

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday MAY 2 2026

Present:

Councillors: .Jayne Jackson (Chair) (JJ) Colleen Atkinson (CA) Marion Francis (MF) Kim Lidlow (KL).

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 8 Residents

1475/26	Apologies for Absence		
	No representatives from EFDC, ECC or Police		
1476/26	Declarations of Interest		
	None		
1477/26	Minutes of last Meeting		
	Passed as a true record.		
1478/26	Clerk's Report		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, Police, Travel Essex, Speedwatch, Tourism Essex, CouncilWise, Libraries and Trading Standards circulated. • Voting dates & procedures circulated by EFDC and are now on website. • EFDC update: Change to Written Representation Planning Appeals circulated • Car thefts – to be included on record sheet. • FOI requested for Section 106 requests in Epping Forest District and for fly tipping figures. • Rogation Walk – resources being collated now. 		
1479/26	Matters for Report		
	<p>No 2 Moto: N2M have appealed for donations – Parish Council discussed donation and all agreed that the No2Moto group work very hard, they do it all for free, and they are very professional and well informed. £250 pounds donation was proposed by CA and seconded by JJ. Community funds reserve would cover this action – Clerk to request N2M's bank details.</p> <p>Abbott's Chase: - Developers contacted re potential bird nesting and hedge cutting and confirmed they have taken professional advice and no nesting birds are present. Noted that the wheel washer is out a lot. Weekly hours commented in link up, correction of timing at end of day should be six o'clock not 6.30 Monday to Friday. The site manager is working till 5pm and occasionally they will wait in for deliveries.. Site gates have gone up at the development as Hills have been warned to keep on top of security.</p> <p>Section 106 Freedom of Information request has been submitted to EFDC.</p> <p>Church Report: Plant sale 9/5/26: weather forecast is set fair. Rogation Walk 10/5/26: preparations are in progress Coronation Trail 30/5/26: setup will take place on the preceding Thursday and Friday - cakes may be donated to the church. Church Toilet: snagging is ongoing and the portaloo is gone. Going Greener campaign: recycled wood cycle racks to be installed outside the church. The bird survey is completed - some unusual ones were recorded, as were unusual plants. New project is to have church vicinity verified on as a site of specific natural interest.</p>		
1480/26	Finance		
	Approved		
	E THOMAS	CLERK MAY 2026	495
	EALC	SUBSCRIPTION	402.14
	J JACKSON	PLANT SALE ESSENTIALS	209.92
	Insurance – CAS on hold as Council are tendering three new quotes. Income & expenditure sheets have been circulated		
1481/26	Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)		
	No applications are live within the window allowed by preparation of the agenda. Latest application: Woodview, Oak Hill Road, extending kitchen and the roof lantern. No objection.		

	Monthly report: The Cot – this building is not the cot. It's a building situated behind it; also the address is Murthering Lane – action to remind EFDC Planning of this and monitor the response. Abbotts Chase applications were refused on grounds related to waste and biodiversity. 2 Kensington Green also refused.
1482/26	Parish Council Projects
	New pads and batteries for the defibrillator to be ordered for the village hall. Path clearing: two paths clearings completed Passingford Bridge has been cleared Agreed to do some reconnaissance for the next path to work on.
1483/26	Correspondence
	Bins:some residents stated they are still waiting for stickers, and there are bins with no lids. Noted that the collections are still a little disorganized. Suggested recycling can be tied in with the Go Greener project. Refuel Van: hoped to come to Abridge Hall soon: this sells cereal and pasta from dispensers to save on packaging and customers bring their own containers. More soon when we are notified. Letter re. Yew Tree at the school: correspondent maintained that it is dead but other observers have seen green leaves: They had taken advice and we go with that advice so no further action needed Emails: all concerns about Abbotts Chase site are passed to Hills.
1484/26	Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses
	None this month
1485/26	Highways
	All potholes and drain damage reported; there are water leaks past the Rabbits towards the roundabout. JJ spoke to the water board and they have put sensors on the leaks to investigate. Noted that councillors and clerk have contacted Thames and Affinity Water with no response or assistance. Epping Lane is blocked off currently. There was a car in the ditch, on Hook Lane three weeks ago; accident at the Oak two weeks ago; accident on Oak Hill Road at 5am Sunday before last.
1486/26	Matters for future Agendas
	Section 106
1487/26	Open Forum
	<p>Footpaths: Matters arising from previous reports. Please refer to the Essex PROW interactive map for exact locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROW 2 bridge from PROW 4 into the back of Bons Farm is now reported as a defect for repair. • PROW 7 blocked at Top View farm by electric gates also with Essex team in discussions awaiting a response. • PROW 8, the reinstated legal line cross field section has not been cut and will be sent straight to enforcement, due to history of previous warnings. • PROWs 13/14 which nearly converge at points. 13 is now rerouted correctly through Brook Farm TC but the section by the menage is now added to cutting by Essex following Brook Farm TC's failure to maintain it. 14 which makes it's route to the rear of Mitchels Farm is on the cutting schedule. Should nettles grow too high whilst waiting for this cut, access is available at the other side of the trees/ditch.PROW 20, a relatively new bridge where the path exits to the field moved due to heavy rain and a full brook in the winter. It is safe but is listed for repair. • Prow 22, through the top of the High House Farm development was added to the cutting schedule (From 2027) • PROW 33, reported to enfacement 4 months ago where a resident cut a tree and left it blocking the paths. Is being chased up. Cost of requesting a diversion has recently been increased to £4700 • Dog friendly routes: We are often asked about Dog friendly routes. In theory all routes are dog friendly but we would advise this is the countryside and at this time of year vegetation can sprout up very quickly. Please do your own safety checks weather dependent, regarding your own clothing and footwear and your dogs requirement. Size of dog can impact on whether a route may or may not be considered dog friendly. • Rogation walk: 10/5/26: With the exception of the note above re PROW 8 the route is clear, dry, safe and dog friendly but not pushchair friendly. We will use the track around the uncut section of PROW 8. We look forward to showing villagers , friends and family from far and wide our lovely Rogation walk route. This year the I-spy has been replaced with a more eco friendly nature trail. <p>Thank you very much to Catherine Burnett for the report and her preparations for the walk.</p> <p>Resident comment: they have noticed no small birds in their bird nesting boxes. RSPB has recommended that bird food should not be put out between May and October and feeders be taken down, as there is a virus that birds are susceptible to and it is easily spread at food stations..</p> <p>Bird watch: suggested residents could observe birds that visit local gardens for the going green. Use the Merlin app if you are wanting to do this and you we could do a community bird pamphlet. a future Linkup</p>
1488/26	Time & Date of next meeting
	Next meeting:2/2/26, AGM: 14/4/26. Meeting was closed at 20:24.

Signed by Chair: Date:

Signed by Clerk:Date: