

# ***STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL***

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

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## **Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting 7.15pm Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **Present:**

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

**Officers:** Ellie Thomas, Clerk

**In attendance:** 8 Residents/ Visitors. Cllr Heather Brady, EFDC

1061/23	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Catherine Burnett (CB)
1062/23	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None
1063/23	<b>Minutes of last Meeting</b> JJ asked if all have seen July minutes; CA stated she did not agree with the amendment proposed by Cllr Burnrtt that October be added to the draft minute as regards the invite to Janet Willey of CSW. This was not in the first draft minutes released by the Clerk and was proposed as an addition by CB and there was no consensual agreement to postpone the CSW meeting till October. JJ then asked all councillors present if they agreed with that statement and all agreed. Noted that if councillors want the statements to be minuted by the clerk, please tell the chair.
1064/23	<b>Matters for Report</b> <b>Clerks Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ECC EALC EFDC VAEF Trading Standards Fire Police Libraries Tourist Board: all emails circulated</li><li>• JJ meeting Alex Burghart MP on the 8th</li><li>• Noise Action Plan Consultation</li><li>• Contacted enforcement regarding the land in front of Woodlands Grove</li><li>• Contacted enforcement re strimming on Land opposite Gutteridge Lane triangle</li><li>• PFCC Public Meeting for all residents of Epping Forest District 7pm, 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Zinc Arts Centre, Ongar,</li><li>• Informal consultation - footpath 12 Stapleford Abbots, district of Epping Forest: CB aware and comments: The new proposed route is already the established route. This suggests a previous owner might have encroached on the path with their fencing. Recently this path has been opened up and is much clearer, taking a new straighter line away from the farm. This is work done over and above the clearance group. On our walks I have spoken to people working on the path and thanked them thinking this was the original path as it had been marked for years with very old way marker discs. All that said, no objection but think someone may have previously already moved the path. Possibly new owners checking their legal documents maybe. My only comment would therefore be is this a consultation after the change.</li></ul> <p>KL: historically part of path did go across the land at one time – but owners had moved it 16 years ago due to it leading people to walk too close to their house.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All damaged road signs have been reported - Navestock end, Tysea Hill finger post and Passingford village sign</li><li>• The school signs have all been replaced with much larger ones. The automatic 'slow down for school' signs have also been replaced, and appear to have solar power mechanics fitted.</li><li>• Bollards have been reported by Clerk in June &amp; followed up by Cllr McIvor B4B between Hook Lane and school. 2851688 it was reported that operatives attended on the 15/05/23 and no fault was found.</li></ul> <b>Matters arising:</b> <p>Welcome Janet Willey (JW): Community Speedwatch (CSW) coordinator across Essex. She reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The team has picked up after 18-month Covid hiatus - policy and procedure had to start from scratch.</li></ul>

