

Minutes of the meeting of Staverton Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

Chair Nick Woodall read out the Emergency Fire Safety Drill for the village hall.

Chair Nick Woodall said that there had been a request from the Parish Clerk to add a decision to vote for Vice Chair Cllr Jeff Gibson to be included on the list of cheque signatories for the Parish Council. This will be item 11b on the Agenda. This was agreed unanimously.

30. PRESENT: Chair Nick Woodall, Cllr Richard Blueitt, Cllr Claire Braham, Vice Chair Jeff Gibson, Cllr Mark Frati, Cllr Kevin Lamb, Cllr Ray Symonds and June Jones, Parish Clerk

Attending: Editor of Staverton News, Simon Withers, Wiltshire Councillor Trevor Carbin, Dr Celia Beckett for Hilpertons & Staverton Conservation Working Group, and Residents: A Finn, E Anderson, E Drawnel, A Drawnel, J Dick, C Dick, D Gething and M Gregory.

31. APOLOGIES: Cllr Kim Mounty and Andy Borresen

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 17th July 2023.

The minutes were held to be a true record.

33. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. The Old Vicarage:

Resident Eric Anderson spoke for several minutes asking why the Parish Council had changed from posting robust objections to the demolishing of the building to supporting the rebuilding of the proposed care home. He said that none of the neighbours felt that all objections had been addressed. He questioned the need for such a high-density development and that there should be a better alternative plan which is smaller and less intrusive. There was criticism of poor communication between residents and the Parish Council. He strongly urged the Parish Council to reconsider their support of the application.

Resident Alan Finn also spoke for several minutes and said that he had no problem with the redevelopment of the building and Staverton House facilities and recognised the need for care facilities in the community. However, he felt that the car parking facilities were inadequate and there had been no significant changes to the original plans other than cosmetic. Also the bin store has been elevated in the plan so it can be seen from his lounge. He queried why there was no statement from the Parish Council, stating that the developer would be attending the meeting on 17th July and felt therefore it was not surprising that no residents attended to ask questions. Mr Finn then raised the issue of the misleading roof level which was on the plan issued by the developer and rejected at the planning meeting. He added that the proposal to slant the windows to protect neighbours' privacy had been rejected. He also challenged the description of the Old Vicarage as having no historical interest because Wiltshire Council's Planning Officer had opposed its demolition.

Councillors disputed that plans for the car parking facilities were inadequate and a long discussion ensued concerning all the other points raised. They stated very strongly that the Parish Council has very little power over planning decisions and often Wiltshire Council overrides any objections they raise. Councillors added that there had been little or no support from residents over the years, attending meetings, to give their views on community matters and if they want their views listened to, then they should contact the Parish Council. Councillors said that

it is not feasible to contact residents individually and therefore agenda items and minutes are posted regularly on noticeboards, the website and in the newsletter for all to see. During discussions, it was clear that new information had come to light which seriously concerned the Councillors and could affect their previous decision to support the planning application. Further discussion will take place between Wiltshire Cllr Trevor Carbin and the Parish Council regarding this new development and how it can be addressed.

It was also arranged for Cllr Jeff Gibson and Cllr Richard Blueitt to visit one of the resident's homes to see how it would affect them.

All residents except Mr and Mrs Dick left the meeting after these discussions.

34. HILPERTON AND STAVERTON CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP -Dr Celia Beckett

Dr Bennett stated that there was a meeting planned for 12 October where the implications for the planned 600 houses and the additional 400 plus homes being built would be discussed. It is expected that these additional houses will seriously affect traffic through Staverton, and she urged Councillors to attend this meeting and ask difficult questions. She added that any future planned development in Staverton is contingent on the development at Marsh Farm. Those opposed need to see the developers' arguments as the access to the planned primary school is not suitable and it seems to have been designed solely with travellers in mind. All objections need to be in by 22nd November. There will be a public meeting to be held on 27th September at Hilpertown Village Hall. Dr Bennett was thanked for her update.

35. NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE – Editor Simon Withers

New editor, Simon Withers said that he needed to get more information out to the community and encourage residents to use the newsletter more. He has had discussions with Cllr Claire Braham and Website administrator Simon Richardson regarding some interesting ideas for the future which has resulted in him taking over the layout of the website to make it more user friendly and informative. He plans to link the newsletter and the website to expand information about businesses in Staverton. It is hoped that more residents will take advantage of these media outlets. He was praised for his first edition copy of the Newsletter which will be distributed at the end of September.

36. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR – Trevor Carbin

Cllr Carbin said that the next litter pick has been arranged for 15th October 2023.

Unfortunately, the Speedwatch team have resigned since the B3105 has been taken over with road works and he needs volunteers to replace them. It only takes 1 hour per month. This will be advertised on the Council website.

37. COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENTS FORUM

a. CCTV for village hall: Cllr Richard Blueitt has proposed putting up CCTV and a sign on the village hall. He will do all the work unpaid and donate the sign. Councillors welcomed his generous offer.

b. The Slipway Car Park: Cllr Ray Symonds said that the parish council is fed up with illegal parking of caravans and fly tipping at this site and suggested asking Wiltshire Council if boulders could be placed at the entrance to block illegal activity there. Another suggestion was that the hedge around the park be cut back to waist height to expose future illegal activity. [Action: Cllr Trevor Carbin to contact Wiltshire Council Highways Department to see if this can be done.](#)

38. SPORTS GROUND, VILLAGE HALL, PLAY AREA AND GENERAL

a. Hirers of the village hall: It has been noted recently that a few one-day only hirers have been leaving their litter, not cleaning up after them, overstaying their hire time and playing loud music. However there had only been one complaint of loud music on an excessively hot evening when all windows are open causing sound to carry. Hirers will be reminded that loud music is not acceptable with people living nearby.

b. Performing Rights License: [Action: Cllr Mark Frati to look into the costs.](#)

c. Football Hirers Contract: This contract has now been agreed and signed for 2023 – 2024. However complaints had arisen with the noise made from footballers training whilst Parish Council meetings are being held. Despite requests to players to leave early on these nights the car park is still full and noisy. It was agreed that it only affected meetings held in the summer months.

