***STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL***

c/o Ellie Thomas, Interim Parish Clerk

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**Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**7pm Tuesday February 2 2021 ONLINE**

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| **Present:** |  | | |
| **Councillors:** | Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ | Marion Francis (Deputy Chair) MF | |
|  | Colleen Atkinson CA  Barrie Challingsworth BC | Catherine Burnett CB  Kim Lidlow (KL) | |
| **Officers:** | Ellie Thomas, Clerk | | |
| **In attendance**: | 18 Residents | |  |

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| 696/21 | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | None |
| 697/21 | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | None |
| 698/21 | **Minutes of last Meeting** |
|  | Noted: not all Councillors have been able to comment on updates – these will be recirculated and addressed ASAP |
| 699/21 | **Matters for Report** |
|  | Reminder that in Open Forum all attendees have 3 minutes to speak. Please mute all microphones unless you are speaking, and any abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.  No formal Clerk’s Report this month other than that standard EFDC, ECC, transport and voluntary services emails have been circulated as usual.  Planning approved not stated: Noted that we should have a full understanding of planning since the last Local Plan, plans pending and those awaiting approval. There is concern about overdevelopment and its impact on flooding. Noted that the previous Clerk had a summary sheet regarding development capacity in the village as regards Local Plan – action to update this from where it left off.  We are only made aware of upcoming applications when they appear in the weekly list. Comment that suitable sites keep changing and in the case of one house becoming two, are classed as a windfall.  Defibrillators: Top Oak pub have offered to fund one in their end of SA. Proposed & seconded with thanks. We can also possibly find a grant to support this. Fishing lake apparently has a defibrillator – unsure of its registration status with ambulance service. **Action: go ahead and CB will liaise with Top Oak personnel once it’s installed.**  Bus stop update: ECC & TfL affirm bus stops are ours and we are responsible for works done to them. Discussion regarding resident issue is ongoing, email from her today will be dealt with and responses sent.  Health & wellbeing plan: updated and will be on new website. CB talked through NHS finding it hard to cope with plethora of issues so how can we all help; about assets, partners, blockers and support areas and ultimately actions planned and already under way. Plan will be added to and updated – watch this space.  Pathways: walking group found paths should be accessible and are exploring setting up a voluntary group. CB had a successful meeting with Shirley Anglin, localism officer & paths officer. Footpaths action suspended due to inclement weather but writing an action plan to access funding via SAPC is under way. **Action: return to this next meeting – many thanks CB and keep us updated with progress.**  Linkup articles: anything to go in the next issue – deadline is Feb 15, send everything to JJ. |
| 700/21 | **Finance** |
|  | Transactions for January 2020 – All agreed and actioned   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | ZOOM | ZOOM UPGRADE | 143.88 | | EALC | ANNUAL MEETING COURSE | 84 | |
| 701/21 | **Planning** (Development Control & Enforcement Team) |
|  | **Local Plan – covered briefly above**  **Application No:** EPF/2597/20 RETURN: FEB 8 2021 **NO OBJECTION**  **Officer:** Ian Ansell **Applicant Name:** Mr Ben Smith  **Location:** Stapleford Farm, Oak Hill Road, Stapleford Abbotts RM4 1EH  **Proposal:** Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for enlargement of a dwellinghouse  by construction of additional storey.  If you are viewing this report in an electronic format, click on the link below to view related documents including plans  <http://planpub.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/NIM.websearch/ExternalEntryPoint.aspx?SEARCH_TYPE=1&DOC_CLASS_CODE=PL&FOLDER1_REF=644493>  **Application No:** EPF/3053/20 RETURN: FEB 13 2021 **OBJECTION: REF. HIGH COURT**  **Officer:** David Maguire **Applicant Name:** Mrs U Pokar and Mr & Mrs V Pokar  **Location:** Field End and Ralwyn, Oak Hill Road, Stapleford Abbotts RM4 1EH  **Proposal:** The erection of a building to be used for purposes which are incidential to the enjoyment  of the occupiers at the dwellings at Field End and Ralwyn.  