

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 22nd JULY 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 A George

Apologies: Cllr Alison Juniper, Cllr M Randall, Cllr McMullen

In Attendance: V Paskell (clerk)

1: Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2021: Signed as a true record.

2: Matters arising from the minutes.

Bullsmill Lane / Waterford Hamel: The developer is using the name Waterford Wick. The development is progressing well.

Stapleford Village Hall Update: Nothing further to report, it is hoped that the hall will be open for use from the Autumn.

Waterford Marsh: Robin Juniper has been completing the tree work and removed a dead tree that was blocking the footpath and across the river.

Breach in River: Nothing further to report.

Waterford Marsh: It was noted that Richard Young has taken over at CMS and confirmed that estimates are being obtained for the wall removal and fence. He confirmed that the existing banks will be feathered down to the river.

The EA and CMS have stated that they no longer wish the cattle to be able to access the river when they are grazing. Water troughs will then need to be installed.

It was agreed that the fence would be situated 5 meters in from the riverbank to allow for people to walk along the riverbank away from the cattle.

CMS have advised that they will need to get planning permission to erect the fence as it is common land that is owned by the PC. They have stated that the process may take up to 2 years. The fence will run from Horseshoe Falls to the entrance on Vicarage Lane.

The grass on the marsh requires cutting, CMS have obtained quotes and the cost is £1500, the PC have been asked to contribute £400 towards the cost.

Richard Young from CMS has advised that the trees that the PC were told needed to be removed maybe ok to remain. He has suggested that the PC obtain a further tree survey for the marsh to get a second opinion.

Waterford Heath: Cllr Randall reported Jenny Rawson has left the HMWT so liaison for the Heath will be with Gerry Steyaert until the trust appoints a new reserve officer.

Internet Banking: Cllr George will go into the HSBC branch to enquire further about internet banking and the status of the PC before the forms are resubmitted.

850

Waterford Village Hall Application: Nothing further to report at the current time.

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 and Cllr Oakins will see if Cllr Crofton has any funds available.

Bridge Damage, Vicarage Lane: Herts Highways are currently reviewing the damage. Nothing further to report.

Parish Council Website: Clerk to ask Heather Pullum to hand over to Lucinda Juniper who will now manage the website and content. It was agreed that the PC will pay Lucinda £25 per month to maintain the website on a day-to-day basis.

Speeding Traffic: Clerk responded to the original email sent by Claire Avery as discussed at the PC meeting. Paul Avery has followed up with Cllr Oakins asking for the PC to support an increase in 40mph signs in the village. Clerk to contact Highways to ask them to investigate further signs in Stapleford.

Cllr Oakins has spoken to Cllr Crofton about the downgrade of the road from an A classification to a B. Cllr Crofton confirm that it was highly unlikely as it is a main route from Hertford to Stevenage.

Police speed vans are available to attend the villages on an ad hoc basis. Clerk will email to request a visit to Stapleford.

Children Playing Sign Church Lane: Clerk to email Highways.

3. Correspondence:

- Various magazines/ journals received.

4: Finance and accounts

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

1. V PASKELL SALARY £250.00
2. Frank Cooper & Son £78.00
3. V Paskell Expenses £120.56
4. Juniper Tree & Ground care £1872.00

RECEIPTS

None

BALANCES

Current Account - £14378.84 as at 21st JUNE 2021

Money master Account - £349.04 as at 21st JUNE 2021

5: Planning:

Applications Received: 5 Bramfield Lane - no objection

Applications Granted: Waterford Common Cottages

Applications Refused: None

Applications appealed: None

851

Any other business:

Cllr George reported that Church Lane was scheduled to be closed for three weeks from 26th July for essential bridge repairs to the second bridge. All traffic would be diverted via Stonyhills.

Serious concerns have been raised regarding the accessibility and residents have not been notified in advance of the proposals. There are very few passing places and larger vehicles such as bin lorries would struggle to use the diversion. It is proposed that a traffic light system is put in place as it is a single-track road. This would cause long delays to get in / out of the village.

Volker Laser are the construction company working on behalf of Herts Highways to complete the work.

Volker have approached the PC as they would like to use the top part of the playing field as site storage / office. They would fully fence around the compound. The contractors would liaise with the insurance company to ensure all the regulations were met.

Cllr George raised the possibility of the PC helping to fund a defibrillator in Stapleford. Cllrs were in agreement for the PC to contribute towards the cost.

Cllr Roe raised concern over the area around the bus shelter in Waterford being very overgrown. Cllr Oakins has instructed Cliff Ward to clear and tidy the area.

Date of next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd September 2021 in Waterford Village Hall, High Road, Waterford at 7.30pm. (Subject to Covid Restrictions). All meetings are COVID secure with social distancing.