



Starcross
Parish Council

STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Coupe, Eyre, Lovell, McNally, Rastall and Williamson

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor, PCSO Bunce and six members of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

Residents asked whether the Parish Council is aware of the clearance of land adjacent to Beach Farm which used to be a haven for wildlife including bats, hedgehogs and badgers. From a wildlife point of view, at the very least, it doesn't seem right that someone can clear the land in this way without any consequences. Is there anything which can be done to prevent further work on this land in the future? The Chair advised that the Parish Council will be considering these matters under residents' correspondence (item 7) though there will be no vote; the land does not belong to the Parish Council nor is the Parish Council the planning authority. Having contacted TDC, a response has been received from the Enforcement Officer which confirms that as none of the trees or vegetation on this site (as well as the site off Generals Lane) were protected, no planning application was required. Should any further development works be carried out, the Council is advised to contact TDC so that further investigations can be carried out at that time.

140125.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Chase
- Cllr Pegg

140125.02 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.

140125.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on held on 10 December 2024.

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

140125.04 ACTION REPORT

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

Picnic Table

The matting around the table will be fitted on 20 January.

Memorial Plaque

Cllr Coupe advised that a plaque will be fitted on an existing bench in the corner of the sports field. The cost of engraving and fitting will be borne by the resident who has requested it.

Planter

The contractor will be carrying out work to the brickwork on 17 January.

Dog Warden

The dog warden has agreed to monitor the sports field. An editorial has been sent to the newsletter and posters will be put up to advise residents that the Parish Council is taking steps to deal with the issue.

140125.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

Crime

During the period 1 – 31 December, there were nine crimes recorded:

Domestic (unwanted contact) x 1; Criminal damage Door being kicked) x 1; Criminal damage (eggs thrown at property) x 1; Violence less serious (male female fighting) x 1; Violence less serious (male punched Male) x 1; Theft (number plates taken) x 1; Domestic (female screaming) x 1; Domestic (assault) x 2.

PSCO Bunce advised that farm crime is a current issue including the theft of quad bikes. He will also be attending training on the legislation around e-scooters. Cllr Coupe offered the Council's support to promote this legislation in the parish via the newsletter.

Community Speedwatch

There have been no sessions in the last month due to a shortage of volunteers. The batteries in the VAS signs have been replaced. The police have also been carrying out speed checks.

140125.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Taylor advised that the public toilet consultation has ended and, as expected, a high number of responses have been received.

The proposals for the changes to the 100% council tax reduction scheme for working people have been approved by TDC.

A letter from the Local Plan Inspectors have indicated that no new sites are required for the Plan to be found sound. Some modifications to the wording will be necessary to, for example, accommodate the changes in housing numbers required by government.

Devolution: There have been discussions at Teignbridge District and Devon County Councils regarding the government's devolution proposals. He will keep the Council posted on further developments, including whether the proposal that County elections in May 2025 are postponed, is accepted.

The budget is going through its Committee phases with a proposed uplift to Band D properties equivalent to 11p per week.

140125.07 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE

Members discussed an email from a resident regarding land adjacent to Beach Farm (as raised in 'Residents Questions'). After discussion, it was agreed that as the Parish Council has no powers in relation to planning matters, or matters relating to breaches of wildlife and habitat regulations, TDC is best placed to pursue this. District Cllr Taylor therefore offered to raise the matter with TDC.

140125.08 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE (Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall, Eyre & Coupe)

8.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 10 December – 14 January 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 purchase a replacement laptop from Argos as follows:
Acer Aspire 3 15.6in Ryzen 7 16GB 512GB laptop (silver) - £382.50
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase a replacement laptop, as proposed.

FUNDING: From Reserves

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to order online and collect

Committee Chair Report:

- 8.3 General Report/Question & Answers
None

**140125.09 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)**

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

- 9.1.1 24/01842/FUL – Westlake Farm, Kenton
Demolition of barns to create five new dwellings

The Chair advised that TDC has confirmed that the original Prior Approval application (21/02670/NPA) expired on 14 January 2025 as the work has not been completed. A decision cannot therefore be made on 24/01842/FUL. This being the case, it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that no comment was required by the Parish Council.

9.2 **Decisions:**

- 9.2.1 24/01113/HOU – Beach Farm, Starcross
Proposed extension and internal alterations

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant planning permission.