If you are viewing this report in an electronic format, click on the link below to view related documents including plans  <http://planpub.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/NIM.websearch/ExternalEntryPoint.aspx?SEARCH_TYPE=1&DOC_CLASS_CODE=PL&FOLDER1_REF=646424>  **Application No:** EPF/3078/20 RETURN: FEB 13 2021 **NO OBJECTION**  **Officer:** Marie-Claire Tovey **Applicant Name:** Mr Muntazir Hussain  **Location:** El Camino, Oak Hill Road, Stapleford Abbotts RM4 1EH  **Proposal:** Erection of front extension & dormer.  If you are viewing this report in an electronic format, click on the link below to view related documents including plans  http://planpub.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/NIM.websearch/ExternalEntryPoint.aspx?SEARCH\_TYPE=1&DOC\_CLASS\_CODE=PL&FOLDER1\_REF=646554 |
| 702/21 | **Parish Council Projects** |
|  | History project – drone photos: to be covered next month more fully. |
| 703/21 | **Correspondence** |
|  | Emails regarding bus stop on Oak Hill Road - ongoing  Email regarding traffic and skips on Tysea Hill – covered. |
| 704/21 | **Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses** |
|  | 3x Councillors have completed a Planning Legislation course, one is yet to attend. |
| 705/21 | **Highways** |
|  | Brought forwards to occur before Planning as ECC County Cllr Maggie McEwen had to leave shortly afterwards.  Traffic and Speed: We wrote to Highways re. items related in the village some time ago, no response: **action: re-send traffic/ speed related information to ECC County Cllr McEwen.**  Accidents on Oak Hill & Stapleford Roads and Tysea Hill (particularly Tysea & OHR junction) and speed have caused huge concern. We have police reports and our own records of accidents. We have written to Highways and Oak Hill Green developers about the matter, and done traffic study. How can we reduce speed?  Cllr McEwen: speeding is a police issue – do you have a local police representative? SAPC wrote to police chief but there’s nobody ‘on the ground’. A request for speeding restrictions can be put to Local Highways Panel but the budget is small for next year (36k) and is already allocated. ECC can’t deal with speed enforcement but we can look at measures such as chicanes, which might be hard in narrow roads.  SAPC & residents are afraid of fatality. We have a list of accidents not reported to the police too. 3 areas cited as worst: the bend from Havering atte Bower, Oak Hill Road joining Tysea Hill and Hook Lane area.  **Actions: send Cllr McEwen the points about danger areas and accident data to put in a Local Highways panel application – they will assess and note. Approach police for recommendations to help the problem.**  Passingford Roundabout flood is huge – JJ asked if we can get drains emptied. Action: report via ECC site.  Oak Hill Green – who do we talk to in case the bus stop has to be re-sited so we can make sure it is not dangerous? Speak to Local Highways about this too, they have already been consulted about it and it’s in the application.  Options for new bus stand on Oak Hill Road as one there is damaged: we own this and all the bus stops in SA, we have looked at costs with TfL who can put a new stand in hopefully for free and remove damaged structure.  Potholes: **Action: keep on reporting these via the website**. Noted that reports are ongoing due to flooding and Covid situation. Query about disintegrating road beyond white lines at roadside: do they repair this if it is not part of the highway? Cllr McEwen: the verge does usually get repaired but it isn’t part of the highway – they do try but there is generally nothing to support it physically.  Cllr McEwen left the meeting immediately after highways coverage. |
| 706/21 | **Matters for future Agendas** |
|  | Health & Wellbeing Plan progress report  Pathways Action Group progress report  Financial roundup  Drone Project update  Policies and update thereof  Dart Bus Trial  Highways – invite ECC Highways contact |
| 707/21 | **Open Forum** |
