***STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL***

c/o Ellie Thomas, Interim Parish Clerk

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**Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**7.15pm Tuesday October 5 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Present:** |  | | |
| **Councillors:** | Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ | Marion Francis (Deputy Chair) MF | |
|  | Colleen Atkinson CA  Kim Lidlow KL | Catherine Burnett CB | |
| **Officers:** | Ellie Thomas, Clerk | | |
| **In attendance**: | 10 Residents/ Visitors  Emma Speller, Headteacher, Stapleford Abbotts School  PC Andy Cook, Essex Police  Cllr H Brady, EFDC | |  |

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| 787/21 | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Cllr Challingsworth (holiday) Cllr Lowings (illness)  Cllr J McIvor of ECC (political engagement) |
| 788/21 | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | Cllr Francis – Planning application St Francis (related to party concerned)  Cllr Burnett – Planning application Oak Hill Green (speaking as a resident and cannot debate on this) |
| 789/21 | **Minutes of last Meeting** |
|  | Confirmed as a true record |
| 790/21 | **Matters for Report** |
|  | **Speed, Traffic & Road Safety in the Village: Ms Emma Speller & PC Andrew Cook**  Concerns regarding speed and speed limits particularly outside the school. Limit is 40mph there now, we would like 30mph and if possible 20mph.  JJ has spoken to Cllr McIvor and he has pledged support. SAPC has a letter confirming the issues ready to go to him hard copy/digitally. This he would then forward to the MP.  Speed limits in the whole of Stapleford Abbotts are not consistent – we need however to get the school dealt with then look to the rest of the village.  PC Cook: Outline Speedwatch – volunteers to be trained with the speed gun device and going in threes to set points in the village, delineated by signs, to gather and log data in a spreadsheet to be held by HQ at South Woodham Ferrers. Drivers of offending vehicles will be contacted (and further sanctions eg fixed penalties can be issued for repeat offenders). Training and ventures will happen as and when volunteers are able to partake. Training will cover all aspects, and be presided over by A Cook & colleague Liam Collins. Rubber strips for speed area to be provided as is hi-vis wear.  Acknowledged that the road is a short cut so it sees a lot of traffic.  Flashing sign is out of order – this can be reported online.  Temporary 20mph limits when lights are flashing – could be possible but more logical to get 30mh limit first. Cllr McIvor is more confident of getting 30mph limit than 20mph.  Deterrent suggested – speed humps? Rejected on grounds of too many farm vehicles using the road for this to be effective or safe – this is a rural area and we must take rural issues into account. Any way nothing can be put into place till we have full data and the 30mph limit arranged.  The school has tried many solutions, getting cars off the road at drop and pick up times (afternoons being particularly bad). Sharing Village Hall car park, split start times, turning circle, staff monitoring, keeping sibling groups together and running as many clubs as possible. The thing is, all the pupils come to the school by car.  SAVH Car park is small – a larger one might help? SAVHA say that is not possible – the carpark is already extended and that took 20 years due to crown land issues. Discussed hall and school funding for this but recommended this should be talked about outside this meeting, SAPC can facilitate. There is a meeting with SAVH and the school on 13/10/21 at 3.45 which might be a good place to start.  Arranging Speedwatch training has taken a long time. PC Cook has observed parking at the school and agrees with all our concerns – the parents should also be educated regarding practical safety measures here. Headteacher affirmed that she sends regular messages of this type to the parents. A petition is also in progress.  Regular hirer of the hall (Harry) is also amenable to helping.  Documents of VH give permissions for drop-offs throughout the day.  Liam Collins will set up the training, a date (Sunday morning) will be issued by him for the 90-minute seminar.  Headteacher offered school for training as VH not available until after Christmas, or ask to use Abridge venue. Data to be fed to school too.  SAPC to go through this issue with Cllr McIvor too.  Developers hoping to build in the area have done traffic surveys in this vicinity, and have noted that 80% of vehicles passing through travel over 38mph.  Community effort is a must in this project – pointed out that new developments (Oak Hill Green/ High House Farm/ Esperanza/ Woodside Farm) will mean more cars. Also noted that a road that is residential on both sides usually gets a 30mph limit. However, we have seen so many accidents and near misses here. SAPC are collecting data but many incidents aren’t reported to the police. Call for anyone witnessing an incident or collision to take photos.  H Brady – this is surely a special case as it concerns a school. Children’s safety should trump any rules, and it is worth pushing the cause just for that.  Agreed that data from Speedwatch, EFDC and ECC will all help – as will the residents lived experience.  Action: Letters to go from the school/ SAVH/ SAPC and Harry to Cllr McIvor who will involve the MP.  