**STAPLE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting, Wednesday 9th May 2018

Staple Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bartlett (in the Chair)

Cllr Mrs Coulson

Cllr Facey

Cllr McCollum

Cllr Kirk

Cllr Brooman

Acting Clerk to the Council Miss S Frampton

18 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Bennett due to family commitment.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Bartlett declared an *other significant interest* in item 8(iii): matters relating to the site on which the Rural Housing Scheme is proposed, as this site is owned by a close family member.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLUTION: Cllr Bartlett was unanimously voted in as Chairman of Staple Parish Council for the ensuing year and Cllr McCollum was unanimously voted in as Deputy Chairman to Staple Parish Council.**

1. **NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillors were elected to lead on the following specific matters:

**(i)** Footpaths : Cllr Mrs Coulson

**(ii)** Highways & Transportations: Cllr Brooman

**(iii)** Village Hall Committee: Cllr Kirk

**(iv)** No other appointments were deemed necessary. Cllr Mrs Bennett will continue to represent the Council on the Bring Back Our Bus campaign group.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 11th April 2018, were received, approved and signed. It was agreed that the shortened meeting of the Council that happens each year prior to the Annual Parish Meeting will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient time is given to cover all matters.

1. **DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Bartlett reported the following updates:

1. A20/A2 litter effort: in 2 weeks 10 tonnes of litter has been cleared and work commences on the A2. There was clarification on the three prong partnership of KCC Highways, DDC and Viridor whom are contracted by DDC.
2. Apprenticeship schemes: 6 currently in posts at DDC; highlighted one for solicitors over 6 year period starting at £12,000 rising to £21,000.
3. Funding: Opportunity for groups to apply for funding. Application deadline is 29th May 2018. Can request £100-£1000. £22,500 in total available to be awarded 2018/19. Summary of some of the groups in receipt of previous grants summarised by Cllr Bartlett.
4. DDC energy bill switch service. Deadline 21st May 2018.
5. DDC have purchased the old Co-op building next to Stembrook car park in line with their regeneration scheme.
6. St James site has seen an increase in retail and visitors utilising the Travel Lodge and cinema.
7. **PUBLIC RIGHT TO SPEAK**
8. Signage at the top Buckland Lane.

**Resolution:** **Miss L Fidler to order signs. Also to contact Reclamet (whose lorries carrying scrap are using the route heading to Lings, Richborough Road and using Buckland Lane as a short cut) to highlight concerns of speed and route.**

1. A number of concerns were raised regarding the planning application for Summerfield Nursery, Minute 10(i).

In summary: traffic, infrastructure, access, hamlet guidance and listed buildings in the area.

Highlighted Paragraph 6 item 70 of the planning application “substantial decrease in vehicle movement” as inaccurate and based on figures from when the nursery was at peak business.

Also DDC strategy of hierarchy settlement regarding Hamlets doesn’t appear to be considered or mentioned, Barnsole being a hamlet.

Private drives used as passing points currently with increase of traffic will suffer wear and tear that owners will be unable to afford.

1. **POLICE REPORT**

No report was available.

1. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Mrs S Facey reported that the Bring Back Our Bus campaign group has concentrated on the 11th May meeting of the Dover Quality Bus Partnership when the issue of transport for Staple will be on the agenda, the meeting does not accept external speakers and so the group cannot make representation, however, a written statement in advance of the meeting was permitted by the Chair. This statement was submitted in the form of a package outlining villagers’ concerns and included impact statements from a cross-section of regular bus users (from a 96 year old through to an 11 year old) as well as photos illustrating how dangerous Durlock Road is for those walking to the bus stop. We also included a covering statement. Hard copies were sent to the Chairman of the KCC Environment and Transport Committee and to the two Councillors representing KCC and DDC at the meeting. Additional copies were also sent to the Chair of the QBP for distribution to Stagecoach and a further copy has been sent to Paul Carter.

The group leafleted the whole village, knocking on doors where possible and asking for support at the demonstration. It is a working day but we nevertheless it is hoped that at least 30 people will attend.

A press release has been sent to all local papers, TV and radio, Blogs and local news websites. Placards, T-shirts and other material have been prepared.

The demonstrators will be meeting at DDC Council Offices, Whitfield at 9.30 am on Friday and hope that as many Councillors as possible will come along and support us and that they will also encourage others to take part.

Material relating to the activities of the BBOB is available on the Staple-Online website.

It was also noted that Phillip Norwell has stood down from Stagecoach. Hopefully more will be heard from Stagecoach following meeting on 11th May.

**Resolution: Cllr Bartlett to make Cllr Collor aware regarding transport and news to be shared as received.**

Mr Malcolm Barden provided the following updates in relation to a community bus scheme:  
1. We have been in contact with Jean Molloy at KCC, the officer responsible for Community Transport. She advised that the applications for funding submitted in advance of the last financial year's deadline (31st March) have been considered, and funding allocated to the successful applicants. Further funding will be allocated this year (probably in the autumn), She has committed to contacting us when this happens and to meeting us with a view to guiding us through the process, should we wish to submit an application.

