

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 October 4th 2022

Present:

Councillors: Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ Colleen Atkinson (Deputy Chair) CA
Marion Francis (MF)
Catherine Burnett (CB)
Barb Lowings (BL)

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 8 Residents/ Visitors

931/22	Apologies for Absence
	Kim Lidlow (KL), Heather Brady, EFDC
932/22	Declarations of Interest
	None
933/22	Minutes of last Meeting
	Confirmed as a true record
934/22	Matters for Report
	<p>Clerks Report Circulated: All bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, NALC, VAEF, Trading Standards, Police Fire & Libraries Noted that Council business for much of September 2022 has been on hold or superseded by formalities and postponements at higher level re. the Queen. Queen - Response from SAPC was quick and we followed all the guidelines - and there were many heartfelt tributes in the book of condolence from the village. Power cuts - more instances have been happening, all in the spreadsheet. Electricity company responded but in a slightly lackadaisical way. We have their string of texts recorded. Hedges - 1 response, 1 awaited, 1 not responded. They need to be done before spring, so Clerk will get a more detailed quote by email, and fix a day with the respondee. Path down from Kensington Park, along Church Lane and at Pinchbeck Bridge to be done. Suggested to contact the developer of the bungalows near Brook Farm as they intimated that they would maintain the hedge. Clerk to get the contact (Millers) and approach in writing. LCLC: meeting in early October was postponed and will be rearranged EALC Branch to be revived - potentially a useful forum for parishes & towns Drones - footage sent to CA by WeTransfer. The footage makes a nice 43-minute video which was shown at the harvest festival. Clerk to investigate recordings on memory stick & enlist help of technician from Linkup. White Rose Appeal – circulated, more later. Redbridge appeal – circulated, more later. Knolls Hill appeal - we are not required to partake Digital Drop In – Thursday mornings in Epping Hub, these are learning & advice sessions to teach people digital skills and their applications – circulated. Church events: Sept/Oct items on site and more to follow Ride London 2023 - it has been announced that the event is going ahead next year in Essex. We have no details as to the route. Suggested to apply for a grant early for flowers at Passingford Roundabout. They have not confirmed our expenses were paid from last time – Clerk to pass on contact details to JJ. Rock Salt is here - in SAVH car park entrance for all to use.</p> <p>Matters for Report First aid: SAVH not free till Jan/Feb – Clerk to co-ordinate attendees and the Tutorcare trainer. Alternative route is an offer we had from the school to use the hall – Clerk to approach Ms Speller.</p> <p>Accidents: Sunday 2nd October outside Birch House, DPD van hit a car. Noted that the white lines have faded here – Clerk please inform Highways as that fact may be contributing to incidents here. Incident on Bournebridge Lane in sight of the village sign on Sept 26th involved multiple vehicles and police attended – Clerk to contact PC Cook for details of the people involved. Bournebridge Lane and Church Lane signs have been hit again – please contact Highways for repairs.</p> <p>Speedwatch: new camera to come after we discovered on the day of mobilisation that we had been issued – by accident or bureaucratic edict – the old Abridge camera which isn't working. Clerk to monitor this, call insurance company to add camera to their records (it's £850), and ascertain the location of the layby at Tysea Hill which was unclear.</p>

Footpaths: The team have met with Brian Smith of West Essex Ramblers, who will do work with bridges. They have bush cutter to make paths wider, and easier to maintain. Many thanks to Brian.

Brian also needs some grid references to assist – Clerk offered large maps of the area to help. The village is in the corner of 4 maps: CB has experimented with scanning them to create a PDF, with a view to identifying individual paths which can be labelled and go on the website & Facebook. Clerk to consult TEEC to get training on improving footpath diary on the website, and get as many visuals on as possible. Also will ask if we can get voice podcasts on the site, which will steer visitors to landmarks and create an interactive experience whilst planning a trip or out walking. Resident stepped forward to offer help with copying map on Promap which would be useful. As soon as the wet weather starts the work will pause, and resume as soon as they can. They are also keen to expand the team to get physical work done. The bench is now here and with the landowner – to be fixed in place on footpath 7 on Thursday week as agreed.

Book of Condolence: we had many signatures and kind sentiments – book to be copied and the original sent to ECC archive.

The Queen: we had a great response to our official ceremonials and personal tributes: many thanks to Derek Higgs for his help with the required raising and lowering of flags and the bellringing. Clerk to write ASAP. Also many thanks to K Farrow for help and advice. As well as the book of condolence, we had the village sign dressed in black and a floral tribute on the sign – thanks to Cllr McIvor for supplying.

Noted that Cllr McIvor has also commented that Stapleford Abbots did more than most parishes to commemorate the passing of the Queen. Many thanks to all who contributed to this honour and privilege.

935/22

Finance

Transactions for September 2022 – All agreed and actioned.

All to be aware that the Budget will appear on next month's agenda for preliminary discussion.

Spreadsheet for footpaths expenses to be updated & made ready to claim – CB to confirm the contact.

Poppy wreath for 2022 agreed – Sue Freeman to advise, SAPC to organise. Clerk to write to Ray Russell to give the address.

ST MARY'S CHURCH	DONATION FOR ORGAN FUND	1000 VIRED FROM COMMUNITY RENTS
E THOMAS	CLERK SEPTEMBER 2022	561
E THOMAS	CONDOLENCE BOOK REFILL	19.97
MARMAX	SEAT	609.60
TALKING FLOWERS	FLORAL TRIBUTE FOR QUEEN	108
J JACKSON	BLACK RIBBON	19.96
C BURNETT	FOOTPATHS – GLUE	8.58

936/22

Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)

EPF/1973/22 Holmwood

Comments: We would like to be reassured that they will put back the hedge that is removed, and to ascertain whose hedge it is - and if neighbours have been forewarned. Other than that, no objections

EPF/2041/22 5 Abbots Way

Objection. This extension is large, and we were under the impression that there is a covenant in place on these houses that they cannot be extended - with Permitted Development Rights being withdrawn. We would like this to be ascertained, and its exact stipulation. In any case, we are concerned about excavation going on so near to the substation. We believe that development here sets an undesirable precedent for other houses in this street.

EPF/1876/22

Objection. This development is so new that it has not even been built yet and already, extension is planned. It also sets an undesirable precedent for the other seven houses to be extended.

EPF/2037/22 Stapleford Abbots School

Our comments are as follows: This has been objected to already. If it is intended as a playground, where are cars to go? The parking problem at this school is frankly hideous and we are unsure of how this will help if it is not destined as a parking lot. If it is to be used as a car park, how many vehicles will be accommodated here? Flooding is very problematic in this part of Stapleford Road, and the porous overlay will contribute to this - which will be exacerbated if the drain malfunctions as it has done in the past. Some foliage is to be removed here - are there TPOS on the trees?

EPF/1989/22 Spindrift

No Objection

EPF/2214/22 Ivy Cottage

	<p>Comments: We have reason to believe that there is a business (a pre-school/nursery) being operated from these premises, we are interested to see if they are paying business rates and have been registered and regulated by OFSTED. We would ask the planning officer about the history of this plot, as again we cannot get into the new planning portal to research this.</p> <p>APPEALS: Knolls Hill - we are not required to partake Redbridge - PI to receive our comments for the 2 houses, as circulated White Rose - PI to receive our comments as circulated</p> <p>Additional Response re. Albyns Hall We are aware that unless a neighbour objects, our Chair cannot speak at the Committee meeting about this (or indeed any) development. This has been confirmed by the District Council, and is part of national planning guidance that has been in force for at least 18 months. It is understandable if neighbours don't want to object and risk inflaming their fellow residents, but in the long run it doesn't help, as we as a Parish Council need to know that proper amounts of neighbours are properly informed about planning applications. There is also the case of new developments where neighbours cannot comment because there are no near neighbours - but there are other residents who may be affected in other ways who might need to be given the right to reply.</p>
937/22	Parish Council Projects
	<p>Nothing right now, we need to plan next phase of Living History project. This will entail school pupils interacting with longtime residents. It would be interesting to have podcasts on the website to reflect this: Clerk to ask TEEC how to achieve. Clerk to compose a Linkup call to action for any people born, brought up and educated in Stapleford Abbots to come forward and share their reminiscences: also to approach Ray Russell for a profile to go in Linkup about his experiences with the Parish Council as Chair. Clerk & CA happy to help with this project.</p>
938/22	Correspondence
	<p>Residents responded re. parking issues – very kind letter and positive towards community – Clerk to write back. Resident interested in developments at Spencer's Farm – Clerk to respond and pass on any new information. JJ will be talking with the builders here to get some consultation started – to liaise with Clerk. Further letters of assurance that SAPC will inform and update about Oak Hill Green to go to residents in the immediate vicinity.</p>
939/22	Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses
	<p>Chair training – CA & JJ unable to attend. New EALC Training Schedule for 2023 imminent.</p>
940/22	Highways
	<p>Potholes on Tysea Hill outside The Ivys are appalling – the houses shake and CB reported damage to her car. To report to ECC.</p>
941/22	Matters for future Agendas
942/22	Open Forum
	<p>Church update: Thank you for putting events on the website – the quiz, barn dance and Loving Memory event are upcoming, and the Christmas Bazaar at SAVH will take place on 20/11/22 from 10-2. Poster to follow. Abridge Big Sing will take place at their Hall on November 25 – more information to follow.</p> <p>Leaflet for new residents – Clerk to assist in refresh and add SAPC details – Church to supply template.</p> <p>Church Organ Restoration: Many thanks to SAPC for the donation, there is now enough in the kitty to start the project and hoping the target will soon be met. Works will begin on Friday 7th October for 4 weeks.</p> <p>Welfare Trust: newcomers are also welcome to become involved in this organisation that offers a range of activities to residents – Cllr Francis will take your details for the mailing list if you would like to join in.</p> <p>Introducing “Tommy”: we have had information about these evocative commemorative figures from the Royal British Legion. Clerk to find out more, as we are interested in getting two for the area around the village sign – we don't have a war memorial independent of the church and these would be an unusual and artistic way of commemorating the fallen. Clerk also to investigate permissions for installing them and also a seat on the sign area – Street Furniture department.</p>
943/22	Time & Date of next meeting
	<p>Meeting closed 9.09 pm. Next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday November 1 2022 in the Village Hall.</p>

Signed by Chair: Date:

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