

STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2018
At Staple Village Hall

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

Cllr Bartlett opened the meeting by formally congratulating members of the BBOB campaign group for their hard work and commitment. (Please see Item 6)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Bennett due to a work commitment, Cllr McCollum due to a work commitment, Cllr Brooman due to a family commitment.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting, held on Wednesday 10th October 2018, were received, approved as true and correct and signed.

4. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Report received from District Cllr Conolly:

-Coastal Communities Fund: We were delighted to learn that we have been approved for the next stage in our bid for circa £2.5 million to be used for regeneration of Dover Town Centre. This is particularly pleasing as there were £280 million pounds worth of bids for a pot of £46 million. This is not yet a done deal and we have further work to do but indications are promising. Regrettably the much smaller bid for work on the forecourt of the Sandwich Guildhall was unsuccessful. We had hoped to have this done for the 2020 Open Golf.

-Tides: The pool is showing its age. We are spending some £700K this year on essential maintenance just to keep it going. In the longer term we will have to review future financing. The tennis centre is successful, but the pool may be affected by the opening early next year of the District Leisure Centre pool although the two pools serve different purposes.

-Business Grant Scheme: The scheme, whereby we offer up to £10K in matched funding grants to businesses in our three towns who want to upgrade their offer or take on premises there for the first time, has had its first recipient. A nail and beauty bar in Dover town centre opened last weekend. The proprietors were formally running their business from home.

-Second quarter figures show us on target to come in marginally under budget for the current financial year. Barring disasters 2019/2020 looks reasonably secure, but beyond that we are in uncharted territory. We are certainly being helped by increased business rates from the St James Centre. The latest outlet to open (Burger King) launched successfully and we expect every unit to be let by the Spring of next year.

RESOLUTION: This information be noted.
(Cllr Conolly left the meeting at this stage)

5. PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK

A member of the public raised concerns about recent flooding on Staple Road. Chairman Bartlett responded that this has happened many times in the past and has been reported to KCC numerous times. Work was undertaken on the drains in the past which cleared one corner, but this has not prevented flooding in another area. Consensus that the best way forward is to report each incident to KCC and continue to request action to alleviate this problem.

RESOLUTION: Clerk to contact KCC to report further flooding.

At this point in the meeting a member of the public (Margaret) congratulated Cllr Bartlett for having been District Councillor for 24 years which was received with thanks.

6. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(i) BBOB Campaign update:

Report received from Cllr Facey who provided a summary in Cllr Bennett's absence on BBOB meeting:

-BBOB Campaign Group has done a splendid job in raising bus issue for village, which was recognised in Big Conversation summit. Cllr Bennett proposed formal thanks to the group and at this point Cllr Bartlett again offered formal congratulations to the BBOB campaign group and showed appreciation in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

RESOLUTION: Clerk to write a letter and officially thank the BBOB campaign group.

-BBOB campaign group recognised their last meeting, and celebrated success in KCC including Staple as a pilot.

-Concerns were expressed about several matters, including the proposed timetable (last service at 3.30pm) & Ash as an interchange. Cllr Bennett proposed that the group's valuable resources be utilised in the next phase of the scheme.

- It was stated that bus passes will be accepted

-BBOB group have offered to assist Staple Parish Council to carry the proposed pilot forward.

-The Big Conversation summit on 30th October was attended by Cllr Mccollum; Cllr Facey watched the available Webcast and reported the main points below:

- Started with public consultation: councillor's consultation meetings.

This highlighted requirements – users want a timetabled service, links to wider transport network. Concerns expressed about operating hours, mobility issues, reliability, and the need to reduce social isolation.

Three ideas were put forward; a feeder service, a bookable bus and a taxi style bus.

Based on feedback, it was decided to drop bookable bus

-Community bus transport separate programme, separately funded.

There is a recording available on KCC website

A few more points regarding Dover Feeder Bus Service:

-KCC provided reassurance that pilot schemes are not the finished product but need to be evaluated, costed and checked to ensure they are meaningful and affordable.

-There may need to be changes to existing bus services, so we need to work with bus operators.

- Proposed timetabled service where buses will run every half an hour; 9.30am – 3.00 pm to work round existing bus services (Intention to use already-commissioned buses/coaches for the service).
 - Developing proposals over next two months with service introduced in June 2019.
 - Working Group for Pilot consisting of parish councils, local interest groups and KCC reps.
 - Concerns that young people are the biggest group of paying customers, therefore younger people using the pilots will increase numbers and make it more viable and sustainable so there is a need to look at off peak timings.
 - All five pilots will operate scheduled registered bus services, and legislation that governs such services means they have to accept concessionary bus passes.
 - Costs involved: Improved bus shelters and real-time information at interchange points, so may require support from parish councils.
 - Paul Carter from KCC wants to build on the first five pilots so wants them to work throughout Kent. KCC will be monitoring passenger numbers and have quarterly review steering group meetings.
 - KCC stressed importance of local consultation and engagement in the set-up of pilot scheme to ensure relevance to potential needs of the whole community.
 - Need to promote concept of scheme being regular, reliable, convenient and cost-effective; this last point will be the driver.
 - A significant challenge will be to persuade non-bus users to use the scheme.
 - Some meetings for Big Conversation WG are likely to be during day; Councillors to establish who will be available to attend as may need more than one councillor on working group plus input from user group.
- RESOLUTION:** That this information be noted for now and Clerk to establish exact details of the proposed meeting and collate reports.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) **Receive report on meeting Wed 24/10 Layham Garden Centre application no. /18/00985**

Cllr Bartlett reported that Councillors present at above meeting unanimously agreed to positively support application.

(ii) **Receive an update on four dwellings at The Street (Clerk read email)**

Clerk reported that Philip Milner from DDC has been allocated to perform the initial investigation and has asked for clarification of the exact planning enforcement complaint. *Member of the public reported at this point that a Highways representative had visited the site and stated that the land is too high for proposed footpath and may be dangerous, causing residents to be liable for any accidents. This appears to be in opposition to the recommendations for the footpath in the proposals.

RESOLUTION: To await DDC's Philip Milner's reply.

(iii) **DDC Decisions Shatterling:**

Clerk read out the conditions regarding the approval for planning permission at The Willows (18/00/609):

-The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this decision.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (or any legislation revoking or re-enacting that legislation with or without modification).

-The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the

following approved plans: 2417-01B received 6 September 2018 and Planning statement and 02A received 6 June 2018.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt.

-No development above ground level shall take place until samples of materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the building hereby permitted have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.

-The amenity block hereby permitted shall only be used for purposes ancillary to the use of the land for a dwelling and the stationing of 3no. caravans and shall not be used for any commercial purposes at any time.

Reason: In the interests of the residential amenities of the area.

-The amenity block hereby permitted shall be for the use of Mr Henry Lee and his immediate family. Should Mr Henry Lee and his family cease to occupy the site, the amenity block shall be removed, and the land restored in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: Planning permission was only granted having regard to the personal circumstances of the applicant.

(iv) Receive and approve letter of support for The Black Pig Community Services Application:

Letter of support formally received and approved.

(v) Receive report on Barnsole House site:

Clerk read out information received from DDC stating that a planning application for the above site will be submitted shortly although there is not available time frame for this. The landowner has appointed a planning agent to act on his behalf. The situation is being monitored and the case officer has been asked to inform Cllr Bartlett when an application has been submitted. DDC reported that there is no available list of ongoing enforcement cases due to the "many and various live cases...mainly subject to ongoing investigation work including monitoring, evidence gathering etc which ultimately informs what sort of action – or even prosecution measures" that may be taken. There is however an Enforcement Register which is updated regularly and available to view on the Council's website, giving details of enforcement and other notices issued.

(vi) Cllr Bartlett reported an application for Summerfield Nurseries due to go to planning on Thursday 22/11; the officer's recommendation is for refusal of this application.

(vii) Cllr Bartlett reported that Great Pedding Farm application was refused **(18/00/276)**, and that the last DDC correspondence before this meeting was the first notification of this that Staple Parish Council had received.

8. FINANCE

Cheques for approval:

(i) Invoice presented for Inscription added to War Memorial at Staple St. James' Church

RESOLVED: A Cheque for £288.00 authorised for Thanet Stone Monumental Masons

(ii) Clerks Salary proposed for £152.00 and HMRC £38.00

(iii) Cheque proposed to Laura Fidler for £153.80

RESOLVED: All cheques to be authorised

9. FOOTPATHS REPORT

Cllr Coulson reported no problems at present: there are paths that need to be reinstated but they are unused. A member of the public reported a falling tree by the church and Cllr Coulson agreed to look at this.

10. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

-Report received from Speedwatch co-ordinator Roger Loukes:

SID's are not working (3 devices) and a visit is expected from Alan Watson. Mr Loukes has attempted to contact David Rothschild and has received no reply. Speedwatch has ten volunteers, who have all completed the necessary online training and are waiting to complete on-site training. This will firstly be attended by three people, and once Mr Loukes has completed this he can then train others. Speedwatch is expected to start within the next month. Mr. Loukes asked Chairman about a meeting attended in Stourmouth; Cllr Bartlett reported that Stourmouth are willing to share the cost, and that Clerk to Stourmouth Parish Council had been contacted. Suggested sites are Lower Road and Durlock Road which should be approved. Mr Loukes and the volunteers were formally thanked.

RESOLUTIONS: That this information be noted for now. To await a response from Stourmouth Clerk Pat Coleman. That Speedwatch be included on future agendas as an item. Clerk to chase up Toby Butler at KCC for progress on new SID.

-Cllr Bartlett reported that **salt bins** had been checked and the bin at Shatterling appears damaged; only one bin is reported as full.

RESOLUTION: Clerk to contact KCC to report damaged bin, also arrange for others to be filled in preparation for colder weather.

11. VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

(i) Receive and consider quotation for ongoing border maintenance from Vic Harmer

Quotation proposed and agreed to go ahead with the work.

RESOLUTION: Clerk to contact Harmer & Sons to request work to commence.

Cllr Kirk informed members of the public present about the new lights and cooking facilities for the village hall, as reported in last meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

Cllr Bartlett reported receiving a call from a local resident to inform the parish that one of her staff was victim to burglary and items had been taken. Please be vigilant especially over the Christmas period.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 7.30pm in Staple Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed by Cllr Bartlett at 20.40hrs

Approved: (Chairman)