***STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL***

c/o Ellie Thomas, Interim Parish Clerk

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**Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**7.15pm Tuesday July 6 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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**: | 6 Residents | |  |

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| 761/21 | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Cllr Challingsworth (holiday) Cllr Lowings (self-isolating) |
| 762/21 | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | None |
| 763/21 | **Minutes of last Meeting** |
|  | Confirmed as a true record |
| 764/21 | **Matters for Report** |
|  | **Clerks Report**  EFDC, ECC, VAEF, COVID-19, Police, EALC, Libraries and Anti-Fraud bulletins circulated to Councillors  Essex Book Festival under way – information circulated.  Dementia friendly activities ongoing at EFDC - info circulated. Some residents are interested: Clerk to pass it on.  Safer streets survey - sent by Roger, circulated to all  Card sent to Richard the litter picker, with thanks  Anti-litter ventures: Posters for litter pick are up and we will keep everyone informed via Linkup & Nextdoor. The school is informed about litter pick – they are on board, though a school litter day is probably better held next term as freedom day is last day of term and we will need time to get permissions and DBS checks. Suggested to liaise also with Vicar’s group, young people at the Lambourne centre and Bower Park pupils doing the D of E Scheme.  Affinity Water launch draft Drought Plan Public Consultation - circulated  London Stansted Airport – Airspace Modernisation Programme, Stage 2 launched and we are on mailing list.  Village halls course circulated to SAVHA team  Essex Forest initiative tree planting project - not right now, we need to concentrate on maintaining the trees we have and not allow unnecessary tree clearance for extensions or developments.  Near Wycheways - resident has commented on trying to get the pavement repaired outside this property with no success. The yellow cover over services is still obstructing the footway.  Mental health first aid training - EALC - will ask if there will be a repeat.  Parish insurance sorted out for the coming year and certificate received by Clerk.  Website nearly there - we just need to put in a few new policies, and the new email addresses - and I have a final convo with Mark and we will be good to go. New email addresses for councillors all received - list going to TEEC.  EFDC litter pick leader has been invited to the July meeting but it transpires he is away at present – keep in touch.  Speedwatch - PC Cook has been copied in on KL's email about the car in the ditch and poked regarding the SW setup. He requested a speed check in the area of  Oak Hill Road from another who said he would go there and do a 100 vehicle check, if there was a large number of offenders then there would be further speed checks taking place. The speed device at Loughton is away for repairs. Clerk is now in touch with Janet Wiley @ Essex Fire who oversees all the SW groups. We are also poteneially able to use the speed device owned by Abridge PC.  Planning Appeal EPF/0109/20 Stapleford Abbotts Golf Course Tysea Hill RM4 1JU came in today: circulated.  Policies overview: all outstanding polices to be sent for approval – please send in to Clerk.  Litter Picking: covered earlier, village pick pencilled in for August 7, meet at VH at 11am. Clerk to draft email and EFDC litter pick officer (Patrick) to be kept in the loop.  SAFVAG update (footpaths): CB gave overview of footpath group to residents and update on their latest activity. Many thanks to footpath team for their hard work. Path 33 is done, paths 13 & 14 to follow shortly. Paths will be opened so people don’t have to walk on roads, and group aim to make sure paths are open and clear.  Neighbourhood Planning: 4 page leaflet in progress with BC – first step to the plan. Printer has quoted and it will go out ASAP, distribution & collect dates to follow. JJ gave overview of Neighbourhood Plans and the steering group thereof to residents, what they do, how they work and who takes part. We will promote at the Flower Festival (24 July 10-3 & 25 July 11-3). Noted that we should involve businesses across the parish too.  Livestreaming meetings: we need to get back to normal, EALC say this too, and we stick to social distancing. NALC are seeking government advice on retention of zoom meetings for emergencies. Hybrid option is nice but face to face discussions, we feel, achieve more. Clerk & chair are always happy to offer lifts to those who want to attend. Agreed: we stick with live meetings for the foreseeable future and revisit zoom as and when we are advised.  Allotment for rent: ongoing.  Community speed project: covered earlier, we have a group of 12 volunteers as required. Still awaiting speed training course from PC Cook & team. Noted that there is no legal follow up from speed gun, it is data gathering exercise to build a case for Highways. Considering other options – there are funds available to use if discussion deems these options appropriate, and we can incorporate these into the Neighbourhood Plan and precept. Example being that we have a quote for ANPR signs that might also deter flytippers and fraudsters. To be revisited.  Village benches: discussion on options researched by CA and where to put them. Viewpoints on walks and the village sign have been suggested. Resident stated that the sign area would be inappropriate as litter is an insurmountable problem there, despite the bin and residents like himself who actively litter pick and monitor the area. Signs suggested on the bus stop to tell people to take litter away with them (CB reported that you can get such notices from eBay, Clerk to look it up and be ready if we need them). Footpaths might work, as long as people use them and we clear everything with the landowners first. Church suggested especially for a bench dedicated to Kay – however the PCC has a moratorium on benches in the churchyard as there is a large number of them now. Suggested to have a bench near where Kay lived – JJ talked with her family. BC should have this on his consultation paper.  A separate meeting is needed for this: we can have an extraordinary meeting in August and it can be on zoom.  Website: covered above, Clerk will talk with web builders after July 12. To progress with adverts for village businesses, and to ascertain charge for companies outside the village to advertise. |
