

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Ellie Thomas, Clerk 132 Bentley Drive, Church Langley, Harlow, Essex CM17 9QY
Tel: 07894 154877, Email: StaplefordAbbottsParishCouncil@gmail.com www.staplefordabbotts.blogspot.com

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday December 6th 2022

Present:

Councillors: Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ Marion Francis (MF)
Catherine Burnett (CB)
Barb Lowings (BL)
Kim Lidlow (KL)
Heather Brady, EFDC

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 10 Residents/ Visitors

957/22	Apologies for Absence
	Colleen Atkinson (Deputy Chair) CA
958/22	Declarations of Interest
	None
959/22	Minutes of last Meeting
	Confirmed as a true record
960/22	Matters for Report
	Clerks Report Circulated: All bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, NALC, VAEF, Trading Standards, Police Fire & Libraries Drones film – Clerk has spoken to DVD editor, who believes he can help. Clerk to liaise and get a firm quote for DVD and memory stick version Noted: JJ paid £40 cash for the Remembrance Day wreath in cash, also £370 Tommy statues and £84.93 for Christmas sundries. To be reimbursed – see below. Cards - e-cards example sites circulated. Agreed a £25 annual subscription from Jacquie Lawson which will last for both this year and next. Agreed to take pictures of the village under snow when it arrives. Website - YouTube channel and blog for footpaths agreed, clerk to speak to TEEC. Electoral data has arrived, on laptop now. Goatswood traveller site: an illegal connection was made was for all three utilities and has been stopped. EFDC Carol service: clerk to register and attend. Illuminated bollards: some of these in the village are in disrepair. Clerk to collate a list of highways items that need attention and liaise with JJ to alert those with individual responsibility for various problems. Transport East - MF to be the SAPC rep Rural mobility survey – MF to liaise Twin Oaks and dead tree reported from last time EFDC Citizen of Year – we have nominated Footpaths Team Water resources info circulated Passenger Transport website for Essex being revamped - will update when it arises CILCA courses for 2023 - more soon as regards this subject. DOI on website – more information to come Waste Management - nice infographic sent round about who is who, circulated.
	Matters for Report New Council Handbook has arrived and bill is in hand. Christmas cards: covered Budget: to be put together and circulated. General notes for 2023 to 2024 discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office hire to be removed from budget, hall hire to be increased• Footpath clearance – discussed as part of maintenance• Insurance has gone up – clerk to supply new figure (£406.47 inc. tax)• VAT for 2022 will be put together by the end of 2022.• Clerk & Diane Malley fees to stay the same.• Chairman's expenses £150.• Members expenses to stay the same• Donations £350.• Subs same recipients – clerk to be vigilant to see if EALC goes up (was 331.41 in April)• Church maintenance £450• For external audit, consult PKF Littlejohn - internal audit to be removed.• CB asked if benches have been budgeted for. Response no. Questioned ref previous minutes and discussions to purchase more than one

- Training budget to £1000
- Hedges and paths also to £1000
- Sundries 200
- maintenance of the parish 500
- No election this year so no requirement for £3000
- Office: includes website, widgets, Office 365, kit, ink etc - Clerk to provide ballpark figures (website hosting in 2022 was £155.99 and planning widget was £28.80)

All to be reissued, discussed and passed in January 2023 meeting.

First Aid: clerk to collate list of delegates and to check they're covering defibrillators. Clerk also to research other providers of First Aid training.

Tommies statues: Councillor McIvor to be sent parish bank details for this. Agreed JJ to be reimbursed.

Local Councils Liaison: Clerk attended and reported back. As outlined at EALC Branch, many parishes and some EFDC members have similar dissatisfaction with EFDC communication & planning. Much is done online, and apparently three quarters of the staff are working from home and do not necessarily live in the district. Data dependent objections are not going through which is a problem, interactive map is not working for planning, and those without access to a computer have an even more difficult time. Andrew Marks of EFDC advocates more education, but the towns and parishes are yet to be convinced. LCLC offered an invitation to correspond with Susan Lewis at EFDC about any of this, assurances that there is always a phone option to comment on issues, and that more information and explanation would be forthcoming. Next LCLC will be in March.

Malpeque: works to the property created mountains of soil on the verge (Council land) so JJ, CB and local residents spoke to the builder and the owner and it was removed. They were going to cover with fake grass which may not have been a good idea. Clerk to ask the planning officer to check it out as it was a health and safety hazard. Agreed that planning applications need to have a clean-up clause. Esperanza, High House Farm and Woodlands also to be contacted re. tidiness.

Footpaths: Thank you to West Essex Ramblers (leader is Brian). Noted that work is needed to west end of village. Noted that if you see any infringement volunteers are liaising with enforcement re these issues. A key area of concern at the moment is footpath 33, where someone has put up a fence and a gate across the edge of the footpath behind the Oak pub. A legal document in 2015 says that two metres gap from the road to the footpath needs to be there. Footpath 27 has been cleared up to the traveller site and cannot get any further. Crossfield paths being checked.