- There are now 1300 volunteers across 100 groups. Police and highways want to onboard three new groups per month, they are assigning sites and are back to face to face training.
- Fire, highways and police meet on a monthly basis and JW updates them – the group monitors changes in roads locally as well to keep CSW groups safe.
- Groups need to keep to site codes as these areas have been risk assessed to see if they are safe. The signs warn motorists about people in the road, rather than the presence of a speed trap.
- CSW is not an enforcement group and never will be, they support Safer Essex Roads Partnership which has the aim of working towards Vision Zero – zero fatalities on Essex roads by 2040. Collisions make impact not just on hospitals but on mental health, salaries, jobs and children.
- This drive is worldwide to monitor and lower speed in local communities to make them safe. Lots of communities are joining - if you are out for an hour, in that hour, you made a difference.
- 85% of road deaths are related to excessive speed. Drivers take notice and slow down because they are aware and will get a warning letter if they were speeding.
- Groups should submit a rota in advance which JW will send to the police, and they will send an enforcement officer, who has authority to pull people over, when they can, which gives groups credence. The Council agreed to request enforcement support, so groups please send in available dates
- JW talked of a twin towers effect. Over 3000 plus people were killed on September 11 2001, and that is less than a quarter of all the road deaths in the UK within a year. We want speeding to be seen as antisocial as drunk or drugged driving or driving without a seatbelt. It will take time. But with the help of CSW volunteers across the county, we will slow people down and make the road safer for all road users.
- Enforcement officers operate in Essex; There are 3 new ones for that role plus more assisting the Essex police, but officers may be called away on a blue light at any moment so volunteers should factor this in.
- Road traffic police unit and the Rural Crime Squad all support the groups.
- Groups must record speeds for the sheets: 36 and over in a 30 limit or 47 and over in a 40 area.
- The police can enforce but CSW do not and cannot. If the speed is excessive as logs go straight for processing and not checked by CSW groups are asked to email JW with excessive speeding. Two speeding reports may lead to a house call. When logs go to the Essex police, they have to be accurate as they may use the intelligence for other purposes.
- There is a new form, many groups were submitting the wrong side code which caused problems. People can insert site codes rather than rely on a drop down menu.
- Start and finish times go in - the start is when you record the first speeder. The data is core and processed via automatic readers.
- Collection of data for CSW has a set purpose - volunteers may want to collect data of all speeds but should only send the CSW the data required for the spreadsheet. The Parish Council may have a fuller dataset for our records e.g. average no of records per session is 10 but one SA group records double this in sessions.
- The question was raised about data not captured because of high speeds or motorbikes or unreadable number plates. JW agreed to investigate with PC Cook.
- There are three speed limits in one mile within this parish. JJ to raise issue of speed with the MP on 8/9/2 and point out the new buildings coming up and request reassessment for speed limits. We are trying to get figures of how many houses you need in the village to get speed reassessed
- Safer Roads Essex came to the school to teach road safety; they are not allowed to teach it outside the school because it is so dangerous. Cllr Mc Ivor is going to take this to the Highways panel.
- Two speed breaches result in letters sent and a visit by the police. CSW cannot enforce but police can. Letters do go out, as do officers.
- Cameras would assist with speed control in the village. The PC have looked into it and have considered paying for cameras, but have been informed no more speed cameras are allowed to go in for the next six months. JW to research this and report back. Stanford Rivers had the same problem.
- If a site needs to be reassessed inform the clerk who will liaise with JW.
- There is no code outside Tysea stores but there is one further up outside Towneley Cottages which is unworkable and unsafe and we request this be reassessed. JW will advise the clerk.

**Footpaths:** Report was read: The footpaths maintenance group have been doing their best to keep nettle growth down. Thanks to those involved. CB placed an article in Link Up to encourage walkers to snip along the way and ask landowners with adjacent paths to keep overgrowth from their properties clear.

- The section of footpath 22 which remains open, (north end closed due to building work at High House farm) along with adjoining section of footpath 37 put in place due to closure, was reported to enforcement due to hazardous rubble being placed along what was previously green field pathways.
- The landowner in this same area contacted regarding crops totally blocking footpaths 20/22/23 and 37.
- The section of footpath 13 which runs across the back of Brook Farm TC from Stapleford Road is totally overgrown again with brambles and thistles. Previously managers/owners have insisted they clear this themselves. Group unsuccessfully tried to make contact so passed this to enforcement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict bridge on footpath 20 (where it leads from Bournbridge Lane northbound) replaced. Current crops prevent access to walks over the bridge due to head height maize and no cross field walkway.</li> <li>• Large trees across footpath 33 behind the Top Oak Pub to Nupers Hatch have been cleared.</li> <li>• Autumn jobs for the maintenance team will include clearing dying vegetation to widen paths, replacing waymarker posts knocked down in harvesting and adding waymarker posts to help identify routes.</li> <li>• The group welcomes new members – contact Cllr Burnett. Work times are based around availability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accidents:</b> two new ones in dossier</p> <p><b>Bus service:</b> awaiting developments at Essex Council for biweekly extension of the service to Epping and to Debden. Estimated contribution from SAPC would be just over £2k per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Query: The stops proposal shows the bus will not go any further than Bournbridge Lane which potentially would exclude a large section of the village, plus the walk from Bournbridge Lane is hazardous as people need to walk in the road due to overgrowth and in winter it is slippery. Clerk to ask the Community Transport team: Bournebridge Lane is safe for passengers and the minibus to turn around, but if there is passenger interest in Tysea Hill/Oak Hill they can become individual members pending the trial run.</li> <li>• Oak Hill Green: could the bus be extended here as community enrichment? JJ to suggest it to developers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 106 contribution:</b> no updates from EFDC. We cannot claim until the first course of brickwork is in so nearer the time we can put it out to the village.</p> <p><b>Crime:</b> 3 new incidents for August.</p> <p><b>Footpaths Funding:</b> the round-up is done, checked by Clerk and by CB, and invoice is ready to present. The Council passed this for processing.</p> <p><b>Oak Hill Green:</b> latest was activity in July people on the land. Police were called. People had approached the neighbours to say they bought the land but land registry proved otherwise as JJ discovered. Landowners have secured the site now. Please tell the Clerk if anything else occurs. Section 78 has been proposed - an injunction against persons unknown.</p> <p><b>JLR environmental:</b> 8 wheeler grab lorries seen in the village. JJ spoke to foreman, expressed concerns about the amount of lorries coming through the village and suggested a diversion via Goatswood Lane to the site from Navestock, and not down Tysea Hill to avoid the junction. It made the houses shake on Tysea Hill and there were some near misses. The contract is only running for a few weeks and the company are sympathetic – please let us know if there are any more problems.</p> <p><b>Extraordinary meeting: The minute of the extraordinary meeting was read and agreed</b></p>																				
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1065/23	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Transactions for the month – All agreed and actioned.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1738 587 1765">E THOMAS</td> <td data-bbox="587 1738 1257 1765">CLERK JULY 2023</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1738 1430 1765">495</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1765 587 1792">A KING</td> <td data-bbox="587 1765 1257 1792">GARDENER – CHURCHYARD STRIMMING</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1765 1430 1792">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1792 587 1818">ICO</td> <td data-bbox="587 1792 1257 1818">SUBSCRIPTION</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1792 1430 1818">35</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1818 587 1845">E THOMAS</td> <td data-bbox="587 1818 1257 1845">CLERK AUGUST 2023</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1818 1430 1845">429</td> </tr> </table> <p>Monthly round-up: noted and endorsed.</p>	E THOMAS	CLERK JULY 2023	495	A KING	GARDENER – CHURCHYARD STRIMMING	300	ICO	SUBSCRIPTION	35	E THOMAS	CLERK AUGUST 2023	429								
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1066/23	<p><b>Planning (Development Control &amp; Enforcement Team)</b></p> <p><b>EPF/1282/23 Argyl And Land Adjacent, Bournebridge Lane, Stapleford Abbots, Romford, RM4 1LT</b>  <b>Proposed detached dwelling Caroline Brown RETURN SEPTEMBER 11 2023</b></p> <p>We are objecting to this application on the following grounds:</p>																				

- We would initially point out that the plans are vague and some of us have experienced difficulty in viewing them.
- We are concerned about the safety of this development as it is in a flood risk area. It needs a proper drainage assessment which we do not see on the plans.
- We are concerned about the impact of this development would have on the public right of way and require clarification that the path is private or otherwise.
- This development is currently a multi-use site: there is also no indication that this would continue, which there ought to be.

If this application is listed to come before Committee we will register to speak.

**EPF/1795/23 The Drive, Stapleford Road, Stapleford Abbots, Romford, RM4 1EJ**  
**Change of use to garden land Muhammad Rahman RETURN SEPTEMBER 18 2023**

Two dates were given for the response to this application and we are objecting on the following grounds:

- Flood risk - the properties here are in a flood risk zone. and there is no flood risk assessment for these properties on this application. The neighbourhood has many flooding incidents - two weeks after the Blenheim Mews application was granted, three houses in Brookside got flooded
- Greenbelt incursion - The land proposed to become part of these gardens is currently green belt land so the PC object to the use of green belt land for residential purpose and the consequent loss of such green belt land.
- Furthermore this would allow for subsequent applications for additional housing as infill at the rear of the development that might free up the rest of the field for development which is currently greenbelt and grazing land; it has happened in other areas
- An application made earlier to extend the gardens at Field End into the field behind, which was refused by the Secretary of State (EPF/ 1925/ 21) This was rejected for Greenbelt incursion and flood risk - and this appeal has set a precedent for our village, so it should not be contravened here.
- Ecological concerns - there is a lot of flora and fauna in this area that would be impacted - the site should have an ecological assessment done. There is not one attached to the original plan. There are badgers and muntjacs known to be in the area, and newts are local to the area so there should be a survey made before anything planning-related is set in stone.
- Development creep- the developer heading up this application has been in charge of several other applications in the area that have amounted to "development in stages". This negates the provision of social housing by making separate proposals over time.
- Stapleford Abbots local plan development exceeded

If this application is listed to come before Committee we will register to speak.

1067/23	<b>Parish Council Projects</b>
	Social history project: afternoon tea 6/9/23 at Cllr Atkinson's house, opportunity to talk about past present and future. It had been planned as a closing event for the society, but a new co-ordinator has been found and he will be introduced. We want to add to the archive, especially about the Jubilee and the Queen's funeral and the accession and coronation of King Charles III. New Co-ordinator, MF and Clerk to meet to plan new ventures.
1068/23	<b>Correspondence</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr A – new business – asking about environmental health – signposted to EFDC</li> <li>• JLR lorries in village: see above.</li> <li>• Enquiry about the Stream that runs through Brookside Farm, resident spoke to a Council officer about trees on the stream, did not get a name. This was a tree officer – not SAPC.</li> <li>• Resident enquiry - Leaks in Bournebridge Road, dangerous in winter, Affinity Water said it was not down to them, they were drainage issues, contact the council. We sent holding reply and will find out more.</li> </ul>
1069/23	<b>Meetings of Outside Bodies and Training Courses</b>
	Clerk to attend EALC branch liaison meeting 8/9/23. KL to attend Police PCC meeting in Ongar. Clerk to attend local councils Liaison Committee 21/9/23.
1070/23	<b>Highways</b>
	<p>Nothing new to report. Resident asked PC to ask highways about the pavement Bournebridge Lane – Kensington Park as it is less than a foot wide because of soil. Clearance is not all down to landowners on Essex Highways footpaths is not down to landowners. Anything growing on the landowner's side is theirs to deal with but soil slippage on the path is for Essex Highways.</p> <p>The footpath from Hill House farm is hazardous in winter. Highway Rangers are very low in numbers right now- suggested Clerk to ask the community payback team. Resident suggested putting maintenance in the section 106. Possibly ask A. King the gardener to assist.</p>

	Bollards: the 28 days are up about this, Clerk to remind Cllrs McIvor and Scott. JJ to raise it with the MP. Cameras on Guttridge Lane have been stolen
1071/23	<b>Matters for future Agendas</b>
	Nothing new
1072/23	<b>Open Forum</b>
	From 5pm till 10pm there was a noisy generator over by the new properties - could be the security generator or a pump, if it continues, JJ to speak to the developers.  8/9/23 Tour of Britain cycle race will be coming through Ongar with a rolling road closure.  Quiz night 15/9, Church Open Day 22/9/23.
1073/23	<b>Time &amp; Date of next meeting</b>
	Meeting closed at 21.27. Next meeting - Tuesday 3/10/23 at 7.15pm.

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

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