

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday MARCH 3 2026

Present:

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

Officers: Ellie Thomas, Clerk

In attendance: 8 Residents

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| 1446/26 | Apologies for Absence Kim Lidlow (KL). No representatives from EFDC, ECC or Police |
| 1447/26 | Declarations of Interest None |
| 1448/26 | Minutes of last Meeting Passed as a true record. |
| 1449/26 | Clerk's Report Usual bulletins from EFDC, ECC, EALC, Police, Travel Essex, Speedwatch, Tourism Essex, Libraries and Trading Standards circulated. Tysea Stores appeal refused; 'cage' removed and replaced it with a tent - see later in Correspondence. Tysea Bus Stop parish council notice board: work in progress. Fingerpost repair is the next project. UKPN vulnerable customer scheme - all information about this is on website - clerk has designed an infographic LINKUP: We now accept PDF of each edition for our website. Mandy McCormack to present (see Matters for Report). All rents paid. March 5/6/7 2026- TBDS are performing in Terry Pratchett's Wyrd Sisters at Theydon Hall. Query re. EALC/NALC: Parish Councils do have to belong to both . This requirement is set out in the constitution of both Associations. Membership provides a wide range of benefits to councils, councillors, and communities, including practical support tailored to councils in Essex, access to national services and support, policy influence, legal and HR guidance, training, networking, updates and sector context, awards and recognition opportunities, and strong local and national representation. EALC issues the Special County Update to all members ahead of the affiliation fee request. Church Report: 4/4/26 10:00 – 14:00, there will be an art exhibition at the church. Local artists will exhibit, posters to come. Going greener: Discussed with Deanery and Diocesan representative. If St Mary's get gold, it will be the first small church in the diocese to do so. Worship and teaching, buildings, grounds and community work are all factors. A cycle rack at the church and the village hall was suggested JJ to source prices. Lamborne Church wants to do the going greener project too, as have the schools, hoping it will bring two parish councils together. JJ: if contributions are needed, please consider us. MF: We will need permission to site the racks. Old portaloo to be collected this week. Quiz night, 17/4/26 – SAPC to attend. Rogation Walk 10/5/26 at 14:45. Plant sale 9/5/26. Coronation trail 30/5/26. |
| 1450/26 | Matters for Report No 2 Moto: Moto quiz night is on the website. Moto still lobbying National Highways against connecting its service stations to the M25. Brentwood Borough Council have not made any movement yet, nor has the London Borough of Havering. No2Moto think they may need to appear at a Public Inquiry to make the anti-Moto case – they have now established a charity and started fundraising, starting with a Quiz Night on 28/3/26 in Noak Hill Hall (Details on SAPC website now). Moto can't build its Motorway Service Areas (MSAs) unless Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) gives it planning permission and National Highways is satisfied that these MSAs can be safely connected to the M25. It's now clear that National Highways won't know whether these MSAs can be safely connected to the M25 until August 2026. No2Moto have written to BBC's planners to ask them to recommend that Moto's planning application is refused now. Abbott's Chase. Operations mostly being managed on site now according to most feedback Section 106 still pending. Still working to secure funding for 106 at High House Farm |

