

# ***STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL***

c/o Ellie Thomas, Clerk 131 Bentley Drive, Church Langley, Harlow, Essex CM17 9QY Tel: 07599 249962

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## **Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Jayne Jackson (Chair) JJ  
Marion Francis (MF)

Colleen Atkinson (Deputy Chair) CA  
Kim Lidlow (KL)

**Officers:**

Ellie Thomas, Clerk

**In attendance:**

12 Residents/ Visitors

1165/24	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	None
1166/24	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	None
1167/24	<b>Minutes of last Meeting</b>
	Confirmed as a true record
1168/24	<b>Clerk's Report</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usual bulletins: EFDC, ECC, VAEF, Police, Tourism, Trading Standards, Water, Libraries – circulated.</li> <li>• Hill Group visit in April regarding Oak Hill Green: we have sent information about traffic incidents to their representative Ned Fox who gave the presentation. We have been given a website link for all to send queries or comments.</li> <li>• Rogation Walk: excellent event, it stayed dry on the day and the organisers arranged an adapted shortened course which worked really well. We had a lot of positive feedback and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day.</li> <li>• Rent requests on new rate sent to tenants who pay twice a year</li> <li>• Probation Service CP nomination: Clerk applied to be considered for village to have unpaid work done by offenders – to arrange teams meeting with their officer ASAP.</li> <li>• Elections - uncontested for Parish Council, and we have 3 new District Councillors for the ward. Clerk has approached EFDC to get more info on who is our rep and their new contact addresses.</li> <li>• Ride London – Posters to go up before the day (26 May 2024). Cllr McIvor &amp; C Davey have all the information requested re. signs. Not heard anything back, however this may be because elections intervened.</li> <li>• Church funding: Vicar contacted Active Essex for grant forms but the fund was not yet open and he was referred to Epping Forest Community Fund. This only funded up to £1000 and was quickly closed. Awards for All was unsuccessful. Ride London - no-one had been in touch as was promised so the church could not put in an application. Knockout event was therefore cancelled, but they can apply now for next year they will.</li> <li>• ANPR – we have been given a contact at EFDC (Jess Pruett) who deals with this – Clerk to make contact.</li> </ul>
1169/24	<b>Matters for Report</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways: There have been new reflector bollards put up along the main road, thank you to Highways. The village is apparently not a high priority as per drains, but some potholes have been filled and the field ditches have been cleared out.</li> <li>• Sign cleaning &amp; repair: We have heard nothing about road signs – Clerk to chase EFDC. Possible activity for Big Help Out could be cleaning the signs.</li> <li>• Oakhill Green: contact email address and website link for Hill Group is here, Clerk to publicize. Hill Group have checked the badger set and it has been disturbed. Hill Group were very upset about that and have reported it to the police, who are looking for the culprit. They will do their best to help with everything.</li> <li>• Ride London: we have been in touch to find out more details about road signs – will be chased.</li> <li>• Top Oak application for five flats: and we have put in our comments. The details should be on the EFDC website.</li> <li>• Please note that six flats refused before. All those who comment on this please be sure that the application number they use is correct, as there is a danger of using the old application number which will not work.</li> </ul>
1170/24	<b>Section 106</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed calming: Cllr McIvor has given us a contact for ANPR at District Council – as above.</li> <li>• Parish Rooms: Gutteridge Lane has seen more fly tipping. EFDC suggest to put up a camera and clear some hedges. It's very awkward to pinpoint anybody doing wrong here as they do two loads a day and use fake number plates.</li> <li>• Lots of suggestions have been made to combat the problem: poles with keys at each end, straw bales, concrete blocks, spikes across the road and patrols, but we've really heard nothing meaningful back.</li> <li>• This part of the area is owned by Essex CC. A solar camera on a high pole has been suggested - cost 6.5k - It unfortunately can't do much about people using fake license plates.</li> <li>• We have video footage of dumping at night as well. EFDC fly tipping department have put signs up and they will clear it this week, but we know it will build up again; Hook Lane and Albyn's Lane are being targeted too.</li> <li>• Anyone actually caught for fly tipping get a letter to invite them to a meeting. There are no immediate sanctions.</li> <li>• The triangle on Gutteridge Lane has been gifted to the parish council. A resident advised that there was only one house on Gutteridge Lane. All other residences going down to Stapleford Hall are classified as Stapleford Road</li> </ul>
1171/24	<b>Finance</b>

	Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned. Rent invoices are out now and we have asked all tenants to pay by BACS Agreed to reclaim monies from Ride London not mentioned in the minutes.															
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>CLERK APRIL</td> <td>495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>INK FOR PRINTER</td> <td>36.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>ROGAATION WALK PRIZES</td> <td>9.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E THOMAS</td> <td>ROGATION WALK ITEMS</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D MALLEY</td> <td>ADVISORY SERVICES</td> <td>120</td> </tr> </table>	E THOMAS	CLERK APRIL	495	E THOMAS	INK FOR PRINTER	36.9	E THOMAS	ROGAATION WALK PRIZES	9.75	E THOMAS	ROGATION WALK ITEMS	9.5	D MALLEY	ADVISORY SERVICES	120
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1172/24	<b>Planning</b> (Development Control & Enforcement Team)															
	Householder appeal EPF/2382/23 AP-13354 believed to be under Stapleford Tawney – to be clarified, clerk to ask EFDC.															
1173/24	<b>Parish Council Projects</b>															
	None outstanding															
1174/24	<b>Correspondence</b>															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered: JJ asked to join SARG group 17/4 but administrator advised it was not a conduit for communication with the Parish Council and was declined. So moving forward the Parish Council will not be informing individuals of updates in planning applications – these will be available on the website and notice boards or via attendance at Parish Council meetings.</li> </ul>															
1175/24	<b>Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses</b>															
	None															
1176/24	<b>Highways</b>															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident suggested to include sidewalks in consideration. Pinchback Bridge to the school is a mess and the area near the building sites the pavements have been smashed. JJ to speak to the site manager. This was not resurfaced since the gas main was laid and it's 13 inches in some places.</li> <li>Footpaths team advised that the first sidewalk mentioned is temporary, but the footpaths group can't do it because it's not insured for that kind of work. The parish council can suggest builders cut the trees back. We could also ask ECC Highways and forest rangers. JJ to write to Highways and see if the High House farm site manager can help. We could also ask the community payback team if we are accepted.</li> <li>Otherwise it was suggested to get a quote from the church gardening team and other operatives.</li> <li>Footpaths representative advised that it's better to speak to landowners before you write to them; and preferable to do both.</li> </ul>															
1177/24	<b>Matters for future Agendas</b>															
	Section 106, Plans for Parish Rooms															
1178/24	<b>Open Forum</b>															
	<p><b>Footpaths Report:</b> Team has cleared footpath 19 which is massive achievement as getting contact with landowners has proven difficult. The team have spoken to the landowner of the entrance, who was very helpful. Hazards still to tackle include high stiles and barbed wire. The team will secure the high stiles, and they will be removed if possible. Where the barbed wire crossed the path, this will be made safe with a temporary measure. The localism officer is aware and everything has been reported to ECC highways.</p> <p>Parish Council asked about an updated footpaths map – advised there is an interactive map on ECC highways website, under public rights of way. Once on the site you select an area and hone in on it, and you can actually follow the paths when you are walking. Link: <a href="https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/prow-interactive-map">https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/prow-interactive-map</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident mentioned his style handle broken at Brook Farm. This has been reported.</li> <li>Rogation Walk: Vicar says thank you very much for the help you gave during the walk, much appreciated.</li> <li>Plant sale 11/5/24, 10-2 at the church</li> <li>London gallery choir concert 23/6/24, 5pm at the church</li> <li>The St Francis hospice choir concert 6/7/24, 7pm at the church</li> <li>Flower festival 27/7/24 – 28/7/24 at the church, all contributions are welcome.</li> <li>Residents suggested inspection of drainage on Bournebridge Lane. During the slightest downpour it's underwater from Stapleford Road to the Butcher's Farm area. The brook opposite Butcher's Farm is due to be cleared. The brook behind Bournebridge Lane is being dredged - there's been massive machinery doing it and it seems to be very effective.</li> <li>footpaths representative mentioned that there was a lot of concern over Spencer's Farm. Even though it's finished, the bend is still flooded. JJ advised that a representative from Hill Group will go there as part of their reconnaissance work for Oak Hill green and they will go and check it out.</li> <li>As the weather is now better the community speedwatch group would be keen to do more duties. Councillors have office keys only to access the necessary kit, but suggested that anyone can email JJ or MF to get the key so long as it is returned on the same day. They would like to go out on the 30th of May.</li> <li>Oak Hill Green will also be subject to a traffic surveillance report.</li> <li>Rooms - modular building pictures were shown of possible new parish rooms.</li> <li>Road encompassing Hook Lane to the pub - the drain is still burst. There's a cone in the hole. Parish Council to get a picture and report to Essex County Council.</li> <li>Play at Theydon Bois Village Hall - Terence Rattigan's The Deep Blue Sea – 30/5, 31/5, 1/6 – posters on boards &amp; website.</li> </ul>															
1179/24	<b>Time &amp; Date of next meeting</b>															
	Meeting closed 20:30. Next meeting June 4 2024 at 7.15.															

Signed by Chair: ..... Date: .....

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