Speedwatch: PC Andy Cook attended. Some of our team has been out on a speed watch detail. Noted that police observe outside the school but people go slow when they see the squad car. Discussed speed watch safe areas: Andy Cook says the group has to run for a year before they can change the standing places.

Accidents: noted that some do not get police attendance even though they might be bad. There have been over 50 accidents in the last three years. Hook Lane ones because it is becoming a black spot due to lack of signage. PC Cook recommends telling Highways direct. Suggested asking road safety contact Liam Collins to January meeting. PC Cook agrees that the school zone speed should be reduced, to 30 miles per mile maximum

Car theft: There has been a spate of this in the vicinity. PC Cook described ghost alarms steering wheel locks, and Faraday bags. Commented that people need more feedback than just a crime number. Everybody is unhappy about the lack of response and people have given up messaging the police.

Drones at night: Still going on, last incident December 5. PC Cook has a contact who works with drones, all are encouraged to report it to him. Possibly put it in the link up and send emails. Action and checking is going on

Drug dealing: seen outside Tysea stores. Police please take notice. The Rabbits car park also experiences this, in areas that cameras do not cover. Nupers Hatch lane and the church car park very occasionally see drug dealing too..

Crime figures Sept-Dec 2022: burglary in Stapleford Tawney, 2x non dwelling burglary in Bournebridge Lane. 2x attempted house burglaries, 2x non house burglaries. 9x car thefts, 4x thefts from cars, criminal damage Theydon Mount robbery Horsemanside.

Cat theft and animal beheading: we have seen some of this locally: vets are reporting them too.

Police presence: PC Cook reports many more new recruits to the police force which is up to maximum capacity. Clerk to email him the dates for the next meeting.

20's Plenty Proposal: agreed we need to find out more about what is happening in other places - is it in small stretches of road or is it all the way through a village? Can we do it in just the school zone only? and must it be variable at various times? Ask 20s Plenty team for advice. We are aware we should really be reassessed as we have more houses now, and that is what they go on when designating speed limits.

	Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned.																		
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962/22	Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)																		
	<p>EPF/2423/22 Rosedene Stapleford Abbots PC OBJECTS to this application We have concerns that this application is overlooking neighbours, may not be strong enough structurally and functionally to support 2 storeys - a semi-permanent structure being replaced by a permanent one. The existing building looks like a shed and we are concerned that the footings may not be sustainable for the new design. Is this building purely for business use - there are two offices upstairs but it has not been made clear of their purpose. We are also concerned that the road behind is an access road. We believe that the 2-storey design is not in keeping with the others in the vicinity. It looks very odd, with the rest of the building being accessed through a gym with bi-fold doors. We would also ask if all the neighbours of this property have been informed, as we are not sure if they have been. If there are objections from neighbours and this is referred to the Committee we will register to speak.</p> <p>EPF/2622/22 Kensington Park Stapleford Abbots PC has NO OBJECTION to this application The agent attended the meeting for questions regarding the infill, mast and hardstanding area. There was a 2018 application in abeyance, approved in 2020 for the mast house, and the design was tweaked. Mast has gone, one cabinet left. Agent described everything that had been re-done due to the abeyance, it is in keeping with the area and the ecologist is satisfied with the project. Nothing untoward has been heard from the neighbours and the solar panels are not visible from outside. Sustainability statement is very detailed, and the agent is a local person who does not want to create friction. There was no objection to this application but we must ask the question, is the size in keeping with other properties in the area? Have all the neighbours seen the plans? Is there a precedent to be created here for little estates? growing up around the village? What percentage of the plot does the house take up, subject to the size of the house being on the Green Belt?</p>																		
963/22	Parish Council Projects																		
	Cllr Atkinson offered her house for meetings to interview elderly residents. People who lived here, coming back to the village after a long time, have remarked on the building and how unrecognisable it now is.																		
964/22	Correspondence																		
	<p>Gordon Cottages - Abridge path blocked with fallen tree, worried resident, reported. Resident asked if we have any allotments free – not right now 100 Club inquiry – passed to appropriate person Resident damaged car on Bournebridge Lane pothole– reported. He asked about compensation from Highways but this is unlikely. Cllr McIvor now has the Tommy Statue proposal & invoice and is aware of mooted seat and Tommy statue on sign area</p> <p>St Mary’s Church: offered thanks to Stapleford Abbots PC for the partnership of the past year, and the support for the planning, the organ, the Jubilee celebrations and the official ceremonials of the Queen’s funeral. All are invited to sing carols on Sunday week at 3pm at the Christingle service.</p>																		
965/22	Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses																		
	Local Councils Liaison – covered.																		
966/22	Highways																		
	All to agree what we need to talk to Highways about – Clerk to collate.																		
967/22	Matters for future Agendas																		
	Fly tipping and the possibility of cameras being installed to control this, speed, accidents.																		
968/22	Open Forum																		
	None																		
969/22	Time & Date of next meeting																		
	Meeting closed 9.31pm. Next meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday January 10 2023.																		

Signed by Chair: Date:

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