Noted that we have negotiated, with developers hoping to build at Woodside Farm opposite the school, for a donation for speed camera here. Maintenance – we as a PC will factor this into our precept each year. The flashing cameras are around 5K, we await price of larger cameras. We will liaise with Essex Police on this issue as they may be able to instal and maintain the cameras. PC Cook to research and feed back to us.  Also remarked that the 40 repeater signs are not prominent enough.  Noted that Havering has 20mph near eh majority of its schools but they are under the auspices of a London Borough with different rubric.  We have a list of incidents – noted that people have been hit pulling out of The Rabbits and SAVH. PC Cook has 6 reported RTAs, on website without identifiable details. Also noted increase of car theft and theft from vehicles in the area – JJ to put this in Linkup.  PC Cook plans to go to the school at home time and see in more depth what is happening then – mentioned parents getting children in and out of cars on road side. Headteacher appreciates the police presence and enforcement: she already has a lot of road safety content in school timetable and the actual curriculum.  PC Cook to give date for training in 7-14 days of this meeting. PC confirmed non-residents can volunteer for speed watch group (Headteacher & PC Cook left the meeting)  **Clerks Report**  Clerk appealed for more Speedwatch volunteers to come forward.  EALC/ EFDC/ ECC/ VAEF/ Police/ Highways/ Trading Standards & Libraries bulletins circulated  ICO certificate received - covered for the coming year  LCLC concerns were raised regarding “Officers from EFDC not answering phone calls or queries from your residents or yourselves in a timely manner.” Customer Services is seeking feedback.  Litter Pick - George McCreight has received our application and given OK – Clerk to chase.  Drones - Craig has sent it on USB to Clerk  Clerk has procured USB and loaded it with SAPC files as backup in preparation for new laptop.  Field End – Inspector refused so this is with Secretary of State: Enforcement was not aware. Planned walk and photos to follow.  Rock salt has been delivered to the VH – in the wrong place! Clerk and son have moved it to right place and it is there for all villagers to take away.  Woodside Farm - people already starting to correspond with the developers  Dementia activities circulated - new activities in preparation  Community Hub Epping - info circulated Epping Community Hub, a one-stop shop for residents to access a wide range of services for help and advice, includes Citizens Advice Epping Forest/ Changing Pathways/ CHESS Homeless/ DWP/ EFDC services/ Epping Forest Foodbank/ ECC Adult Social Car/e ECC Family Solutions/ Epping Forest ReUSE/ Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust/ NACRO/ Peabody/ Phoenix Futures/VAEF  Beacons - awaiting next step, Clerk will chase after meeting  Suicide training – Clerk did the online course, very basic and a bit simplistic but it might help  Stansted Airport Watch info - circulated  Man lying in road with plan to steal cars has been sighted again – be vigilant.  Poppy wreath to be procured ASAP for remembrance day and R Russell to do the reading.  **Litter day:** covered  **Speeding:** covered  **Footpaths:** The team is still walking and working even if weather is inclement. Aim for footpaths to be better than they were last winter. Brushcutting course has no date – chased up. TC Brook bramble trimming postponed – owners will clear it. Paths 13 & 14 worked on. Blocked paths 18 & 27 reported online. Group continues to keep vegetation (particularly nettles) down, next strategic project will be Spring 2022 where they will work with landowners about access. Stiles – these should be accessible under the DDA. Often it is cheaper to remove them but to protect livestock and boundaries and keep to the law gate and stile access is suggested. Path at the end of Nupers Hatch (Path 15) three paths converge but the way marker has been knocked over. Suggestion that wild areas are left for wildflowers/ animals/ butterflies etc.  **Beacons:** covered  **Neighbourhood Planning:** draft needs one tweak with deadline moved to 30/11/21  **Website:** login still pending, more soon.  **Benches:** letters ready to go to landowners where we have mooted these. Locations: Top View (Torrances & Poultry Farm to be aware, bin not planned)/ The Green (bin to be added) Top of Hook Lane (bin to be added)/ Kensington Park (Highways & Dockerills to be aware, bin not planned)  **SAPC rep on SAVHA:** CA to liaise with Liz Whymark at school meeting 13/10  **Council Meetings Attendance:** missing three meetings in a council year triggers a councillor’s tenure to be revisited. Discussed as some councillors are in or are near this situation. More discussion to be held  **Drones:** covered  **Village Hall History:** next time. JJ to see Liz Whymark. |
| 791/21 | **Finance** |
|  | Transactions for September 2021 – All agreed and actioned.  Need to work towards next year’s budget and   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | EALC | BL CONFERENCE | 24 | | SAVH | HALL HIRE TO JAN 2022 | 15.75 | | SAVH | HALL HIRE WOODSIDE MEETING | 15.75 | | E THOMAS | CLERK SEPTEMBER | 495 | | EQUIPMENT | SAPC PHONE | 49.99 | | EQUIPMENT | PRINTER INK | 35 | | EQUIPMENT | USB | 9 | |
| 792/21 | **Planning** (Development Control & Enforcement Team) |