|  | Highways – pavements & footpaths – path from Bournebridge Lane to Top Oak is 15in wide in places. Oak Hill Road paths are partly impassable especially opposite Gutteridge Lane. Bournebridge Lane has been damaged by builders and surface water is everywhere: Action: report to Highways, we are chasing about footways.  Comment on bus being not used much – but it turns round at Passingford Bridge for users here.  Request to consult neighbours about village sign area being a picnic area, if it is there’s a hazard of more litter.  EFDC: resident emailed to ask what is in the upcoming EFDC meeting and how it will relate to Oak Hill Green. Local Plan will go to committee and will be approved or not. OHG is in the Local Plan, and has been in the planning backlog for months. If the Plan is agreed, OHG will go to Committee for approval or further comments.  Meetings at EFDC: Extraordinary Full Council Feb 8 and Full Council Feb 10. Local Plan (which was debated first in 2017) will feature on Monday 8th and if it is rejected will have to start over again. If the plan is adopted, over 11k houses to be built in the district, if it is not adopted the Government will dictate the amount and it might be double.  Flooding – noted that there is water outside Brooklyn and Bourne View.  Trees at development behind Top Oak/ Mountford & Bishops Bron development: several residents were drawing attention to issue here. Noted thanks from residents for our objections. Evergreen trees had been put in as a screen for Kensington Park but died and were cut down, hornbeams have been recommended as a replacement but they are deciduous and would not create a full screen all year round.  Cllr Brady has been in touch with EFDC Trees and Enforcement to request evergreens. Enforcement said been decided that they don’t need evergreens, trees specialist has yet to explain why this is, as the residents unlikely to invoke High Hedges Act (the trees don’t need to be tall, just enough to screen).  Noted that when the new houses are sold it is up to house owners to plant trees on their own land.  Noted that all we can do is make the developers re-plant the trees that died and were cut down.  Noted that a condition states that trees should be replaced by those green-lighted by Council.  Cllr Brady recommended that residents can write to Enforcement and that she will question the trees specialist further – hopefully we will get a response ASAP.  JJ commented that as part of our objection we asked if this condition should be put into the new homes buyers pack.  Resident pointed out that people are disappointed and that the tree screen was part of the condition and if it dies or needs to be removed should be replaced like for like – something echoed by a number of other attendees at the meeting. SAPC to keep residents informed as and when they hear back.  Resident asked if it was worth having a Section 106 governing replacing the trees like for like as part of the purchase pack in Kensington Park, as a case could be made of overlooking and loss of privacy. (SAPC has objected on this ground). A S106 agreement for a distinct green boundary should be agreed with residents for once the development is finished. The tree officers may argue that hornbeams are native species, but putting them in after the evergreens died isn’t like for like no matter the ecological argument. Noted that hornbeams are not tall so they would not be like for like on height either.  Oak Hill Green document published in April – design review – what is the status here? SAPC advised that it has not gone to committee yet, when it does it will be addressed. They have redesigned, and reduced the house number, also addressing pipeline issue. There are lots of recommendations which will need to be put in to update the plans: when it goes to planning we will hold a meeting and everyone can give their views.  Oak Hill Road accidents – resident remarked that bollards on one side of the road have been displaced, and a car mounted the pavement and damaged the concrete. All this happened in icy conditions – the drains need to be cleared, as especially near the Top Oak water pours out of the drain and freezes. Residents are very worried that someone will skid and hit the telegraph post on the bend. Drains had been attended to last year – SAPC will push for this to be done again. Resident also pointed out that the drain behind the Top Oak acts as overflow for the pond behind the houses there. Action – we will chase this too.  Local Plan: once we hear about the Local Plan next step, SAPC will keep residents informed by Zoom or face to face meetings. |
| 708/21 | **Time & Date of next meeting**  Meeting ended 21.09  Next meeting will take place on March 2 2021, at 7pm by Zoom |

**Signed by Chair:..........…………………………………………………………..Date:…………….**

**Signed by Clerk: …………...………………………………………………………Date:…………….**