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

**140125.10 PAVILION
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Eyre)**

- 10.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £25.85 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr McNally

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Pavilion Cafe

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper £25.85, as proposed

Committee Chair Report:

- 10.2 General Report/Questions & Answers

Cllr Rastall reported that Cllr Eyre will now be carrying out the fire tests monthly.

A card has been received thanking volunteers for running the Christmas Eve morning café, and the Parish Council for the Thursday morning cafes throughout the year which are very much appreciated.

Cllr Rastall assured members that she continues to seek action by DCC to address the cycle route issues which were discussed with them before Christmas.

The Shanty Festival has been arranged for 22/23 March. Any help from members will be greatly appreciated.

**140125.11 SPORTSFIED & BOAT PARK
(Cllrs Hopper, Rastall, Pegg & Coupe)**

11.1 General Report/Questions & Answers

A report from Starcross Dons has been received regarding taking over the store. This will go to the Finance & Governance Committee for discussion and will come back to the Parish Council for debate and decision.

**140125.12 PARKS & GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Lovell, Allen & Eyre)**

Committee Chair Report:

Bonhay Play Park

The new signs for Bonhay Play Park have been put up at both entrances, and "No Dogs Allowed" signs have been placed on the wooden gates in the new fence.

The replacement picnic table and benches have been assembled and placed in the park, with the legs cemented in. The rubber matting is being installed on 20 January.

The monthly safety inspection found a loose bolt on the swing set support, and a bolt missing from the metal fence near the Sercombe Gardens planter. Arrangements to remedy these items are in hand.

Rubbish is collecting in the ditch running alongside the play park, and this is blowing into the park. Inquiries are being made to have this rubbish cleared.

The wildlife group has purchased 100 daffodil bulbs and will be planting them around the trees in the play park.

The Strand Gardens

The shrubs along the first third of the Strand, looking from the toilets end, show less evidence of brambles growing through and over the shrubs. This may just be a seasonal feature or work done by the contractors.

The other two thirds of the shrubs still have brambles growing up through and topping the shrubs but growth is dormant during winter months. One section needs weeds clearing out to ground level as the shrubs that we planted there are overpowered by the weeds.

Cllrs Chase and Allen intend to check the contract and ensure that all of the work stated is being carried out.

A cyclamen has been stolen from one of the displays. This has been replaced by Starcross in Bloom.

Millennium Gardens

There has been no response to Cllr Hopper's approach to TDC about the uneven path through the Millennium Garden.

Planter/Sercombe Gardens corner

We have had some positive feedback about the planter opening up the area to make it feel safer for passersby. However, now that the planter has been cleared, rubbish is accumulating in the Sercombe Gardens bed behind the hedge.

The committee agreed that we need to take a step back, reassess, and come up with a firm plan for the planter areas, with funding identified. When we have a firm plan for turning this area into a community hub, we plan to consult the residents (using the Starcross newsletter) to see if they like our plan before we proceed. We have started to explore ideas for the Sercombe Gardens bed (attached is an idea we had, drawn up for us by Zen Maintenance for constructing a platform inside the hedge).

140125.13 EXTERNAL PROJECTS
(Cllrs Coupe, Hopper, Eyre & Williamson)
None

140125.14 WORKING PARTY REPORTS
None

140125.15 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS
None

140125.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11 February 2025** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 11 February 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 – 14 January 2025

Summary of Bank Balances at 14 January 2025	
Current (C)	£15,792.48
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,495.17
Allocated Reserves (A)	£71,106.25
Total	£94,393.90

Income: 10 December 2024 – 14 January 2025		
Pavilion hire	£37	P
Pavilion café	£317.29	P
Bank interest (31 Dec)	£84.06	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Nov)	£614.52	C
HMRC	PAYE	£4.20	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (Dec)	£311.04	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for voucher purchased for Starcross Food Larder	£200	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café (see item 9.1 January)	£25.85	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing & supplies (Dec)	£223.02	P

Direct Debits: 10 December 2024 – 14 January 2025			
Bankline (16/12)	Banking fees	£23.60	C
Octopus Energy (18/12)	Gas/electricity	£237.16	C
Talk Talk (13/12)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£30.26	P
Biffa (23/12)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£41.58	P

Clerk (Jan)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£572.95	£4.20	£568.75	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£16.80
TOTAL				£614.52