



# STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

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

**Also present:**

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor and two members of the public

## RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

None

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### 110325.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Pegg
- Cllr Chase
- Cllr Allen

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### 110325.02 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.

Cllr Williamson declared an interest in item 7.3 as she was involved with Starcross Sparkles Litter Picking team.

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### 110325.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on held on 11 February 2025.

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

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### 110325.04 ACTION REPORT

No updates.

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### 110325.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

#### Crime

During the period 1 – 28 February, there were five crimes recorded:

Domestic (unwanted messages) x 1; Malicious comms (threats of rape by text message) x 1; Malicious comms (hate related) x 1; Criminal damage (arson) x 1; RTC (death/serious injury) x 1

#### Community Speedwatch

There has been no activity this month due to the number of available volunteers.

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### 110325.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Taylor reported that TDC has agreed its budget for 2025/26. The Teignbridge council tax increase is 2.99% (11p increase per week for a Band D property).

The Local Plan is now going out for public consultation. Minor modifications which have been identified are mainly typographical errors (no changes to the allocations). The Plan still includes the small site on Staplake Road (approx. 15 houses) - page 190 of the Local Plan.

Teign Housing has responded to a request he received from a resident to cut the hedges at Longfield.

TDC Green Spaces is scheduling works along the sea wall.

He noted the application to renew the Prior Approval at Westlake Farm is to be discussed later in the meeting at item 8.1.3. He sees this as a back-stop position and expects it to be followed by further applications.

He has received correspondence from a resident regarding the land on Generals Lane.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has enquired about taking over a parcel of land on the Strand currently belonging to TDC. As there has been no response from TDC, he asked if Cllr Taylor could follow that up on behalf of the Parish Council. (Cllr Chase to forward a copy of the correspondence).

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**110325.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall, Eyre & Coupe)

- 7.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 9 February – 10 March 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.

- 7.2 Proposal: To accept the annual insurance quotation from Hiscox for 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026. The premium will be £2264.94. This is the final year of a 3-year long-term agreement.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation and renew the insurance with Hiscox.

There was a discussion about the value of assets itemised in the schedule and it was agreed that these would be reviewed.

- 7.3 Proposal: To agree the allocation of section 137 grants for 2025/26  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to allocate funds as follows:

- RBL Poppy Appeal (purchase of poppy wreath) - £25
- St Paul's Church (upkeep of village clock) - £200
- Starcross in Bloom (public liability insurance) - £80
- Starcross Sparkles Litter Picking Group - £155.98

ACTION: Clerk to notify applicants of outcome  
FUNDING: Precept

**Committee Chair Report:**

- 7.4 General Report/Question & Answers  
None

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**110325.08 PLANNING**  
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

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

- 8.1 **New applications/appeals**  
8.1.1 25/00276/CAN – The Old Lime Kiln, Starcross

Dismantle an unknown species of tree - Area A Remove two branches - Area B Remove two misshapen heavy branches from a Holm Oak - Area C Remove four vertical branches from a Bay tree - Area D Dismantle overgrown Birch tree - Area E Dismantle dead tree - Area F

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to raise no objections to this application.

- 8.1.2 25/00302/HOU – Beach Farm, Starcross  
Extension and internal alterations

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to raise no objections to this application.

- 8.1.3 25/00370/NPA – Westlake Farm, Kenton  
Application for a Prior Approval under Part 3 Class Q(a) and (b) and paragraph W of the GDPO change of use of an agricultural building to five dwellings

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make no comment.

- 8.2 **Decisions:**  
None

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

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**110325.09 PAVILION**  
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Eyre)

- 9.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £102.36 for items purchased for the Pavilion Café  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Hopper £102.36. as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund  
FUNDING: Pavilion Café

- 9.2 Proposal: To accept a bid for the repair or replacement (as needed) of 6 emergency lights and one light for an Emergency Exit sign in the Pavilion at an estimated cost of £350 - £380 from Rob Escot.  
*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr Rastall*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the estimate from Rob Escott for £350 - £380 for works as proposed.

FUNDING: Precept (Pavilion Maintenance)  
ACTION: Parish Clerk to issue purchase order

**Committee Chair Report:**

- 9.3 General Report/Questions & Answers  
None

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**110325.10 SPORTSFIELD & BOAT PARK**  
(Cllrs Hopper, Rastall, Pegg & Coupe)

- 10.1 General Report/Questions & Answers  
None
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**Committee Chair Report:**

Unfortunately, due to illness and other commitments, we have not been able to hold a meeting of the P&G Committee since the last report.

**Bonhay Play Park**

At this time of year, the play areas suffer from the presence of mud and the wildlife area is in its dormant stage. The shrubs along the fence next to the dyke need trimming back, but have been left to allow for the whips in front of the fence to become established. The corner of the playground between Sercombe Gardens and the big swing set is in need of attention. We have named this area "Community Corner" and have ideas how to rejuvenate it. Cllr Allen has done a lot of research in the last month to get estimates of costs so that we can see if these ideas are viable.

The monthly play equipment inspection has been completed.

**The Strand Gardens**

The shrubs along the roadside have been trimmed and look very neat. It is in the contract with Plant Tech that undergrowth should be cleared and we will ask for this work to be completed next. This area is looking good with the trimmed grass, hedging and flowering planters. These planters belong to Starcross in Bloom, whose hard work is appreciated. One of the small planters is in need of repair and this has been reported to Starcross in Bloom.

