



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held on Zoom
on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.40pm**

Present:

Cllr Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Lovell (joined meeting at 8.45pm), Rastall, Redmond, Williamson, Woodhouse-Pickton and Zawadzka

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County/District Cllr Connett and two members of the public.

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

(20 minutes)

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

There were no comments from members of the public.

080321.01 APOLOGIES

- Cllr McNally
- PC Orchard & PCSO Bunce

080321.02 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.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

080321.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

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

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

080321.04 ACTION REPORT

The Chairman informed members that he would report on the development of the website later in the meeting and Cllr Connett would address any outstanding matters in his report.

080321.05 CRIME REPORT

Reported crimes from 02/02/2021-28/02/2021 for Starcross/Kenton:

Starcross/Kenton (7 crimes)

Criminal damage x 1

Driving offence x 1

Harassment x 1

Theft of a motor vehicle x1

Firearm related offence x 1

Public Order offence x 1

Malicious communications x 1

Other matters

Please report any suspicious persons/activities and record vehicle registration details if used. Please contact the police on 999 if the incident is happening there and then, or by 101 (emailing is quicker) if it is historic.

PACT meetings will hopefully resume soon, subject to Government lockdown guidance.

Again, this month we are looking to 'target' local poaching issues/rural wildlife crime in and around the area. If you see anything suspicious, please report as soon as possible. Any information would be greatly appreciated to assist with our plans moving forward.

On the 11th February 2021 Teignmouth Police conducted an operation to disrupt poaching in the local area. 16 officers in plain and marked vehicles were patrolling the area with the help of local landowners, all of whom have been recent victims of poaching/livestock theft on their land. Officers included, the force Rural Wildlife Crime Officer PC Martin Beck, Neighbourhood Inspector Andrew Tomlinson, PS Jon Ross, PC Clarke Orchard Rural Neighbourhood Beat Manager of whom was the OIC for the operation and PCSO Saul Bunce. Members from Teignmouth and Chudleigh Neighbourhood teams linked up along with support from the Special Constabulary. Several local game keepers were also present, who with the permission of the landowners, were deployed around the area covering Ashcombe Rural, Dawlish Haldon Ridge and Kenton to try to spot potential offenders/poachers. On this occasion no arrests were made but considerable disruption was caused to any potential poaching in the area of which demonstrated an excellent example of the Police and the rural community working together.

Community Speed Watch is currently on hold due to the current lockdown. This will naturally resume when restrictions ease. This month we are looking to 'target' local poaching issues/rural wildlife crime in and around the area. If you see anything suspicious, please report as soon as possible. Any information would be greatly appreciated to assist with our plans moving forward.

Community Speed Watch is currently on hold due to the current lockdown. This will naturally resume when restrictions ease.

Members agreed that they would very much like to encourage the police to attend the Parish Council meetings. It was also agreed that the clerk should ask that the crime report is split so that it is relevant to Starcross only and does not combine Kenton crimes.

080321.06 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Connett reported as follows:

Starcross Garage - Building Control

I asked Building Control Officers to check out concerns following the damaged sign etc.

An officer visited this week and has advised that the sign wouldn't be controlled under the building regulations but as a structure, but could still be dealt with under the council's obligations to meet the requirements of the Building Act, so it needed a visit. The Building Control Officer looked at the sign and also spoke briefly with the tenant operating informally from the garage, as well as a nearby resident.

At the time of the visit, on Monday 1st, the broken glass, originating from the old fluorescent lighting, and the Perspex from the sign itself had all been cleared from the pavement, so there was no ongoing issue there. The metal frame of the sign itself had clearly had a significant impact, though remained attached to the support post both at the top and at the bottom, albeit rotated at the bottom. It seemed intact and not liable to move any further, I understand. It was confirmed to Building Control that the electrics were disconnected, so there is no apparent issue in that regard either. There were some loose internal components that had been secured with rope to stop these moving around, and that looked to remove the danger of these elements coming free. Building Control will be in touch with the property owner to ask

that more permanent measures are put into action when circumstances allow. Building Control will continue to monitor.

Starcross Garage - Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement Officer is following-up on the legal process along with the council legal services team. I am not able to comment further in this report or in an open council meeting on the legal issues. However, I do regularly check-in with the Planning Enforcement Officer to chase progress on this matter. Like the Parish Council and many residents, I am very concerned by the appearance of the site, and the unauthorised works.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Control of Dogs

The Control of Dogs PSPO was made about or just over a year ago. There was a huge debate at the time about how many dogs it was reasonable for one person to be permitted to walk.

Representations were made at the time recommending 8 dogs. The council opted for six and confirmed that decision in February (Executive decision upon recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee). See link below for further information.

<https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=2717&Ver=4>

The PSPO review Group is due to start meeting from this April to review the order further, ahead of it expiring in 2022. The Parish Council may wish to make representations direct to Teignbridge on the issue of the number of dogs which can be walked by one person and how effectiveness of the order could be improved.

Litter bins at the Strand Car Park, Starcross

Teignbridge cleansing services have recently applied for funding for litter bins, that is available. As part of this bid, they have included the replacement of the 3 litter bins within the car park on The Strand and the first bin on the cycle path going along The Strand from the car park, with split litter and recycling bins. The second bin along the cycle path is already a split bin. We hope to hear if we have been successful with this funding within the next couple of weeks and if the grant funding is approved, these bins will be changed as soon as possible. If the grant bid is not successful, the issue will need to be considered afresh. I will forward a copy of Teignbridge's litter bin policy and request form to the Clerk, for the parish council's further consideration (if needed).

I have also asked the Council's Estates service to check the requirement on the coffee trading business to clear rubbish from the area, and not simply the immediate location of the vending kiosk.

No waiting restrictions

Staplake Road - a decision has been deferred pending further consideration to see if the length of double yellow lines can be shortened to enable some on-street parking.

This matter will not go back to committee. A final decision was delegated to the Highways Officer in consultation with Committee Chair and local County Councillor.

Sercombe Gardens, Church Street, Coronation Terrace

The short section affecting Sercombe Gardens (on New Road), was changed from no waiting at any time to no waiting Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm. This will allow residents and visitors to park in the evening and at weekend, while supporting the School Travel Plan.

Church Street and Coronation Terrace (the bend in the road by the Almshouses) - agreed as proposed.

This set of restrictions was set out in the School Travel Plan and supports the school's request.

Vegetation on the Cycle Path toward Beach Farm (Old Vicarage)

Part of the overgrowth has been cleared but not from the pathway/cycle path. I have asked Highways to check on this and get the contractors back to tidy up.

080321.07 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Zawadzka and Woodhouse-Pickton)

- 7.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report of 9 February - 8 March 2021 and were asked to approve the payments listed (copy attached).
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the payments listed are made.

- 7.2 Proposal: To agree the allocation of section 137 grants for 2021/22
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to allocate the s137 grants as follows:

- RBL Poppy Appeal (purchase of poppy wreath) - £25
- St Paul's Church (village clock) - £150
- Starcross in Bloom (public liability insurance) - £75
- Westbank (to support the provision of events and outings) - £200
- Christmas Tree group (Christmas tree lights) - £60

After a lengthy discussion, it was **AGREED BY A MAJORITY** of members that an application from the pre-school would not be authorised as the status of the pre-school has changed and its inclusion into the Academy means that it is not appropriate for a Parish Council to fund an organisation which receives its funding from another public body. DALC advice stated that "...it could be considered unreasonable for the Parish Council spend tax-payers money on something which another authority has a legal duty to provide." [5 in favour; 1 against; 3 abstentions]

- 7.3 **Action List Report**
There were no outstanding actions.
- 7.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**
None.