2. We have looked at existing community transport schemes in Kent and other areas, and have an overall understanding of how they work, how they are funded (in terms of initial investment, operating costs and replacement vehicles), how we might manage regular maintenance and regulatory compliance, and how reimbursement is handled by KCC for journeys undertaken by bus pass holders.

3. Our next step is to evaluate demand within the village - to this end a questionnaire has been produced, based on a template published by KCC, but tailored to Staple's own particular situation. We intend to distribute this to all households in Staple. If the results are positive, we would then intend to widen this exercise to the surrounding villages, via the Parish Council. This step will not be taken until the aforementioned meeting at DDC on 11th May has taken place - if Stagecoach do not change their policy/position on a regular bus service through Staple, we would intend to distribute the questionnaires before the end of May and hopefully be in a position to evaluate the responses by the end of June.

1. **PLANNING**

**(i)** Planning application DOV/18/00242 | Erection of 10no. Detached and 6no. Terraced dwellings, detached garages, formation of vehicle access and parking (existing buildings to be demolished) | Summerfield Nursery, Barnsole Road, Barnsole, Staple, CT3 1LD.

**RESOLUTION: Form a response of Object until further information or evidence of wider scope of consideration is received. i.e. KCC consider wider transport infrastructure and vehicle movement.**

**(ii)** Cllr McCollum provided the following information in relation to the cost of undertaking a Neighborhood Plan. Average cost £13,000 with a government guidance of £20,000-£86,000 which mainly covers consultant fees for planning, publicity and questionnaires. Districts elsewhere have funded neighbourhood plans for Parish. However the process is made complicated and other parishes have got so far and stopped.

**RESOLUTION: Unanimous agreement not to pursue due to costs.**

1. **FINANCE**

**(i)** The Clerk presented a series of invoices totalling £301.27 for consideration.

**RESOLUTION: That the schedule of payments be approved**.

**(ii)** Councillors considered a request from Staple PCC to reconsider the quote of £200 from Hart Lee Tree Surgery Ltd to grind out the stump (of the Coast Redwood that has already been removed), remove grindings and leave the area flat in keeping with the remainder of the verge, which would allow for remedial work to the church wall to take place. Rigden quote of £500 for removal of stumps and roots considered for comparison. Questions over if both covered total root removal.

**RESOLUTION: Definitive second quote required for comparison. Miss Fidler to chase Hart Lee Tree Surgery Ltd for up to date more detailed quote of works.**

**(iii)** Councillors considered a quote from Mr D Kirk to repair and re-instate the damaged noticeboard at a cost of £185.

**RESOLUTION: To accept quote and works to be carried out.**

**(iv)** Councillors considered a grant request from the *Bring Back Our Bus* campaign group for £200 to cover office expenses such as photocopying and postage. Following discussion of how the funds can be obtained and the full £200 not required at this time the amount was amended to £100.

**RESOLUTION: BBOB to be awarded £100 at this time.**

**(v)** Clerk pay review. Councillors considered a pay increase for the clerk in line with local government workers and proposed 3% pay increase for the clerk.

**RESOLUTION: Increase of 3% be awarded to Clerk.**

1. **FOOTPATHS REPORT**

Cllr Mrs Coulson updated regarding footpaths affected due to ploughing.

**RESOLUTION: Cllr Mrs Coulson to contact farmer regarding re-instatement of footpaths.**

1. **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

The following information had been received from Cllr Brooman in advance of the meeting:

“I can report that some potholes along lower road have been filled, the sign report missing by Mr Mills is under investigation by KCC, (it appears that the 6ft-6 restriction at Drainless Road has disappeared!), hedges have been trimmed back along Flemings Road and the blocked drain reported (28 Dec 2017) in Buckland Lane has been cleared”.

2) MostcarsarespeedingandtheyspeedmostonDurlockRoad.

3) Durlockrecordeda90mphrecordat12:50onSaturday2

nd

DecemberbeatingeventhepreviousShatterling

best.

4) Statisticsmonthbymonthanddaybydayareprettyconsistent.Evenweek‐endsaresimilartoweek‐days

withoutthepeaksasmarked.

1. **VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr Kirk reported on minor repairs and proposed a consideration to replace the hall lights to recessed LED to avoid damage. Lights are in poor state. This was agreed as a positive course of action.

1. **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

The Acting Clerk reported that an amendment was moved to the Data Protection Bill in the House of Commons on 25 April 2018. This amendment removes a parish council from the definition of a public body in the bill. The effect of this, if it finds its way into law, would be that a parish council would not be required to appoint a data protection officer under GDPR.

Miss Fidler is currently writing the necessary documents and undertaking an information audit to ensure that the Council is compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no additional correspondence.

1. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Staple Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm in Staple Village Hall.

The meeting was closed by Cllr Bartlett at 20.45hrs

Approved: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (Chairman)