

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 27th MAY 2021 IN WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL, AT 7.30 PM**

The meeting commenced with the following members present: Cllr J Oakins (Chairman), Cllr A Roe, Cllr M Randall, Cllr Alison Juniper, Cllr A George.

Apologies: Cllr McMullen.

In Attendance: V Paskell (clerk), One member of the public.

1: Minutes of the meeting held on 15TH April 2021: Signed as a true record.

2: Matters arising from the minutes.

Bullsmill Lane / Waterford Hamel: A new name for the development has not yet been adopted. The building work is progressing well.

Stapleford Village Hall Update: Cllr Randall confirmed that a new floor has now been laid and rewiring will be completed shortly. The funds are in place to complete the work. It is hoped once the work has been completed the hall can start to be let out again to local groups.

Waterford Marsh: Robin Juniper has completed the tree work required to date. Further work will need to be carried out in the future.

Breach in River: See Waterford Marsh below.

Waterford Marsh: Cllr Oakins reported that all the scheduled tree work has now been completed. The wood has been left on the marsh as it is too costly to remove. The area requires tidying up. Further tree work will need to be completed over the next 5 years when funds allow. Cllr Oakins has spoken to Neil Duffield from CMS, to see if they are aware of anyone who would take the wood if further trees were felled.

Cllr Oakins met with Neil Duffield from CMS regarding the fence along the fence along the riverbank. The suggestions for the location of the fence are either, next to the riverbank or 5 meters out into the marsh. There would need to be access points for the cattle.

It was confirmed that the Environment Agency and CMS will fund the work along with the topping of the marsh and removal of grass cuttings.

Neil Duffield from CMS confirmed the following to Cllr Oakins:

- The weir feasibility study should be completed by the end of summer 2021.
- The wall removal, bank realignment and fencing will be completed (hopefully by the end of summer 2021)
- Marsh topping will be completed by the end of June (awaiting contractor quotes)

It was noted that Neil Duffield was leaving and handing over to Richard Young.

Network Rail have started restoration work on the Marsh.

Waterford Heath: Cllr Randall reported that she had not been informed if the restoration work had been completed by Network Rail.

Internet Banking: The Standing Orders have now been amended to allow for one signature for internet banking. Clerk will look at the internet banking form.

Waterford Village Hall Application: The planning application is ready to be submitted to EHDC. Once approved the funds will need to be raised to complete the project.

Bus Shelter, Waterford: The quote was received for the removal of the asbestos roof. The cost is £850.00 plus VAT. Cllr Juniper will investigate if the council can assist with the cost.

Bridge Damage, Vicarage Lane: Herts Highways are currently reviewing the damage.

Parish Council Website: Clerk to ask Heather Pullum to hand over to Lucinda Juniper who will now manage the website and content.

3. Correspondence:

- Various magazines/ journals received.
- A letter was received from Claire Airey a resident from High Road Stapleford, raising concerns over speeding traffic in the village. She would like to get the speed limit reduced from a 40pmh to a 30mph. The matter was discussed at length as the PC have worked for many years to get the speed limit reduced with no success. It was agreed that if the road could be declassified to a B road from an A road there was more chance of getting the speed limit reduced. Cllr Oakins will contact Cllr Ken Crofton to see how best to approach the declassification.

4: Finance and accounts

The council is asked to approve / note the following payments:

1. V PASKELL SALARY	£250.00
2. Frank Cooper & Son	£160.80
3. V Paskell Expenses	£117.97

RECEIPTS

30.4.21 PRECEPT £3250.00

BALANCES

Current Account - £14907.61 as at 21st MAY 2021

Money master Account - £349.03 as at 21st MAY 2021

5: Planning:

Applications Received:

Waterford Common Cottage – no objection

Applications Granted: None

Applications Refused: None

Applications appealed: None

Any other business:

Cllr George suggested a 'Children Playing 'sign should be installed near the park on Church Lane, Stapleford. Clerk to email Highways to request.

Cllr George reported that the road surface and edges on Church Lane were in a poor state of repair.

Date of next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd July in Waterford Village Hall, High Road, Waterford at 7.30pm. (Subject to Covid Restrictions). All meetings are COVID secure with social distancing.