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| | <p>LINKUP: Welcome to Mandy McCormack of Linkup Team. They have enough money to do 11 issues this year, but next year might be different. They are getting quotes for next year. JJ: the parish council has offered to donate and historically the Parish Councils have had some involvement with the funding of Link Up, but recently the Linkup team has not had to ask for help as income has made the magazine self-sufficient. Mandy explained that if the magazine can fund itself that will be fine, but finances will be reviewed end February 2027. Suggested SAPC can budget a donation in for next year. Mandy also announced the 100-club had more people join since the appeal last month – many thanks, this is a great response.</p> <p>CouncilWise: New tuition consortium. Clerk to get a breakdown of the course prices. We would need to get three or four courses to make a subscription worthwhile.</p> | | | |
| 1452/26 | Finance | | | |
| | Approved | | | |
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| 1453/26 | Planning (Development Control & Enforcement Team) | | | |
| | <p>EPF/0248/26 Laurel Dene, Stapleford Road, Stapleford Abbots, RM4 1EJ COMMENT: This proposal would mean the loss of a bungalow, something on which EFDC has made a firm stance in recent years. The design is also not in keeping with the character of the road.</p> <p>EPF/0286/26 The Cot, Tysea Hill, Stapleford Abbots, , RM4 1JU COMMENT: We are aware that we have commented previously on this proposal, and that this particular application is to keep the scheme live as no works have yet commenced. There is a copse on the site - we are concerned about what would happen to that. We would also point out that the address needs to be amended as this site is not actually at Tysea Hill but on Murthing Lane.</p> <p>EPF/0372/26 Jubilee Bungalow, Bournebridge Lane, Stapleford Abbots, RM4 1LT COMMENT: This application has already been passed and our objection stands: The entrance on the bend is dangerous; Five-bedroom houses indicate an increase in cars creating more traffic in a narrow lane; There is room for more development behind the houses - we are concerned that there will be further building here in future. This application is set in a flood risk area (zone 1); there needs to be clarification of what the entrance into the two properties will look like: are they going to share the drive?; There have been other applications attempted here which were refused: EPF/1064/10, EPF/1915/09, EPF/1916/09</p> <p>EPF/0334/26 Rainbirds, Nupers Lane, Stapleford Abbots, RM4 1JR COMMENT: This application involved a bungalow being expanded into a house - the foot print has not changed and there are few neighbours, but we are aware that EFDC has concerns about, and has acted against, bungalows being lost due to conversion to storied houses.</p> | | | |
| 1454/26 | Parish Council Projects | | | |
| | <p>Projects: Going Greener is progressing.</p> <p>Plant sale - Parish Council stall to be organised along the same lines as last year, funds agreed.</p> | | | |
| 1455/26 | Correspondence | | | |
| | <p>Email: Tree down Stapleford Road 4/2/26 - reported to EFDC</p> <p>Hill Group email: re. van that was unloading from the road - subcontractors/suppliers have been reminded that unloading is to only take place on site. Hill are currently in the process of establishing the entrance where wheel washing will take place - this will be ready by w/c 9/3/26 with daily road sweeps in the interim to make sure the roads remain clean. Site Manager is happy to meet residents to advise on any operational concerns they may have.</p> <p>Email from resident regarding comments at last meeting responded to in accordance with the following advice received from the Monitoring Officer: <i>I do not see any breach of data protection provisions in the information provided. For completeness I do not see any matters which might indicate a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.</i></p> <p>Email from resident: Tysea Stores appeal refused and replaced it with a tent. There is nothing to comment on as they have complied with the EFDC edict.</p> <p>Email from Adriana of Clerks Forum - dates for Clerks to meet with Cllr Chris Whitbread, Leader EFDC. Suggested to ask how to progress if there is no highways panel</p> | | | |
| 1456/26 | Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses | | | |
| | None this month | | | |
| 1457/26 | Highways | | | |
| | New pothole top of Hook Lane. No white lines either. You can't see the holes in the dark, particularly if cars with the new ultra-bright headlamps are coming towards you. There are some very deep holes in the area, depths of over four inches. All are encouraged to please report these as a hazard – in extremis please call the ECC emergency line. New car in the ditch at Hook Lane, new fly tipping on Guttridge lane, all reported. New fly tipping on Hook Lane will be reported after meeting. | | | |
| 1458/26 | Matters for future Agendas | | | |
| | Future agendas, AGM: 14/4/26 at time of writing. Bank: changed address and debit card ordered. Finance to be made up and ready for PKF Littlejohn returns. | | | |
| 1459/26 | Open Forum | | | |

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| | <p>Open Forum: New wheely bin scheme to be launched 31/3/26. Tariff is £60 pounds each for the year – residents can phone EFDC to order if the online link is not working. Floods and path cleaning at the brook – Parish Council will consult EFDC Environmental.</p> <p>Footpaths: Report for PC March 26 The team has commenced a systematic walk of all PROWs in our village starting with 2 (there is no PROW 1) and any associated PROW linking each of the path. PROW 2: We still have concerns where this footpath passes through the rear of Bonns Farm. Markings are unclear and do not follow the legal line. Accessible through a number of paddocks, but difficult to follow. Defective bridge at the junction of PROW 2 and 4 reported. PROW 3: Currently clear, we will monitor to ensure clear access once planting of the fields commences. PROW 4. Currently clear all the way from the Stapleford Road through the church through to Albyns Lane, however the defective bridge has been reported to the rear of the cottages. Whilst currently clear will also monitor as there appears to be planting from last year up to the field boundaries. PROW 5 Sadly the cottages on Church Lane have claimed gardens over this path as noted last month. Other Adjacent paths checked to date. PROWs 31 (Joining 4 and 7) and 32 (Joining 4 and 3) currently clear. In addition to monitoring and reviewing defects we are currently completing paperwork and grant applications for 2026/27. As always a plea for more volunteers to assist with footpath maintenance. Initially we will be walking each path noting defects and work to be done. This would be a great way to discover our beautiful rights of way. Any offers of time please call Catherine P3 Lead and PPA on 07980808317.</p> |
| 1460/26 | <u>Time & Date of next meeting</u> |
| | Next time – 7/4/26 at 19:15. AGM – 14/4/25 at 19:15 – confirm with SAVHA. This meeting was closed 20:26. |

Signed by Chair: Date:

Signed by Clerk: Date: