



# **STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Monday 10 January 2022 at 7.40pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Lovell, McNally, Pegg, Rastall, Redmond and Zawadzka

**Also present:**

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and four members of the public.

## **RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME**

**(20 minutes)**

Residents are invited to make representations to the Council or to ask questions.

A concern was raised that TDC appears to have rail-roaded the proposed car parking charges through without taking into account the views of residents.

Concerns were expressed about vehicles being forced to park on the nearby roads to avoid the car parking charges.

A question was asked about whether the Parish Council has offered to make a contribution to the maintenance costs for one year. The Chairman advised that this is being considered to give more time to allow both Councils to consider any other options.

There was a discussion about Starcross Parish Council possibly purchasing it. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has not discussed purchasing the car park and it has never been the Parish Council's agenda because it currently does not have the facility to run a car park. The Council is made up of volunteers and managing and running a car park is not part of their remit. Reference was made to the car park in Kenton which the Parish Council purchased some years ago for £1 though it was thought unlikely that TDC would sell the car park for this amount as its value for other potential uses would be considerably higher.

It was considered that TDC had already made a decision about the introduction of car parking charges to reflect other charging policies across the district. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had proposed extending the Strand car park in order to generate more spaces and thus more income but TDC have indicated that they are not prepared to allow one car park to subsidise another.

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### **100122.01 APOLOGIES**

- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr Chase
- County/District Cllr Connett

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### **100122.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

Cllr Pegg declared an interest in item 12 and advised that he would leave the meeting for that item.

Cllr McNally declared an interest in item 12 and advised that he would leave the meeting for that item.

All members declared an interest in item 7.2 as council tax payers in the parish. It was agreed unanimously to grant dispensations on the basis that without the dispensation the number of

persons unable to participate in the transaction of business would be so great as to impede the transaction of the business.

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**100122.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** by those members present that these minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of that meeting.

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**100122.04 ACTION REPORT**

The Chairman listed items on the action list including: website, Starcross Garage, the cycle path and Swan Road entrance.

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**100122.05 CRIME REPORT**

PC Orchard provided a crime report for the period 1 – 31 December 2021 for Starcross and Kenton. 7 crimes were reported and 17 incidents recorded.

There is no gazette this month or community speedwatch report. Cllr McNally informed members that the speedwatch team had been out that day.

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**100122.06 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Connett was not present at the meeting.

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**100112.07 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- 7.1 Proposal: To accept the response paper to TDC regarding proposals for the two Starcross car parks  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Chase*

*Having declared an interest, Cllrs Pegg and McNally left the meeting for this item.*

The Chairman asked whether members had a desire to make enquiries about purchasing the New Road car park from TDC. At this stage, it was unclear whether this was an option as TDC had previously stated that they are not interested in selling it. Nonetheless, it would be wise to gauge members' views to find out whether there was a desire to pursue this any further. After discussion, it was agreed that this could be an option but the priority for the moment was to buy time by offering to make a contribution to the maintenance costs for one year so that all other options could be explored further.

Members considered the draft response to TDC which had been circulated with the agenda and it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to respond as follows:

*We thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> October advising us of proposed changes to charging policies at the two Car Parks in Starcross. This letter was the first indication that you intended to impose a new charging structure at the New Road Car Park and we were given a mere 14 days to respond and yet this proposal has apparently been under discussion since the Summer. Our immediate response was to arrange a meeting with Tonya Short (TS). and we invited her to attend our routine Parish Council meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. However, because of a shortage of information regarding TDC proposals we cancelled this arrangement and instead arranged a closed meeting with Councillors and TS. during the following week. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting Councillors questioned TDC Councillor Alan Connett who explained TDC policy but was unable to advise on proposed rates or system questions. At the meeting with TS. on the 20<sup>th</sup> November a proposed scale of charges was laid out. However they were withdrawn after the meeting so that we were unable to publish them. It was agreed that TS. would attend our December meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. This had to be cancelled due to Covid and was subsequently rearranged as a Zoom meeting on the following Monday TS stated that much work had been done on the project and that it was unlikely that any alternative course of action would*

be accepted. TS also stated that TDC had no obligation to consult with Parish Councils and yet we must respond by 31<sup>st</sup> of December. We understand that a decision will be made on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at a TDC meeting at which we can attend and object. This is a very mixed message – are we being consulted or not ? . If not, much valuable time has been spent by both Councils.

### **NEW ROAD**

Centrally situated and bordered by Coronation Terrace, Courtenay Terrace, New Road and Warborough Terrace mostly terraced housing with few private parking areas the 40 spaces are vital in reducing on-street parking in the narrow streets of the village. New Road is both a long term park for locals and a short term park for visitors from outlying villages using the surgery, convenience store, church, school, train station etc. It has suffered from a lack of supervision and enforcement by TDC over the years which has enabled unauthorised use and caused dissatisfaction. The PC feel that a change to a charging scale will impose undue hardship on working families in the immediate area with additional costs of between £300 and £500 per annum depending on working hours.

Starcross Parish Council object most strongly to the proposal to charge for parking. Starcross is a confined village with narrow roads, high volumes of summer traffic and a preponderance of small terraced housing with no private parking facilities which already makes overnight on-street parking difficult to find. Add to this the increase in those working from home any charges will put additional financial pressure on already stretched incomes.

### **THE STRAND**

Viewed by most as having a different function than at New Road. Much used now by day visitors especially since the opening of the cycle route and the installation of the coffee pod. It was previously used by residents of The Strand and those living in the north end of the village and had a voluntary payment system. Since the advent of a charging system locals have used more street parking or converted their gardens to driveways. The use of the car park by the coffee pod, and the extremely poor marking plan, have contributed to less space for parking – its prime purpose.

### **IN THE EVENT OF TDC PROGRESSING THEIR PLAN**

We would like to pick up on the suggestion in your 28<sup>th</sup> October letter that the Parish Council offer a supporting contribution. This would be an amount of £1090 – the figure stated of costs at New Road. This contribution would be for one year only to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

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## **100122.08 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** (Cllrs Hopper, Chase and Zawadzka)

- 8.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial reports 8 November 2021 – 7 January 2022 and were asked to approve the payments listed (copies attached).  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that the payments listed are made.

### **Committee Chair Report:**

- 8.2 Proposal: To accept the draft precept document for 2022-23 and submit to TDC (copy circulated)  
*Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: tbc*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve the precept for 2022-23 as proposed. The cash to be requested from TDC would therefore be £41,857.

ACTION: Clerk to submit to TDC

- 8.3 **Action List Report**  
There were no outstanding actions.

8.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**  
None.

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**100122.09 PARKS, GARDENS AND FLOOD DEFENCE**  
(Cllrs Chase, Williamson and Allen)

**Committee Chair Report (Cllr Chase)**

9.1 **Action Report**

There were no outstanding actions requiring action.

9.2 **General Report/Question & Answers**

Cllr Allen referred to a report which had been circulated. They have concentrated on the Strand which is now much improved and they will be replanting areas where there are brambles.

Photographs of the proposed play equipment from Rhino Play have been circulated to members. Cllr Allen advised that these had also been circulated to members before Christmas and the Committee is unaware of any adverse comments. The Committee seeks the Council's approval to go ahead with the first phase of the new equipment.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to proceed with the order from Rhino Play for the first phase of the equipment at a cost of £10,021.

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**100122.10 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
(Cllrs Cadbury, Lovell, Zawadzka & McNally)

**Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)**

10.1 **New applications**

10.1.1 21/02670/NPA – Westlake Farm, Mowlish Lane, Kenton

Application for Prior Approval under Part 3 Class Q(a) and (b) and paragraph W of the GPDO change of use of an agricultural building to five dwellings

Proposal: To accept the Planning Committee's recommendation that no comment is made (backed with a statement for the reasons why)

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the Planning Committee's recommendation.

10.2 **Decisions:**

10.2.1 21/02410/FUL – Mowlish Farm, Kenton

Provision of two polytunnels for mushroom production

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

10.2.2 21/02275/ADV – Oakmeadow Golf Course, New Road, Starcross

Retention of advertisement sign (previously approved under 19/00510/ADV)

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant conditional planning permission to retain the advertising sign.

10.2.3 E2/48/08 – Brickyard Lane – Oak Tree Preservation Order

Members noted that TDC has confirmed the Order without modifications.

10.2.4 21/02017/HOU – 28 Haywards Drive, Starcross

Replace timber fence with a rendered block wall (1.8m high)

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

10.3 **Teignbridge Local Plan Review (Part 3) 2020-2040: Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Site Options**

Comments invited (consultation period closes at 12 noon on 24 January 2022)

It was agreed that Starcross was not impacted by these proposals and therefore no comment was necessary.

10.4 Action List Report  
There are no outstanding actions.

10.5 General Report/Question & Answers  
None

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**100122.11 PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD**  
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, Pegg and Redmond)

**Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)**

11.1 Proposal: To ask Starcross Action for Trees (SAFT) if they would be prepared to draw up a plan to improve the SW corner of the sports field and plant saplings and wild flowers  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Chase*

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to ask SAFT to draw up a plan as proposed.

11.2 Proposal: To allow an extension to the free use of the Pavilion hall on a Thursday to Westbank until end of March 2022

**AGREED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS** to allow an extension to the free use of the Pavilion hall on Thursdays to Westbank until the end of March 2022 (2 abstentions).

11.3 Proposal: To accept Plant Techs quotation to maintain the sports field from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.  
*Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Chase*

The Chairman advised that three quotations have been received based on the existing contract and number of quotes. He advised that the quotation received from Plant Tech was the cheapest.

**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Plant Tech as proposed.

11.4 Action List Report  
There were no outstanding actions.

11.5 General Report/Questions & Answers  
None

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**100122.12 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**  
None

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**100122.13 ADDITIONAL NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS**  
It was noted that Cllr Williamson had circulated a report about the defibrillator. It was agreed that this would need to be listed as a proposal on a future agenda if a decision is required by members.

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**100122.14 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS**  
None

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**100122.15 CORRESPONDENCE**  
None

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**100122.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Monday 14 February 2022 in the Pavilion commencing at 7.40pm.

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SIGNED:  
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 14 February 2022

*Note: Where a document or paper is referred to on the Agenda, this document will be available on request from the Clerk by emailing [starcrosspcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:starcrosspcclerk@gmail.com)*

## Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 14 December 2021

Summary of Bank Balances at 14 December 2021	
Current (C)	£24,351.09
Pavilion Trading (P)	£13,429.77
Allocated Reserves (A)	£51,657.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>£89,438.74</b>

Income: 8 November – 14 December 2021		
Pavilion hire	£234	P

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Nov)	£501.82	C
S Swift	Felling tree in park	£3,420	C
M & D Hire	Sportsfield grass cutting	£1,637.46	C
T Greenslade	Pavilion cleaning, fobbing and cleaning materials (Nov)	£241.20	P
Source for Business	Pavilion water	£102.66	P

Direct Debits: 8 November – 14 December 2021			
Natwest (15/11/21)	Bankline fees	£24.00	C
Shell Energy Broadband (10/11/21)	Telephone and broadband – Pavilion	£23.29	P
Opus (22/11/21)	Pavilion electricity	£87.11	P
Biffa (22/11/21)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£38.35	P
Opus (26/11/21)	Pavilion gas	£29.61	P
Shell Energy Broadband (9/12/21)	Telephone and broadband – Pavilion	£12.47	P

Clerk (Nov)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£472.85	£0	£472.85	-
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile				£15.30
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£501.82</b>

## Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 7 January 2022

<b>Summary of Bank Balances at 7 January 2022</b>	
Current (C)	£25,212.07
Pavilion Trading (P)	£13,751.42
Allocated Reserves (A)	£51,658.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>£90,621.82</b>

<b>Income: 14 December 2021 – 7 January 2022</b>		
Allotments rent	£410	C
HT Dons - Pitch hire	£976	C
Pavilion hire	£815	P

<b>Payments for approval</b>			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (Dec)	£501.82	C
M & D Hire	Sportsfield grass cutting Jan-Mar 2022	£1,637.46	C
Plant Tech	Strand and playing field maintenance (Oct 2020-Dec 2021)	£4160.15	C
Garage Doors (SW) Ltd	New door on sports field store (less 10% deposit paid)	£1210.50	C
T Greenslade	Pavilion cleaning, fobbing and cleaning materials (Dec)	£184.80	P
R Grave	Quarterly fire alarm/lighting tests and gutter clearance - £54 Read water meter - £10 Relay patio slap - £20	£84	P

<b>Direct Debits: 14 December 2021 – 7 January 2022</b>			
Natwest (15/12/21)	Bankline fees	£23.20	C
Opus (21/12/21)	Pavilion electricity	£84.88	P
Biffa (20/12/21)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£47.94	P
Opus (29/12/21)	Pavilion gas	£52.61	P

<b>Clerk (Dec)</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Tax</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>
Salary	£472.85	£0	£472.85	-
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile				£0
Zoom subscription				£14.39
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£500.91</b>