift to thank him for clearing the trees around the village during the recent storms.

---

**101224.14 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received regarding parking by the football club. Cllr Hopper has written to Starcross Dons and they are going to put out some bollards to restrict parking.

A letter was received regarding fence damage adjacent to the dinghy park following the recent storms. The resident was advised that the fence belonged to the properties abutting it and not the Parish Council.

---

**101224.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 14 January 2025** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

---

SIGNED:  
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 14 January 2025

## Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 10 December 2024

<b>Summary of Bank Balances at 9 December 2024</b>	
Current (C)	£18,126.11
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,753.68
Allocated Reserves (A)	£71,022.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£96,901.98</b>

<b>Income: 13 November – 9 December 2024</b>		
Starcross Dons – pitch hire	£1900	C
Starcross Growers – allotments	£250	C
Pavilion hire	£1770.80	P
Pavilion café	£427.00	P
Bank interest (29 Nov)	£76.10	A

<b>Payments for approval</b>			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Nov)	£614.32	C
HMRC	PAYE	£4.40	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (Nov)	£1244.16	C
Chip Hosting	Domain renewal	£9.99	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for files purchased (see item 7.3 December)	£4.95	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café (see item 9.3 December)	£81.11	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Nov)	£201.48	P
Richards Cleaning Services	Carpet cleaning	£160	P
Source for Business	Pavilion water charges	£57.42	P
S Rastall	Various for the Pavilion (listed at item 9.1)	£125.49	P
J Hayes	DBS certificate	£18	P
J Barton	DBC certificate	£18	P

<b>Direct Debits: 13 November – 8 December 2024</b>			
Bankline (15/11)	Banking fees	£26.30	C
Octopus Energy (28/11)	Gas/electricity	£854.61	C
Talk Talk (15/11)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£30.26	P
Biffa (25/11)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£33.26	P

<b>Clerk (Nov)</b>	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£572.95	£4.40	£568.55	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£614.32</b>