|  | **Woodside Farm:** Developers receptive to talking to residents and PC. Meeting 21/9, generally positive, and JJ has negotiated up to 10k as Section 106 for speed cameras – giving something back to the village. Comments on the development to go to EFDC. Crown estate needs to be aware that there should be a TPO on the oak tree.  **Albyns Hall:** To be redeveloped – amended plan removed the basement and changed building size. Owner needs to liaise with planning officer. SAPC has had conversations with neighbours and with developer, H Brady has also spoken to neighbours. JJ to meet developer, residents of Albyns Manor, neighbours, and Torrances from the farm. Noted that maintaining the path and compensation for neighbours must be discussed, and if the owner wishes to change the plan he must put in a new one.  **Oak Hill Green**: amendments update. 42 houses now. To discuss amends to the original plan – we have put in comments and addendum over last 20 months and will comment on amends.  Cllr Burnett to speak as resident not SAPC for 3 minutes and leave meeting before debate: formally requested support from PC to make objection to the application. Her family is concerned about the village. Neighbours have been ignored. Noted that traffic assessment uses data that is 20 years old. Noted that there was no consultation regarding entrance/ exit to site being outside her house. Noted that the pandemic has already had an effect on residents mental & physical health – fumes, noise, light, traffic and safety concerns at this site will all be detrimental to wellbeing too. Noted that it will be a drain on the infrastructure – this is the wrong location for the development. Asked if PC could organise another meeting with the developer. Noted that some people have had flooding in the gardens from the stream – the development would make this worse.  Resident remarked that the problem is longstanding, the water is from the stream not the site and has happened to other housdes too – the drains have been blocked in this area and JJ will call Highways to ask to clear them.  Resident suggested that this is dealt with by Building Regs. Suggested approaching Ms Smoothy re. clearing ditches  The recent flash flood was an anomaly any way.  Suggestion that the sewer pipe is improved if the development goes ahead. The site will however have its own sewage storage & collection arrangement.  Resident concerned about noise pollution advised to resubmit their objection now the amends are on the table.  CB left the meeting.  Comment that the single entrance will affect the village re. traffic & safety. Discussions and suggestions for a second exit have been made but Highways vetoed.  SAPC to compile a list of questions and organise another meeting if need be. Discussions have little effect as ECC Highways have the decision in the end. Highways are a main obstacle and main argument.  Comment that we need drains emptied and verges cut.  Comment that this is still an accident blackspot.  SAPC – add anything from original letters to the latest letter to EFDC.  Comment that the traffic census data was old, but traffic flow data was much more recent.  Clerk circulated previous objections that were directed to EFDC to all Councillors  As a PC, we had planned public meeting when this application was in its first stages but the Covid lockdown was called in the same week as it was pencilled in for.  Action: neighbours to feed questions to Clerk, who can feed them to developers. And PC will ask them to come in for a meeting.  Action: letter to go to planning officer based on letters of objection already sent by SAPC. To include residents unhappiness, light pollution, entrance/exit and wellbeing impact.  MF left the meeting for the following application:  Application No: EPF/2174/21 Officer: Kie Farrell Return by: October 11 2021  Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs B Francis  Location: St Francis Tysea Hill Stapleford Abbotts RM4 1JP  Proposal: Alterations and extensions.  Return: No Objection |
| 793/21 | **Parish Council Projects** |
|  | Covered. Part 2 of history project – old pupils of school talking to current pupils- to come soon. More volunteers needed, please appeal in Linkup. Quiz night on 22/10/21 – let’s bring some Neighbourhood Plan leaflets. |
| 794/21 | **Correspondence** |
|  | None |
| 795/21 | **Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses** |
|  | BL at Highways conference – more next time.  JJ dementia training – very good  ZT suicide prevention training – basic but interesting |
| 796/21 | **Highways** |
|  | Cllr McIvor of Essex CC will attend next meeting.  Note to ask about highways rangers, and how to access them as they have proved elusive in the past and only work on 30mph areas.  White van in ditch on Hook Lane 21/9/21  Hedge cutting – need quotes for clearing Church Lane & Pinchbeck Bridge. Clerk to draft letter, JJ to refer this to Cllr McIvor.  H Brady, EFDC: Civic offices works are now done. Commented that EFDC were excellent at answering phones before Covid, but performance has fallen off. Work from home and remote phone systems have caused this spottiness. HB is part of committee seeking feedback about how things are going, but they are down on numbers. Suggested that in re. speed cameras, we talk to Stanford Rivers PC as they face the same problems that SAPC do, did a lot of work about it about six years ago, and have a designated councillor monitoring speeding issues. Clerk to write to SRPC clerk, as a fact-finding mission! |
| 797/21 | **Matters for future Agendas** |
|  | BL to feed back on conference  Village History  Highways Rangers  Cllr McIvor attending and talking about Highways  School meeting feedback from 13/10/21  Budget |
| 798/21 | **Open Forum** |
|  | None |
| 799/21 | **Time & Date of next meeting**  Meeting closed 22.10 Next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday November 2 2021 in the Village Hall. |

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

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