080321.08 PARKS, GARDENS AND FLOOD DEFENCE
(Cllrs Woodhouse-Pickton, Chase and Williamson)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Woodhouse-Pickton and Chase)

- 8.1 **Action Report**
There were no outstanding matters requiring action.

8.2 **General Report/Question & Answers**

- 8.2.1 The Committee carried out an inspection on 3rd March and noted the following:

Playing Field

- All equipment etc in general good order. Litter picked up.
- Unfinished grass cutting in part of field noted
- Noted ground surface around benches are becoming uneven. Low risk at moment. Possible trip hazards
- Plan when weather improves to organise equipment and moss cleaning with volunteers.
- There is silting in dyke which should be cleared. We will be contacting Simon Glanfield at TDC.
- Lack of entrance gates – a decision is needed by Council to decide how important this issue is. New gates would require expenditure from maintenance budget. Not having them currently ensures ease of entry for wheelchairs and buggies, and there is less touching due to Covid. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that new gates are not necessary.

Millennium Garden

- Is in good order. Benches need renovating and moss cleared.

Memorial Garden

- Is in good order – no obvious health and safety issues.

Strand Path

- All in good order. some planters deteriorating.
- Still some molehills. There is some rubbish on other side of railway fencing.
- Hedge cutting has been completed and hedges looking much neater.
- Issue of all litter bins followed up by Jim to Alan, and reply received 6.3.21 re Teignbridge plans to tackle overflowing bins.

Dinghy Park

- 7 boats are parked. One deflated boat – not sure if rubbish

Dinghy Car Park

- 2 cars parked

8.2.2 Play Area Development and Flood Risk Concerns:

Members noted the contents of a report circulated by Cllr Cummings addressing the flood risk concerns. After some initial research, it was acknowledged that there is a flood risk which will need to be taken into account when considering the development of the site. A concerned resident has also raised the issue of anti-social behaviour. SWW has confirmed that there are no drainage pipes under the playing field but it was noted that soakaways had been dug out by a volunteer group some years ago although these should not interfere with any planned works. Consideration is being given to clever planting as a separate community project to improve the absorption of flood water and attract and retain local birds and insects etc (see item 13.2). The group has also carried out an initial basic survey to assess demand for the new equipment. Further consultation will take place but early indications show that development of the park and its equipment is very much wanted.

080321.09

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(Cllrs Cadbury, Lovell, Zawadzka & McNally)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

9.1 **New applications to be considered at this meeting:**

9.1.1 20/00059/AST – Sea View, The Strand, Starcross

Appeal against the refusal of planning permission 20/01325/HOU – Provision of parking space in front garden and associated works

As no further comments are permitted, it was agreed that the Parish Council should await the decision of the Planning Inspectorate.

9.2 **Decisions:**

9.2.1 20/021252/HOU – 1 Half Moon Cottages, Starcross

Removal of front porch and installation of door to front elevation

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

9.3 **Action List Report**

There were no outstanding actions requiring action.

9.4 **General Report/Question & Answers**

None.

080321.10

PAVILION & SPORTS FIELD

(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper, Allen and Redmond)

Committee Chair Report (Cllrs Rastall & Hopper)

10.1 Proposal: To accept a third trader, Global Street Foods, on the Pavilion car park one evening a week

Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Zawadzka

AGREED BY A MAJORITY of members to accept a third trader, Global Street Foods, on the Pavilion car park as proposed (7 in favour; 1 against; 2 abstentions)

ACTION: Cllr Rastall to write to the trader

10.2 **Action List Report**

There were no outstanding resolutions requiring action.

10.3 **General Report/Questions & Answers**

The Chairman advised that the football league will restart at the end of the month and has been extended until the end of May. There are plans for a tournament in August and a summer football school for children during the holidays.

080321.11 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

None

080321.12 NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS

12.1 Exe Estuary Management Partnership Forum Report:

Cllr Zawadzka circulated the following written report following her and Cllr Cadbury's attendance of a meeting on 2 February 2020:

The meeting opened informing about closure of Exe Mussels, which had been a huge part of River Exe and a member of EEM.