| 765/21 | **Finance** |
|  | Transactions for June 2021 – All agreed and actioned. Discussion re. online payments after freedom day and formal signing-off rules. To be revisited.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | FOOTPATHS EXPENSES | CLLR BURNETT (to claim via expenses form) | 7.98 | | ELECTION EXPENSES | EFDC | 154.95 | | CLERK JUNE 2021 | ELLIE THOMAS | 495 | |
| 766/21 | **Planning** (Development Control & Enforcement Team) |
|  | **Application No:** EPF/0196/21 **Officer:** Marie-Claire Tovey **Applicant Name:** Mr K Shoker Return: July 12 2021  **Location:** land south of Fir Tree Cottage Bournebridge Lane RM4 1LU  **Proposal:** Proposed infill bungalow on land South of Bournebridge Lane, utilising existing access.  Resident concerned about this application attended the meeting, and gave a short presentation that explained the history and the issues neighbours have.  **Return**: Objection on the following grounds:  This proposal is sited in a dangerous position on an already hazardous road  Essex Highways refused an application for a gateway due to safety concerns  There are no correct measurements on the plans  The trees marked as being on this site are actually on the neighbouring property  The building, if constructed, would result in a loss of privacy for neighbours  The Council received a representation from a neighbour at the July meeting re. concerns about this application  We are aware that several near neighbours to this site have already objected  This site is agricultural land. The previous application was based on it being agricultural and the gates were planned on this proviso - however this application is on a different, non-agricultural basis  The land is derived from Meadow View and it has nothing to do with Fir Tree Cottage. This is misleading and should not be used  Animals that have been stated as not being present on this site are actually present  The Council do not believe this to be infill, but rather an application to build on a green belt/agricultural site |
| 767/21 | **Parish Council Projects** |
|  | History: K. Farrow has taken on the task of archiving it – he has already made 2 discs of material available to the Clerk for the website. Many thanks: clerk to get a card for him to that effect. |
| 768/21 | **Correspondence** |
|  | 2 x letters regarding road repairs. Also further email about houses shaking on corner of Oak Hill Road & Tysea Hill which have been directed to the environment agency. |
| 769/21 | **Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses** |
|  | BL and KL on New Councillor Course which has been excellent and KL will forward notes to Clerk for database.  CB representative on the Footpaths induction training. |
| 770/21 | **Highways** |
|  | * Parcels that were dumped in Hook Lane pond last month are still there * 2x potholes at the top of Tysea Hill not repaired although they have been circled for repairs * 1x pothole on private road by the Top Oak pub * 2x potholes on the corner of Oak Hill Road causing serious concern to residents and motorists * Damaged drain at Millhaven * Damaged drain at Grahams * The road at Gutteridge Lane triangle by the memorial is uneven * There are 4 cones out at Hook Lane to mark deep holes/ surface breakage in the road * There is a cone out opposite Crown Park Farm to mark a deep hole/ surface breakage in the road * Several holes in the road at the top of Gutteridge Lane * There have been tools dumped at Gutteridge Lane * Footpath Oakfield – Grove House opposite Gutteridge Lane is impassable and has been for years. Brambles, nettles and fence across the path, and you can’t access the church, hall or school, plus it is slippery underfoot.   Clerk to write to ECC Cllr McIvor about this, and ask him to meet with JJ for a tour of the village so he can see the road conditions for himself. Heather Brady to be copied in.  CB reports that the localism officer has the footpath on the list: they were told to alert Rangers who did not reply.  Suggested contractors should be required to restore any public walkways etc that they churn up in the course of their work: Clerk said at Theydon Bois it was often recommended as a condition for plan applications they vetted.  Village sign in poor repair – JJ has looked up the firm who made it but they don’t appear to be around now. Another company recommended – Clerk to call. Mick Francis has also quoted for repairs to the post. J Filby at Abridge may also know a contractor, keep this in abeyance. |
| 771/21 | **Matters for future Agendas** |
|  | Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022 |
| 772/21 | **Open Forum** |
|  | Resident reported that Coxtie Green tip now asks for ID that you live in Essex.  JustGiving site is up for walking group supprting St Francis Hospice – 1500 collected so far.  Hundred Club still looking for supporters – refer to church for details  Flower festivals: Lambourne 10-11 July, Stapleford Abbotts 24-25 July. |
| 773/21 | **Time & Date of next meeting**  Meeting closed 21.36 Next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday September 7 2021 in the Village Hall. |

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

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