



# STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

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

**Also present:**

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett and two members of the public

## RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

None

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**080425.01 1.1 RESIGNATION**

Members received and noted the resignation of Cllr Eyre. The Chair thanked Cllr Eyre for everything she has done in the last couple of years, in particular her willingness to do things for the Council which has been very much appreciated. This includes the setting up of the library in the Pavilion, the fire alarm checks, help with the Shanty Festival and all her work on the Parks and Gardens Committee. The playpark has been transformed, and Cllr Eyre was thanked for her contribution to this.

**1.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies from:

- Cllr Chase
- Cllr Williamson

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**080425.02 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.

None

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**080425.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on held on 11 March 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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**080425.04 ACTION REPORT**

Annual Parish Meeting: it was agreed at the last meeting to display reports from each Committee in the Pavilion. It was further agreed to provide some light refreshments; expenditure of up to £65 was suggested.

Millennium Gardens path: there is not an easy solution to this. There is a lease between the Parish Council and TDC which is renewable monthly and therefore it doesn't seem fair that the Parish Council should incur expenditure on repairing the path if the lease could potentially be terminated with short notice. The Chair will go back to TDC and explain the problem and ask them how they think the matter should be resolved to make the path safe.

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## 080425.05 CRIME & SPEEDWATCH REPORT

### Crime

During the period 1 – 31 March, there were three crimes recorded:

Violence less serious (threats to harm) x 1, Criminal damage x 1, Theft (number plates stolen) x1

### Community Speedwatch

There has been no activity this month.

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## 080425.06 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Connett reported that he was grateful to Cllr Rastall for pursuing matters relating to the cycle path. He is disappointed with Highways' response and has now requested a fresh look at this. He has asked whether someone is reviewing what was agreed and whether there is a plan for making the agreed improvements.

The District Council is moving away from naming streets after people. It will still remain possible to name streets after people who are recorded on local war memorials.

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## 080425.07 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Pegg, Rastall, Eyre & Coupe)

7.1 **Financial Report** - members received and noted the financial report 10 March – 8 April 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 increase the hourly payment to Tom Greenslade for Security and other services based on the new minimum Wage of £12.21 per hour backdated to April 1st 2025.

*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to increase the hourly payment to Tom Greenslade, as proposed.

ACTION: Advise Tom & Trish Greenslade  
FUNDING Precept

### Committee Chair Report:

7.3 General Report/Question & Answers  
None

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## 080425.08 PLANNING

(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

### Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

8.1 **New applications/appeals**  
None

8.2 **Decisions:**

8.2.1 25/00378/AGR – Higher Cofford, Kenton  
New calf shed

Members noted that TDC has confirmed that Prior Approval is not required.

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

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080425.09

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

- 9.1 Proposal: Retrospective proposal to reimburse Cllr Rastall for provisions relating to the Shanty Festival in the Starcross Pavilion 22/23rd March 2025 - TOTAL £61.22. This was refunded on 24th March to avoid unnecessary delay.  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr McNally*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Rastall £61.22, as proposed.

- 9.2 Proposal: To purchase A4 Suspension Files pack 24 from Viking at £25  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to purchase A4 suspension files, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to order and pay  
FUNDING: Precept Pavilion Maintenance

- 9.3 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £652.04 for items purchased for the Pavilion, Shanty Festival and Pavilion Café  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to reimburse Cllr Hopper £652.04, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund  
FUNDING: Pavilion Café/Pavilion Maintenance

**Committee Chair Report:**

- 9.4 General Report/Questions & Answers  
There has been some vandalism on the steps outside the Pavilion, particularly the bottom step, where the tiles have been broken. There is also more minor damage on the upper steps. The Chair has asked a contractor to source a cap to match the tiles which will protect the edge of the steps.

Cllr Lovell informed members that she had been asked by users of the Café for some chairs with arms. This was noted.

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080425.10

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

- 10.1 Proposal: To accept quote for £30 from Zen Maintenance to fix sign to rack at the Bishops Arch Boat Park  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept a quote from Zen Maintenance, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO  
FUNDING: Boat Park Maintenance item 44

- 10.2 General Report/Questions & Answers  
It was agreed that it would be beneficial to number the dinghy rack. The Chair agreed to look into this.

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080425.11

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

**Committee Chair Report:**

**Bonhay Play Park**

The RoSPA inspection report showed a few areas of concern:

- i. Several toppers missing from timber posts. These are inexpensive to buy and often disappear.
- ii. Strimmer protection for timber supports on the play equipment. Sleeves are inexpensive and just need someone to fit them.
- iii. Fixing the gate fastening. We will ask Zen Maintenance for advice on how to fix the safety issue.
- iv. Trip hazards caused by the surfaces lifting under the matting. We will ask Zen Maintenance for a quote for this.
- v. Moss and weed removal from play matting. This was already under consideration and is item 11.1 on the agenda
- vi. Missing and loose holds on the climbing frame. Rhino Play has been contacted about this and offered to replace them for free. We are waiting for them to schedule a visit.

Tidying of the shrubs along the wire fence next to the culvert is to be considered in item 11.1 on the agenda.