The South West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

This programme is led at Plymouth University. Isabel Kelly gave an extensive presentation about programme aid (collecting and storing data). Studies include wave and tide network, topographic surveys, aerial photography as well as involving the public in collecting data and sharing it with scientists at Plymouth Coastal Observatory. All data is widely available free of charge at their website southwest.coastalmonitoring.org

Environmental Agency

Dawlish Warren was the focal point of the conversation. Martin Davis, representing Management Scheme, explained their concerns regarding rapid deterioration of this highly protected area and demonstrated EA proposal for planned repairs. He also talked about study that is going to be performed to reflect and understand the mistakes that were made during work in 2017. The Lower Otter Restoration Project is focusing on adaptation to climate change and making sustainable plans for the future.

Annual Delivery Plan and World Wetlands Day (2/02/2020)

Jay Bole highlighted the difficulties in delivering what was hoped to be achieved in the last few months, mainly due to Covid. Bird Flu - it's been widely reported and strongly advised not to touch dead birds. Shellfish - Biosecurity Plan in place to tackle the problem of rapidly spreading the invasive non-native species.

Harbour Master Plan

Devon County Council is putting a Harbour Board in aim to help manage River Exe, arising problems and build strong management for the future use of the canal. Graham Foreshore presented a plan for coming months, which involves routine mooring service, removing more wrecks from Cockwood Harbour as well as carrying on with general wreck clearance from the river, winter maintenance programme. He also expressed concerns regarding River Exe getting shallower in places, especially past buoy 21.

The Topsham Ferry will be back in operation in March.

It was agreed that Cllr Zawadzka would take over from Cllr Cadbury as the Parish Council's Exe Estuary Management Partnership representative from 23 March.

12.2 Parish Council Website:

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with Vision ICT and they are working on a new front page which will be circulated to all members to look at when it is ready.

080321.13 COUNCILLORS' PROJECTS

13.1 Proposal: To look at creating a community group which would investigate the proposed planting in the park alongside the Parks and Gardens Committee with a view to running a community project alongside the park improvements project looking specifically at utilising the far corner of the field (worst area for flooding) as a nature habitat that would reduce the overall flood risk and compliment the planned improvements

Proposer: Cllr Williamson; Seconder: tbc

It was acknowledged that there might be overlap with other groups in the parish.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed not to vote on the proposal this month and further investigations would be carried out, including conversations with existing groups, with a view to updating members at the next meeting.

080321.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

080321.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Monday 12 April 2021 commencing at 7.40pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 12 April 2021

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

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 8 March 2021

Summary of Bank Balances at 8 March 2021	
Current (C)	£11,493.14
Pavilion Trading (P)	£15,049.78
Allocated Reserves (A)	£51,654.42
Total	£78,197.34

Income: 9 February – 8 March 2021		
Interest – allocated reserves account (Feb)	£0.40	A
Pizza A Legna (One month trading in Pavilion car park)	£24	P
Teignbridge District Council (Cllr Connett's locality grant)	£220	P
Business Support Lockdown grants	£6001	P

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements	£483.72	C
HMRC	HMRC (PAYE)	£2.80	C
Vision ICT	Initial invoice for upgrade of council website	£822	C
Came & Co	Insurance renewal	£1558.42	C
PWLB	Loan repayment	£1723.03	C
T Greenslade	Grass cutting and maintenance of War Memorial and Millennium Gardens (6 months)	£240	C
Powderham Estate	Half yearly rental of allotments	£105	C
Steve Swift	Remove dead trees from Pavilion car park	£144	P

Direct Debits: 9 February – 8 March 2021			
Natwest (15/02/21)	Bankline fees	£22	C
Opus (21/02/21)	Pavilion electricity	£50.02	P
Opus (26/02/21)	Pavilion gas	£37.25	P
Biffa (21/02/21)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£38.35	P