

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday JANUARY 7 2025

Present:

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

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 11 Residents/ Visitors

1267/25	Apologies for Absence												
	None												
1268/25	Declarations of Interest												
	None												
1269/25	Minutes of last Meeting												
	One small correction inserted and then confirmed as a true record												
1270/25	Clerk's Report												
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, Police, Travel, Speedwatch, Tourism, Libraries and Trading Standards circulated. • EALC training calendar released – Members to peruse and book any necessary training. • Sightings of two drones after dark around Oak Hill Road/ Tysea Hill area on 3/1/25 have worried some residents. All are advised to be vigilant; if you see anything untoward please report it to the police. • EFTAG subs – Agreed to donate £3 for this as suggested on their website. 												
1271/25	Matters for Report												
	Service Areas M25: We have not heard anything new. Clerk to call the Moto and Roding Valley action group for an update. Albans Hall garage planning application: this was passed. Inclusion course: Parish Council gave a brief precis of what we want to cover, to advise the parishioners. Course mooted to take place in February or March on a Saturday morning, depending on if the hall is available. We will get information from various providers, and introduce it in Linkup.												
1272/25	Finance												
	<p>Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned Budget and precept: suggested some amendments as items such as EALC, clerk and Insurance likely to be going up. Church maintenance, up to 1500, hedges up to 1500, maintenance, up to 2500, office services 250, website 200, training 1500. Action to ask other parish councils who have ads at their bus stops what ads are for and refer back to ECC. Action to approach and accept Matt Bates quote for the bus stop repairs – agreed. The footpath costs spreadsheet will go to ECC in March and VAT request was sent 3/1/25. Mr Harris has now paid his rent for the year.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>CLERK DEC 2024</td> <td>396</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>EFTAG SUBS</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>JACQUI LAWSON CARD SUBS</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EALC</td> <td>TRAINING COURSE - PLANNING</td> <td>156</td> </tr> </table>	E THOMAS	CLERK DEC 2024	396	E THOMAS	EFTAG SUBS	3	E THOMAS	JACQUI LAWSON CARD SUBS	24	EALC	TRAINING COURSE - PLANNING	156
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1273/25	Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team)												
	EPF/2464/24 Rosedene, Oak Hill Road, Stapleford Abbots RM4 1JJ: Single storey Front & Rear extension. Rhian Thorley RETURN 13/1/25 – NO OBJECTION House owner attended and discussed EFDC bungalow retention policy; Parish Council recommended seeking Planning Officer advice before launching an application.												
1274/25	Parish Council Projects												
	None yet												
1275/25	Correspondence												
	<p>Calls received in December: from resident concerned about lorries, Speedwatch to say happy new year, and Christmas greetings from former resident. E-cards were sent for Christmas from Parish Council.</p> <p>Correspondence re. signage. Two residents had contacted the Parish Council as they were concerned about signs on footpaths opposite the shop and outside the pubs. Aware that planning permission can be needed for signs, Parish Council contacted the businesses concerned to alert them. This was meant as an advisory measure, but a resident contacted Parish Council in response to point out that this is contradicted as the tone of the letter sounded more draconian than had been intended. All are aware that Council has to formally advise residents of these matters and will take on board the comments regarding how they may land. Noted that the church has permissions in place for putting up event notices – going up two weeks before an event coming down one day after. Resident asked how long ads for new developments have to stay up– action, to ask EFDC for clarification.</p>												
1276/25	Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses												
	Clerk enrolled on EALC planning course 11/1/25. Action: to find out when this is repeated so other Parish Councillors can attend.												
1277/25	Highways												

	<p>Bournebridge Lane has two large potholes towards Lambourne End. Also a large pothole by the Rabbits at the white line. Action, to chase PC Andy Cook to do the site walk he has spoken about. Road at the top of Tysea Hill is disintegrating again although the golf course road was fixed. Residents say repairs are substandard as it is only patched, notably by the chapel, and lorries soon wear it away. Gritters: residents had said they had not seen them during the cold snap. MF said one had gritted Tysea Hill, but in the early hours of the morning. They used to offer good service, but icy roads are worrying people. Action to ask ECC for information. Our consignment of grit it's all gone from the village hall - we have been told Stapleford Abbots is classed as a small village so is only entitled to one pallet of salt. JJ and ZT to look into this.</p> <p>Accidents: 23/12/24 and 29/12/24 at Hook Lane in the same ditch. Action to tell PC Cook and send the accidents list to ECC Highways. Noted that we should see if we can get safety barrier – the farmers would need to be consulted about that. Noted that the ditch is deep and filled with water and that we could do with an inspection, especially with so many accidents.</p>
1278/25	Matters for future Agendas
	None
1279/25	Open Forum
	Resident inquired if there are any rules on outside lights. Bungalows at Stapleford Road have these and the neighbours can see them. JJ confirmed there are rules about times, angles and wattage. Action: to chase Planning Officers for the development for eight bungalows at Meadow Brook/ Stapleford Farm to confirm what the rules are for lighting, hours, wattage, and to inquire if gated developments, have had permission as we did not know there would be a gated community here. Oakhill Green is on stop due to flooding; action – to contact Hills for a development update.
1280/25	Time & Date of next meeting
	Meeting closed 20:20 . Next meeting 4/2/25 at 19:15.

Signed by Chair: Date:

Signed by Clerk: Date: