

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Ellie Thomas, Clerk 132 Bentley Drive, Church Langley, Harlow, Essex CM17 9QY

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Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday January 10th 2023

Present:

Councillors: Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ Colleen Atkinson (Deputy Chair) CA
Marion Francis (MF)
Catherine Burnett (CB)
Kim Lidlow (KL)
Heather Brady, EFDC

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 10 Residents/ Visitors

970/23	Apologies for Absence
	Barb Lowings (BL)
971/23	Declarations of Interest
	None
972/23	Minutes of last Meeting
	Confirmed as a true record
973/23	Matters for Report
	<p>Open Forum: brought forward as some attendees had to leave early</p> <p>Resident emailed re.development at Spencer's Farm and its effects on the near neighbours. Resident and other near residents had not received notice from EFDC about this development. Resident says it is a single-access road which is generally used only by one horsebox. The applicant said that HGV vehicles access it in their application. However, they do now and have done for one year, plus heavy plant. Resident described congestion, blocking neighbouring driveways, and lorry drivers having to offload in the road due to small size of the track. There is concern, particularly as one neighbour needs access to her driveway due to nurses visiting.</p> <p>SAPC confirmed that EFDC do not always inform everyone now. A second neighbour remarked on soil being piled up, but this has now been removed. JJ has spoken to the developers as a representative of the Parish Council and was told there will be a new access point for lorries further up from the present single track (which does not need planning permission) and lorries should not be backing in. Builders on site are liaising with the site owners and are willing to work with the Parish Council.</p> <p>The resident said Enforcement Officer attended the site but not given access, but that the earth will be removed, and the areas levelled, and that the topography of the land has been changed, brooks are full of clay and gardens are being flooded.</p> <p>The Council agreed to maintain a list of any issue raised by residents who are requested to email the Parish Council Clerk and provide details and photographs if appropriate. The list will be reviewed at each Council meeting and any action required by the Council discussed and agreed.</p> <p>A resident confirmed that they had believed that in contacting SARG they were communicating with the Council. It was confirmed that SARG is not connected in any way to the Council. It was agreed that SARG be requested to inform their list of contacts that this is the case. Clerk to action. When the Council has this evidence of issues provided by residents the Council will decide on the appropriate action needed to represent residents' views with the landowners as a PC. This may include the Council reporting this to Enforcement and asking for a joint site visit. Council agreed to formalise conversations with developers, EFDC and builders once the issues have been evidenced. Clerk to maintain the list of issues.</p> <p>SAPC agreed to create an agreed way of approaching situations like this as a PC which includes building a dossier of evidence and formalising discussion with landowners and other parties.</p> <p>Neighbours to keep incident logs and liaise with the Clerk.</p> <p>Church: welcome leaflet is ready. Barn dance at Abridge 25/2/23, quiz at Stapleford Abbots 31/3/23. The organ is going well, and the blower is now to be re-sited. Engineers to feed back and commence works. A modular building in the car park has been suggested for meeting space (these do not need planning permission and would not damage the church building) but there is a concern over losing car parking.</p> <p>Coronation of King Charles III, May 6 2023: ideas discussed for celebrating this. And the Church and parish council agreed to work together. Suggested an event on the day itself. (Clerk to inquire into SAVH availability) or</p>

maybe a street party. Explore possibility of something in conjunction with the Rabbits – KL to research. The church is considering an event on May 7 as it will be nice to make a weekend out of it. SAPC to set up meetings with the church possibly on Zoom.

Clerks Report

Circulated: All bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, NALC, VAEF, Trading Standards, Police Fire & Libraries

Road lining defects on Tysea Hill reported to Highways via website

Dec 7: power cut which was reported to UK Power Networks

Dec 12: power cut related to accident on Bournebridge Lane that affected cables

EFDC carol service was cancelled due to bad weather on the night

Snowfall in week commencing December 11 caused upheaval related to traffic across the area.

Next LCLC meeting Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 7pm. Clerk planning to attend.

Tax base information circulated to all (also an amendment to this)

ECC sent an email regarding Footpath 22, Stapleford Abbots: Temporary Prohibition of Use Extension. The alternative route is marked and re labelled. We just need a Waymarker at the 37/22 junction, but the ground has not been right to put one in so far.

Alterations to bin services in late December were posted on website & Facebook

Highways issues have been collated and are ready to present to Cllr McIvor, ECC.

Review of the year to go in Linkup with any other news and announcements.

Salt bags: investigate getting a second pallet next year because it went very quickly when it was delivered. If the pub would like some, they are welcome to tell us in good time. The Oak Hill Road saltbox was stolen. We would need planning permission for a new one – Clerk to check the sheet regarding street furniture regulations.

Matters for Report

Christmas cards: a great success and we will use the site for other seasonal and thank-you cards.

Precept: Agreed – Clerk to write to Carol Hills ASAP. Figure requested is £9268.

First Aid: shortlist of the 12 delegates in hand – clerk to get a firm yes from everybody. If they don't turn up, they will have to pay a cancellation fee. Confirming the date as the Feb 19 2023.

Footpaths: Cllr Burnett and Brian Smith have completed route walks and planned works for 2023 which hopefully will commence next week.

Footpath 20: exceptionally dangerous virtually non-existent stiles are to be repaired.

Cllr Burnett is liaising with relevant landowners regarding works to be carried out, and with the enforcement officer re blockages on paths 33/27/5 and cross-field paths which have not been marked.

Footpath 33: an official notice has now been posted on the gate and fence.

Footpath 27: the gate remains closed at the traveller's site. The enforcement officer has spoken to residents at the site and noted that the landowner is a registered address in London so is trying to make contact regarding legal access along the route.