### **The Strand Gardens**

The Viburnum next to the roadside had died apart from branches next to the roadside. Plant Tech has cut this down and is confident it will grow back. Plant Tech also removed the centre of a shrub next to the Viburnum as it also had died.

Two young shrubs in this hedging have not survived the winter and have left gaps, which we will fill with new shrubs when finance is available.

### **Millennium Gardens**

DALC was asked for advice regarding the tree roots causing a hazard on the path through the garden.

### **Planter/Sercombe Gardens corner 11.2 and 11.3**

Bonhay Planter - A quote has been offered by Plant Tech to cover the wood chip with soil and grass it over. Chris assured us that the practicality of mowing will not be an issue for his team. This is a good season for sowing the grass if the Council approves funding for the work in item 11.2, but it could be left until Autumn. Addition of topsoil would be needed. The plastic membrane remains in place to suppress weeds from coming from beneath, and the wood chip would rot down under the soil to add further nutrition to the soil.

Sercombes Gardens – This bed needs tidying. It is rough underfoot for anyone wanting to access the gate to the culvert. Removing weeds and rubbish will hopefully deter further littering when the area looks cared for.

- 11.1 Proposal: To remove all plant weed vegetation from the play-park fence line and border fence line area. This includes all unwanted invasive shrub growth protruding through the chain link fencing with all moss and weed being cleared from the hard play areas. Cost £200 + VAT

*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr Allen*

*Reasoning; Overgrown bushes along the fence line could be a safety issue with branches hanging at children's eye-level. Some invasive brambles, and thorns on some bushes not suitable near ball play area. The moss and weed growth on the hard play surfaces was highlighted as a safety issue in the RoSPA report*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quote of £200 + VAT from Plant Tech to carry out the work, as proposed.

**ACTION:** Clerk to issue Purchase Order

**FUNDING:** Parks and Gardens Maintenance

- 11.2 Proposal: Add approximately 5 tonnes of quality sifted topsoil to the circular Bonhay planter to provide an even surface to prepare the area for a quality lawned finish with seeded grass, leaving a circle to surround the newly planted tree and flush with the brick wall edging. Cost: Material soil and Lawn seed £475 + VAT. The cost of preparing the circular planter £200 + VAT. TOTAL £675 + VAT

*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder: Cllr Lovell*

After discussion, it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to defer this item.

- 11.3 Proposal: The Sercombes Gardens bed - Remove all the unwanted wooden material and the ground levelled for safety reasons. Cost £50 + VAT  
*Proposer: Cllr Eyre; Seconder Cllr Lovell*

ACTION: Clerk to issue Purchase Order  
FUNDING: Parks and Gardens Maintenance

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept a quote for £50 + VAT for works, as proposed.

- 11.4 General Report/Questions & Answers  
None

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**080425.12 EXTERNAL PROJECTS**  
**(Cllrs Coupe, Hopper, Eyre & Williamson)**

None

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**080425.13 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

Pavements – will look at these now that the weather has improved.

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**080425.14 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Annual Parish Meeting 13 May

As discussed at item 4, it was agreed that this would be held on Tuesday 13 May before the next Parish Council meeting.

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**080425.15 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE**

- 15.1 Email regarding drug paraphernalia in the TDC Play Park.  
TDC has looked into this and could not find any evidence.
- 15.2 Request from the Pre-school for funding  
It was agreed that this request does not qualify under the small grants scheme.
- 15.3 Email regarding lorries using Mamhead Road  
This was noted.
- 15.4 Notes of thanks from St Pauls Church, Starcross in Bloom and Starcross Sparkles for grants received.

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**080425.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13 May 2025** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

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SIGNED:  
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 13 May 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 – 8 April 2025

<b>Summary of Bank Balances at 8 April 2025</b>	
Current (C)	£6,383.62
Pavilion Trading (P)	£9,116.35
Allocated Reserves (A)	£71,330.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>£86,830.29</b>

<b>Income: 11 March – 8 April 2025</b>		
Pavilion hire	£650.30	P
Pavilion café	£208.15	P
Shanty Festival	£939.37	P
Dinghy licences	£550	C
Bank interest (31 March)	£75.65	A

<b>Payments for approval</b>			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (March)	£627.16	C
HMRC	PAYE	£4.40	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (March)	£933.12	C
Playsafety Ltd	Annual inspection of play areas	£254.40	C
T Greenslade	6 months maintenance of War Memorial & Millennium Gardens	£270	C
St Pauls Church	Annual contribution towards maintenance	£660	C
S Rastall	Reimbursement for Shanty Festival provisions (see item 9.3 March)	£61.22	P
J Hopper	Reimbursement for items purchased for Pavilion Café, Shanty Festival and Pavilion stock (see item 9.3 March)	£652.04	P
Source for Business (South West Water)	Pavilion water	£172.97	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies, weeding dinghy park (March)	£247.43	P
R Escott	Pavilion Emergency lighting	£350	P

<b>Direct Debit: 11 March – 8 April 2025</b>			
Bankline (19/3)	Banking fees	£24.50	C
Octopus Energy	Electricity/Gas	£559.17	C
Talk Talk (14/3)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£30.26	P
Biffa (24/3)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£51.54	P

<b>Clerk (March)</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	-	-	-	£19.20
Stamps (Dinghy stickers)				£10.44
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£627.16</b>