39. PARISH STEWARD – Cllr Nick Woodall

Cllr Woodall said that it was very difficult to meet up with the Parish Steward due to his work commitments. Cllr Richard Blueitt said he would be happy to take over this role. Cllr Jeff Gibson proposed and Cllr Mark Frati seconded that Cllr Blueitt take on this role. The motion was carried unanimously.

40. FINANCE

a. Clerk's Financial Report

BANK ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH HELD		
		£
23.8.23	NAT WEST PRECEPT ACCOUNT	6,182.42
24.7.23	NAT WEST - CLERKS GRATUITY ACCOUNT	7,425.62
1.9.23	PETTY CASH	159.02
1.8.23	NAT WEST GROUND MAINTENANCE FUND	13,979.57
1.6.23	CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTIES BANK	65,000.00
		<u>92,746.63</u>
PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING		
<u>Precept Account</u>		<u>Net £</u>
17.7.23	1350 Cleaning supplies and equipment	51.54
10.7.23	1351 Cancellation of Hire of Village Hall - 383 Fichtnerova	25.00
10.7.23	1352 Returnable Deposit for Village Hall hire - 377 Turlington	50
17.7.23	1353 Materials for repairs of hard court and village hall	218.12
16.7.23	1354 Abu Gas and Plumbing - Boiler Service	90.00
19.7.23	1355 Telephone & Laptop Insurance July 23	34.28
19.7.23	1356 Magic Sparks LED lamp replacement village hall	450.00
1.8.23	1358 Cleaning village hall - July 23	100
3.7.23	so Staff costs June 23	962.53
7.7.23	dd SSE final gas bill June-Nov 22	48.74
1.8.23	so Staff costs July 23	962.53
9.8.23	dd ICO Certification 2022-2023	35.00
20.7.23	so IDVERDE play area grass maintenance	156.74
11.8.23	dd SSE gas bill to Aug 23	82.91
24.7.23	dd Corona Energy Electricity Bill to June 23	75.24

17.7.23	dd	Hills Waste - July 23	25.68
17.7.23	dd	Corona Energy Electricity Bill to July 23	75.51
5.8.23	dd	PKF Littlejohn Accountants External Audit 2022-23	420.00
			3863.82

Maintenance Fund Account

19.8.23	82	IDVERDE SPORTS GROUND GRASS CUTTING JULY 23	336.87
			336.87

Petty Cash

Apr to Jun 23	Cash 1 - 15	Stationary, Postage, Graffiti Remover, Cleaning Supplies, and cutlery for Village Hall	137.97
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TRANSFERS

21.7.23	Trs	SPC to Gratuity 2022-23	541.41
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INCOME

Precept Account

20.7.23	BACS	388 Williams hire of village hall	40
11.7.23	BACS	384 SRFC hire of playing field July 23	300
1.8.23	bacs	384 SRFC hire of playing field Aug 23	300
3.7.23	bacs	380 EMMAUS hire of village hall to Jul 23	485.83
14.7.23	bacs	HMRC VAT refund Qtr 1 2023	513.33
4.8.23	bacs	389 Henley hire of village hall to Aug 23	75
4.8.23	bacs	390 Henley hire of village hall to Aug 23	37.50
4.8.23	bacs	391 Henley hire of village hall to Oct 23	100.00
23.8.23	bacs	395 Masunda hire of village hall to Aug 23	225.00
			2076.66

b. Chair Nick Woodall and Vice Chair Jeff Gibson – Request to be signatories on NAT WEST cheque account.

Cllr Mark Frati proposed and Cllr Ray Symonds seconded that Cllrs Nick Woodall and Jeff Gibson be nominated as signatories on the National Westminster cheque accounts. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. External Audit 2023-24 - PKF Littlejohn have said *“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”*. Chair Nick Woodall proposed, and Cllr Kevin Lamb seconded that the comments have been noted. The motion was carried unanimously and the Clerk was thanked for another successful audit.

d. Parish Clerk’s Appraisal 2023-24 – Chair Nick Woodall proposed and Cllr Jeff Gibson seconded that the Parish Council is in agreement with the appraisal report. The motion was carried unanimously.

41. CORRESPONDENCE – BRIEFING NOTES – No issues arose from these notes.

- a. 23 – 17 Launch of the Second Solar Together Scheme

- b. 23-20 Air Quality Action Plan - & Supplementary Planning Document
- c. 23-21 Plan for Refurbishment of Town Hall
- d. 23-23 Waste Sorting at Recycling Centres

Cllr Claire Braham asked permission from the Parish Council to petition residents regarding the introduction of more 30 mph road signs on the B3105 but also the size and frequency of HGVs travelling through the village and over the listed bridge, causing noise and air pollution. The petition will ask for such vehicles to continue using the alternative routes used now whilst the road is closed.

This was agreed unanimously, and it was suggested that she attend the meeting on the 12 October to discuss how additional housing developments will have a detrimental effect on traffic through Staverton.

42. CLOSE OF MEETING 9.17 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 November 2023.

Meeting Dates for 2023/24	16	JANUARY 2023	15	MAY 2023 AGM & APM	11	SEPTEMBER 2023	15	JANUARY 2024
On Mondays starting at 7.00 pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL	13	MARCH 2023	17	JULY 2023	20	NOVEMBER 2023		