Farmers are being given 2 weeks after crop planting to mark cross-field paths, many are still fallow and /or not yet planted.

20's plenty: wait for the reassessment before our next step. We have asked Cllr McIvor for information but have heard nothing. He has had three reminders to date. The Council agreed to raise this further if no response is received following the Chair's next reminder.

Flytipping and cameras: No further information received but Cllr Heather Brady of EFDC has put forward to Highways for cameras in Gutteridge Lane. Clerk to email Cllr Brady for an update. There is flytipping on Horseman Side now too.

Accidents list: circulated

DaRT87 Bus: Essex County Council do not pay for bus routes to the village at all, so we have no links to Romford and only one bus service. The 87 bus through Abridge was stopped, and a three year trial of the DaRT87 began. It is very popular and we are going to have a meeting with the relevant authority to see if they can extend it to us. It is a huge concern to many that there is no bus to doctors, shops, hospitals; once the ULEZ is installed, some people will have to pay to drive into the new zone if they have a car that does not fit the criteria. This includes people taking children to school and business people. All those who want to use the DaRT87 pay 15 pounds a year to join the scheme and have a 24 hour window to book their transport, with set fee to use it (bus passes are accepted. Meeting on 19/1/23, MF and Clerk to attend.

ULEZ: In force from August 2023. The village is on the boundary which could be awkward as it will limit where people can travel to - we need to consider how it will impact on the village and what can be done. Post; people socialising, especially older people; traders and small businesses who have diesel vans and works vehicles which are not suitable under new rules; residents on the Collier Row doctor's panel – all will be affected. There is also a clean air zone planned for EFDC area: more soon.

	<p>A letter from Mr. Rosindell went up on Nextdoor regarding the ULEZ: Clerk to draft letter supporting his proposal. Also to draft a letter to Alex Berghart MP to see what he thinks, and to copy it to Sadiq Khan's office</p> <p>Parish Council AGM: April 17 2023. Clerk to contact SAVHA to book hall. All Councillors to read policies and note any amendments for consideration.</p> <p>Benches: We have talked about putting more benches in, but they cost more than original costings. The one that has been put in has been used: other sites have been considered, but they are on Council land, and carry some license considerations.</p> <p>The Council discussed if it is good use of taxpayers' money to use in a small village, as we are asking for a lower precept to help in the recession. Suggested a review of these as we have more ways to improve the village and the grants of £500 from ECC spoken of by Cllr McIvor have not materialised.</p> <p>Permissions and licences for benches and bins are a concern. Bins must be licenced, and some farmers are worried about picnickers – maintenance of the area is a concern, because a tractor or a hedger can't access where they need to be if benches are in the way.</p> <p>It was agreed to revisit this in the future and consider ideas of where to put a bench, especially a place where people walk a lot, we could come back to it. One site for a bench may be Kensington Park, should we decide to do that. Explore how much it costs to apply for a licence to position a bench here or at the village sign, and if there is an expiry time. Agreed: it should be put on the back burner for now.</p> <p>HGV at Spencer's Farm: covered</p> <p>Policies: covered. Email policy to read that any councillor who gets an email of council concern to their own email should immediately tell the sender to send it to the clerk. If we get sent emails on personal email addresses, the clerk can delete them. Enquiries from the public policy must be amended in a similar way - to resend things to the clerk as per our email policy.</p> <p>Clerk to amend and circulate and note in Linkup that questions should come to the clerk and not to SARG.</p> <p>Speedwatch: no action at the moment – a rota will soon be forthcoming.</p>						
974/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned. Rents are coming in – many thanks. Clerk to circulate current rents and review next time – a year's notice to be given for rent changes. VAT claim has been sent to the VAT office: £568.34</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>CLERK DECEMBER 2022</td> <td>495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>JACQUI LAWSON SUBSCRIPTION</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table>	E THOMAS	CLERK DECEMBER 2022	495	E THOMAS	JACQUI LAWSON SUBSCRIPTION	24
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975/23	<p>Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)</p> <p>No live planning applications with expiry date after January 10 2023 to date. December decisions: Some sites that we objected to have been refused. Clerk to post decisions on the notice boards.</p>						
976/23	<p>Parish Council Projects</p> <p>Coronation celebrations in preparation. History – children to talk about school at the school, seniors at Cllr Atkinson's house. Poster to be designed. Drones – clerk to get back in touch with DVD operative.</p>						
977/23	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>VAT claim despatched, Ride London have paid for the ink we used in the summer.</p>						
978/23	<p>Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses</p> <p>Cllr Atkinson would like to attend the local councils and community engagement course. Clerk to approach EALC.</p>						
979/23	<p>Highways</p> <p>The fish farm is clearing the ditch, but it is still flooded. Underground drainage needs pumping out. Two deep potholes are still outside Highlands. Bournebridge Lane resurfacing still outstanding: coming February. JJ to call the drainage engineer, meet the builders as a representative of the PC, and ask for them to clear the ditches as a goodwill gesture. JJ also to see if the Field End area is still being flooded.</p>						
980/23	<p>Matters for future Agendas</p> <p>Rent review, Coronation, History projects</p>						
981/23	<p>Open Forum</p>						

	Covered - earlier additions here: Confirming precept total Legal times to use and carry fireworks: agreed to put on website and Linkup A tenant has sent Christmas gifts to JJ & MF: JJ has donated hers to the seniors dinner, MF to the church raffle.
982/23	Time & Date of next meeting
	Meeting closed 21.20pm. Next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday February 7 2023.

Signed by Chair: **Date:**

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