**Millennium Gardens**

The area is tidy and neat; grass cut, hedge trimmed, Spring flowers blooming in the planters. Tree roots protruding along the pathway are a safety concern, and need attention. This has been done before with no obvious damage to the trees. We will consider the best action to take as soon as possible. The large planter needs to be tidied, and Starcross in Bloom have started on this. The benches look tired and worn. Otherwise, the garden is well used and appreciated by many.

**Planter/Sercombe Gardens corner**

The planter is looking neat, and the specimen tree beginning to show signs of life. There has been some nuisance caused by youths in this area, who scattered wood chip and damaged the solar lights. The hedge around Sercombe Gardens bed looks neat, but the area behind it is attracting litter. When the Community Corner inside the play park is tidied, the climbers over the wire fence will also be addressed.

- 11.1 Proposal: To add three grasscrete units beneath the picnic table to prevent erosion of the grass at a cost of £165.

*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr McNally*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quote from Zen Maintenance for three grasscrete units, as proposed.

FUNDING: Precept (Parks and Gardens)

ACTION: Parish Clerk to issue purchase order

- 11.2 Proposal: To replace damaged and worn bolts and brackets on a bench in Bonhay Play Park next to the picket fence at a cost of £70.

*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr McNally*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quote from Zen Maintenance to replace damaged and worn bolts, as proposed.

FUNDING: Precept (Parks and Gardens)

ACTION: Parish Clerk to issue purchase order

- 11.3 Proposal: To replace a bolt in the nest swing at a cost of £10

*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr McNally*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quote from Zen Maintenance to replace a bolt in the nest swing, as proposed.

FUNDING: Precept (Parks and Gardens)

ACTION: Parish Clerk to issue purchase order

- 11.4 General Report/Questions & Answers  
None
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**110325.12 EXTERNAL PROJECTS**  
**(Cllrs Coupe, Hopper, Eyre & Williamson)**

None

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**110325.13 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

None

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**110325.14 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Cycle path

Cllr Rastall advised that she had written to Martin Wrigley MP, as agreed last month, voicing the Council's concerns about DCC's response to the ideas discussed on the December site visit but she had not yet received a reply. She will continue to chase.

Devon and Torbay LEVI project

The clerk attended a Teams update relating to the Devon and Torbay LEVI project (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure). DCC has been awarded £8 million of central government funding to work with the chargepoint industry to improve the roll out and commercialisation of local charging infrastructure. In October 2023, there was a call for sites to put themselves forward for electric charging points and at this time, the Parish Council put forward the Pavilion car park. With funding secured, the tender was launched and DCC is now evaluating these. The installation phase will run from May 2025 onwards and it is anticipated that phase 1 will be completed by November 2026. The 71 sites that initially put themselves forward will be included in phase 1. Parishes will need to sign a Collaboration Agreement with DCC, they will need to agree the location of the chargepoint with the Chargepoint Provider and DCC and they will have to sign a lease document. Landowners will receive a share of the revenue (estimated between 3-10%). There will be two 7-11kWh EV charging sockets with marked EV bays.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to be part of this project although decisions would need to be made regarding the layout of the car park and the most suitable location for the EV charging bays.

Annual Parish Meeting

Provisionally, it was agreed that this would be held on Tuesday 13 May before the next Parish Council meeting.

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**110325.15 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 Members received an email from a resident about parking on grass verges in the village. This was noted as a legitimate complaint but there is little the Parish Council can do. The Chairman advised that he had replied to the email and copied in County Cllr Connett so, hopefully, Devon County Council can now take the concern forward.

15.2 Members received an email from a resident seeking details about the derelict building (previously the Fish and Chips shop) adjacent to Starcross station which is derelict and has recently been broken into. The Chairman advised that he had written to Great Western Railway and they have proposed a list of works to improve the building. Since the forced entry, the works have been referred to the local manager for urgent attention.

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**110325.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8 April 2025** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

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SIGNED:  
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 8 April 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](mailto:starcrosspforcclerk@gmail.com)*

## **Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 11 March 2025**

<b>Summary of Bank Balances at 10 March 2025</b>	
Current (C)	£11,126.41
Pavilion Trading (P)	£7,879.98
Allocated Reserves (A)	£71,254.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>£90,261.15</b>

<b>Income: 9 February – 10 March 2025</b>		
Pavilion hire	£180	P
Pavilion café	£184.95	P
Bank interest (28 Feb)	£68.26	A

<b>Payments for approval</b>			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Feb)	£616.92	C
HMRC	PAYE	£4.20	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (Feb)	£622.08	C
Powderham Estate	Half yearly rental for allotments	£105	C
Zen Maintenance (P Lappin)	Repairs on and around the Pavilion including boat park	£75	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café (see item 9.1 February)	£102.36	P
S Rastall	Reimbursement corded telephone	£9.23	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies (Feb)	£229.88	P

<b>Direct Debit: 9 February – 10 March 2025</b>			
Bankline (17/2)	Banking fees	£22.70	C
PWLB	Pavilion loan repayment	£1557.24	C
Octopus Energy	Electricity/Gas	£323.96	C
Talk Talk (14/2)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£30.26	P
Biffa (24/2)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£41.23	P

<b>Clerk (Feb)</b>	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	-	-	-	£19.20
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£616.92</b>