

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday January 9th 2024

Present:

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

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: Cllr H Brady of EFDC, 12 Residents/ Visitors

1113/24	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr McIvor, school headteacher gave apologies. PC Cook not in attendance.
1114/24	Declarations of Interest
	None
1115/24	Minutes of last Meeting
	Minutes December 2023 passed.
1116/24	Matters for Report
	Clerks Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usual bulletins – EFDC, ECC, VAEF, Police, Tourism and Libraries – circulated.• Invitation to online briefing for Essex Minerals Local Plan review circulated• Potholes, bollards and grooves in road all reported to ECC Highways• Huge and recurrent flood on roundabout at Passingford reported to ECC & EFDC• Gutteridge Lane fly tipping – reported• Ride London rep has confirmed he is coming to Parish Council meeting in February Matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Precept and budget: passed with precept request being £13,570. Letter to go by email and post to EFDC as soon as possible. Discussed promotion of Community Transport social car scheme; subscription is £15 per person per year and Welfare Trust have offered to assist with this fee for those in need.• Repair of road signs: there are 4 prominent road signs damaged in the parish. Discussed approaching ECC and offering to pay for repairs – understand that it must be done by the recognised contractor, Ringway Jacobs. Clerk to seek quote from Ringway.• Speed: Community Speedwatch new year pack circulated to all who require it• Ride London: representative to attend February meeting, all please send queries and ideas to Clerk. Noted to ask Rabbits pub representative to attend. Suggested to ask for funding to repair village road signs and landscape around them. Clerk to circulate the Ride London rep's contact details to all Councillors.• Highways recap: There are many issues in the parish that have been reported multiple times via the ECC Highways website including floods, bollards, drains and potholes. All those who see more of these, please tell us. Discussed difficulties many people have experienced reporting problems on the ECC Highways website; it has been frustrating and there is no phone contact to liaise with. The local MP has been told, and Cllr Brady recommends keeping in constant contact with him, as he has been very proactive and supportive over a water leakage problem in her parish. JJ reported seeing a lorry from Cribb's with antique carriages and horses on board almost tipping over because of the state of the roads. Cribb's to contact the MP and they suggested involving the Press. Residents reported damage to their car caused by the roads, which they were told would have caused an accident if it had not been immediately repaired – advised them to write to Cllrs Cunningham & McIvor and copy to the MP and Parish Council. A resident suggested contacting the Minister for Highways (Mark Harper) and cc the local MP. Cllr Brady to support Parish Council's efforts on this subject.• Defibrillator: Clerk learned this evening we have been accepted for match funding for another defibrillator – action, to put this in motion. The Top Oak pub or the shop are both suitable venues. Shop sale is going through at present.
1117/24	Finance

	Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned.						
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1118/24	Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)						
	EPF/2724/23 The Gables, Bournebridge Lane, Stapleford Abbots, RM4 1LT Nathaniel Raimi Return 15/1/24 Single storey rear extension, alteration to roof from jerkin head to gable & new dormers: NO OBJECTION Decisions for December 2023 were read out to the meeting.						
1119/24	Parish Council Projects						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History Project: suggested Clerk to contact the acting headteacher and invite her to next meeting to update on history project. She was unable to attend this meeting. 						
1120/24	Correspondence						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera on Oak Hill Road in December: villagers have been concerned. This was positioned for a survey of traffic flow for a TFL project called LoHAM. This is a large undertaking, as 1500 sites are involved. Information about LoHAM to be forwarded to concerned resident. This was apparently authorised by ECC but it is not known what the ultimate goal of the project is – watch this space. Drains: resident emailed about a drain on the pavement outside that had leaked – she has been advised to contact the water authorities with her location and customer numbers to seek assistance. 						
1121/24	Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses						
	None so far; some Nimble e-courses were circulated last month, all Councillors wanting to take part please report to the Clerk. We await EALC's latest courses for 2024. JJ and CA to make an allotment inspection soon.						
1122/24	Highways						
	Covered: the MP is being informed about our situation, all those with issues to report please tell the Clerk.						
1123/24	Matters for future Agendas						
	<p>Ride London grant</p> <p>JJ: The Parish Council was gifted land at the Gutteridge Lane triangle – community and parish rooms mooted but nothing decided yet. JJ has information about modular buildings (estimated dimension 19.2m x 6.1m) which take less funding and maintenance. Suggested to put in for outline planning permission to see if it would be acceptable with EFDC. All would have to agree on project should outline be approved, and the hall could be used for seniors clubs and meetings, as well as for other classes, clubs and functions: it may prove invaluable in the face of decisions about the future of the Village Hall scheduled for 2027.</p> <p>All present were asked for their thoughts. MF recounted that many years ago we missed out on Section 106 for a parish room on High House Farm, but the farm's owner gifted the Parish Council the triangle at a peppercorn rent to build a hall. Suggested to act as soon as possible as a caravan was sighted there, and a hall may deter flytippers in the lane. Observed that the area is grown wild, it is Green Belt and there was a pond there.</p> <p>Noted that access and parking are an issue. Other possible uses suggested – 7-a-side football pitch, outdoor gym, children's play area. Noted that actual dimensions are needed.</p> <p>Noted that we would be using Section 106 funds (we have two 106 funds of £120k each plus another £10k earmarked for speed cameras) which are intended for community enrichment so the building would need to be community-orientated. Noted that the hall would need toilets, a sewage plant, a kitchen, clearance of the site, and hard-surfacing of a car park. Drawings, costings and dimensions also needed – JJ and PC to ask local builders to help, and local architect for pro bono assistance.</p> <p>Estimated that outline planning permission would cost around £600. CA suggested that we could commit up to £1k as a Parish Council project to ascertain if we can achieve it, and go from there.</p> <p>Cllr Brady advocated getting the backing of the village – Section 106 must be used for the village so we should ask villagers to support the idea - and noted that very special circumstances are needed to build in the Green Belt. Smarter ways of gathering opinions could include the website, social media and Linkup.</p> <p>Actions – to look into outline planning permission, look into doing a survey on SurveyMonkey, and JJ to speak to the architect. Resident who knows of companies who deal with pre-approved buildings also to send information.</p>						
1124/24	Open Forum						
	Resident sent a speed study he made outside the school and surrounding area – average speed was 42mph – we can put it with information from Oak Hill Road studies; resident is happy for us to share it with the MP. JJ to action. Footpaths: The team have not been out recently because of inclement weather, but localism officer and footpaths lead are working with landowners. Sharps issue on High House footpath reported as resolved in November but a resident has noticed it has cropped up again. Footpaths Lead agreed contact details for website etc.						
1125/24	Time & Date of next meeting						
	Meeting closed 20.43; next meeting will be February 6 2024 at 7.15pm						

Signed by Chair: Date:

Signed by Clerk:Date: