

STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018
at Staple Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bartlett (in the Chair)
Cllr Mrs Coulson
Cllr Kirk
Cllr Facey
Cllr McCollum
Cllr Mrs Bennett
Clerk to the Council Miss S Palgrave
11 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brooman due to a work commitment.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared
(Cllr Mrs Bennett arrived at this point)

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2018, were received with an amendment requested by Cllr Facey. Amendment accepted and will be formally approved at the next meeting.

4. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

There were no District Councillors in attendance due to other work commitments.

Cllr Bartlett reported:

-**Streetlighting:** DDC have agreed to re-instate more than 100 streetlights which were previously removed due to safety concerns. These will be LED lights and include lighting in Staple, this is due to be implemented next Spring.

-**Refuse collections** over Christmas:

Collection for refuse, recycling and food due Wednesday 26th December will be collected Saturday 29th. Collection for green/gardening waste will stop on 24th December and resume on Monday 7th January 2019.

-New proprietors of **Deal café:** Cllr Bartlett has visited the Pier which, he said, looks much improved. Much work has been completed and the fishermen have special boards for their gear. Next Spring the lighting will be done.

-Work is underway at **Tides** (including in the plant rooms) which is long overdue. Money needs to be spent on improving and updating the facility generally whilst keeping an eye on the cost.

-**Ash Library:** The library has an extension from 8-15 hours. The Parish Council meet in the library and it is a well-used facility.

-DDC have approved a **Police Constable** to go back on the beat in Dover (approved for January/February); discussed how it could be better to have two Constables available.

RESOLUTION: This information be noted for now.

5. PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

A member of the public queried the date of the refuse collection for Staple (see above).

A member of the public asked if there has been any suggestion of changing the bus timetable from Ash to reflect the extended opening hours.

RESOLUTION: Cllr Bartlett to make enquiries.

A member of the public asked why planning for Summerfield Nurseries was again on the agenda. Cllr Bartlett reported that DDC initially failed to include any conditions, so the application will go back to a planning meeting next Thursday. (See item 8i)

6. PUBLIC TRANSPORT (See item 11)

7. SPEEDWATCH

Report provided by Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator Roger Loukes:

-CSW started slowly on 26th November but is now gaining momentum with all except one volunteer approved by the Police to operate. *New volunteers are always welcome for this valuable work*

-The first session began with one location, but as from Monday 10th December the three requested sites were approved and now the following sites are available for Speedwatch:

- Along The street near Ashcoft and The Dell
- The Crofters Cottage (Liz Bartlett)
- Lay-by along Lower Road near Parish Notice Board

-From the first location four sessions have been completed, so far recording over 150 vehicles with none exceeding the set speed limit of 35mph. Hopefully this indicates that the sight of Hi-Viz vests and display provided is acting as a deterrent. On Wednesday 12th December the volunteers completed a session along Durlock Rd approaching Staple, and recorded 24 vehicles and of those three were in excess of 35 mph.

-In the new year it will be possible to vary the session locations which should have more of an impact on driver awareness of the speed limit through the village.

-The Police in Canterbury have loaned Staple a portable SID. A decision will be made in the New Year whether to purchase one as a Parish or share the cost of the SID with Stourmouth, who have been contacted but currently only have 2 volunteers. They will be in touch regarding this in the New Year. A decision should be made in early 2019 as grants are available for 2018/2019, but currently may not be available for 2019/2020.

-With regards to the fixed SIDs Mr Loukes is looking into the battery and charger problems that have been identified by David Rothschild and will appraise the PC of his results. Mr Loukes has collected sets of batteries and chargers. He reported that the 9.6v charger is not working and the batteries will have to be charged by other means. Mr Loukes has agreed with David Rothschild that he will try to resurrect all the batteries and chargers as necessary and will continue to look after the statistics.

-There is a rule that the SIDs should be "mobile" and as such they should only be in one location for 2 months but can be turned to face the opposite direction which would constitute a move. Staple would need to purchase 3 new brackets from Westcotec to enable this: the price per bracket is £60.

Cllr Bartlett thanked Mr Loukes for his work as Co-Ordinator and for his report.

RESOLUTION:

Councillors agreed it acceptable to put the SID pole up on private land.
Clerk to contact Laura Fidler & ascertain whereabouts of the SID pole.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) DDC decision for Summerfield Nurseries DOV/18/00242:

-This application was initially approved at planning committee (22 November) but the resolution to grant permission was not made subject to any conditions or Section 106 Agreement although there were issues identified in the report that needed to be controlled. Amongst other factors the 40% affordable housing quota swayed the committee to agreement in November, although this was contrary to recommendation. The latest report makes it subject to conditions and as such will be considered again at the next meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 20/12/18.

-Conditions were read out by the Clerk to the meeting.

-Discussion on whether Staple Parish Council should make a comment on DDC decision. Concerns were expressed about parking as each property has been allocated 2 spaces per household which may not be enough; the width of the roads (Mill Road) and general road infrastructure. Traffic calming was suggested as a better option to widening the road.

-Discussion on whether a contribution to the Church (as a listed building), village hall or the bus service/bus-stop or infrastructure would be appropriate.

RESOLUTION: Clerk to contact DDC planning officer involved and communicate concerns outlined above.

(ii) DDC decision 18/00929 noted as withdrawn.

9. FINANCE

Cheques for approval:

(i) Invoice presented for border maintenance/mowing for 2018 at the Village Hall

RESOLUTION: Cheque for £684.00 authorised for Harmer and Sons

(ii) Clerks salary proposed for £153.80; HMRC £36.20

RESOLUTION: Cheques Authorised

(iii) Receipt for key cut presented

RESOLUTION: Cheque for £6.50 authorised to Clerk

RESOLVED: All cheques to be authorised

10. FOOTPATHS REPORT.

Nothing to report

11. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

(i) Big Conversation WG meeting/Pilot scheme plans:

Report provided from Cllr Mrs Bennett after recent meeting of Big Conversation Working Group (23rd November). Staple was well represented at the meeting with four attendees: Cllr McCollum, Susan Facey, Cllr Coulson and Cllr Mrs Bennett.

-Proposed routes were discussed at the meeting and all councils present stated that Sandwich would be a better interchange than Ash. A route that ran through Sandwich would provide a better service for the whole community and encourage non-bus users to use the feeder service. Sandwich town offers a safer environment with lots of amenities and taxis readily available in the event of passengers getting stranded. The inclusion of Sandwich should not significantly increase the total bus journey time and would not incur extra costs as the bus infrastructure already exists.

-The current proposed timetable is very limited. The last two outward buses scheduled from Staple would not allow enough time to do anything before the return journey. SPC pushed back on this timetabling suggesting later pick-up times. An additional late afternoon or evening service would also cater for after-school activities and workers. This may have to be subsidised by Parish Councils.

-Costs were therefore discussed and SPC will need to have an estimate of the cost of running additional services in order to see if they can make the necessary budgetary provision. Exact costings have yet to be calculated.

-The size of the bus was discussed as an important factor to avoid passengers being stranded due to lack of space (which could discourage use). Also needs wheelchair access and is likely to be a large minibus.

-Other councils in the Working Group (Great Mongeham, Sholden, Northbourne) commented. Sholden Parish Council have a long-standing policy to reduce vehicular movements in Sholden Village and whilst fully supporting better public transport networks and the Pilot scheme in general, cannot support that part of any proposed bus route that takes buses into Sholden Village. The route likely then would be through Great Mongeham, Northbourne, Sandwich to Ash. Northbourne asked for a Saturday service which currently is not included, compromises may have to be made and extra costs incurred (as mentioned before in relation to later services).

-An approved route is expected by April. Staple Parish Council will need to decide the location of the bus stop in the village and whether the bus will be able to manoeuvre around the village with ease. A circular route and an hourly service preferable.

-A member of the public pointed out that funding will be crucial and asked if SPC would be willing to spend their precept on this. There also may be money available from the Big Conversation pot, but SPC will need money for maintenance of the scheme.

- The next Big Conversation Working Group meeting is on 21st December with four representatives expected to attend from Staple by which time all councils will have given feedback.

RESOLUTION:

Clerk to check SPC balance of funds and include as an item on the Agenda in January.

Pilot Scheme and Working Group to be included as a regular item on agenda.

(ii) **Salt bins** were reported to DDC as empty (and one damaged) since last meeting

RESOLUTION: Cllr McCollum to check if this has been done and Clerk to chase up if necessary.

12. VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

- Cllr Kirk reported that the two trial replacement ceiling lights are working well and that the remaining eight units will now also be replaced. The new units consume very little power and will therefore be far more economical to use. (The total wattage is over a kilowatt less than the existing lights).
- The lock on the front door has been replaced.
- The new cooker has been installed and working. VAT of £59.40 proposed and seconded to claim back.
- The Yoga club are placing bookings in advance.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to add.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30pm in Staple Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed by Cllr Bartlett at 20.38 hrs

Approved: (Chairman)