

Minutes of the meeting of Stapleford Parish Council,
Held on
Thursday 29th May 2025
Waterford Village Hall at 19:30

The meeting commenced with the following members present: Cllr J Oakins (Chairperson), Cllr M Randall, Cllr R Bewick

1. Apologies: Cllr A Roe, Cllr A George

In Attendance: Danielle Houghton (parish clerk), Cllr Joe Thomas, Jane Guinn, Denis Hill

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th of April: Signed as a true record.

3. Traffic Calming Measures: The average speed check through the village of Hertford Heath was effective. Although no fines were issued, warnings were given, resulting in a reduction in speed in the area. Cllr Bewick has proposed installing an average speed check on the road through Stapleford and Waterford. Cllr Bewick will draft a paragraph or two to add to the formal letter, detailing the case study conducted in Hertford Heath.

A resident from Stapleford has submitted information on the speed in the area and reasons for why it should be monitored. Cllr George will follow up and provide additional information on behalf of Stapleford. Additionally, Cllr Oakins will provide a paragraph on the history of the road to include in the letter.

4. Rat run off the main road in Waterford: Jane Guinn has kindly drafted a letter addressing the issues regarding the use of Vicarage Lane as a rat run. The letter includes a summary of the current problems and potential future issues. She has provided photos illustrating the problems, such as trees being knocked over and damage to the railway bridge.

Additionally, the retaining wall by Waterford Common has been damaged and requires repair.

Three options have been proposed to address these issues:

- Creating Access Only – which would just be ignored.
- Making the road one way – which isn't ideal for residents.
- Closing the bridge completely to vehicles – 8 out of 11 properties at Waterford Common support this.

The Clerk is requested to write to the highways department, utilising the letter drafted by Jane, to request a site meeting.

5. Waterford Village Hall: The planning application have progressed as the EA have dropped their objections, as long as an ecological management plan is submitted.

6. Stapleford Village Hall: Nothing to report.

7. Waterford Marsh: The cattle have now arrived on the marsh for grazing. Cllr Oakins has repaired the gates at the entrance to the marsh so they latch correctly. Additionally, he has installed a new float switch to ensure that the tank for the cattle functions properly and does not flood the marsh. The pathway in the marsh is very vulnerable, as it is just one heavy flood away from disappearing, with the sandbags being washed away. Cllr

Joe will inform the clerk which county councillor is responsible for the area so that the clerk can email pictures of the issue to them.

8. Stapleford Playing Field: The area seems to be under control and the clerk has asked Cliff to trim the area fortnightly

9. Parish Council Website: Nothing to report.

10. Internet Banking: Nothing to report.

11. Correspondence:

- April Crime report received – one case of fly tipping in Stapleford
- Letter received by MP Chris Hinchcliff regarding a Planning and Infrastructure bill and the actions he is taking as it passes through parliament

12. Finance and accounts.

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

1. D Houghton Salary	£284.55
2. Stamps and paper	£18.50
3. Waterford Hall Hire	£20.00

Receipts

East Herts £4,750.00

Balances

Current Account – £19,431.81 as of the 29th of May 2025

Accounts have been considered and reviewed at this meeting

4. Planning:

New Applications:

- 47 High Road Waterford Hertfordshire
- 21 Clusterbolts Stapleford Hertfordshire

Decisions: None

Informational:

Waterford Recreational Committee and The Stapleford Hall send there thanks for the donation to the hall

Cllr Randall: The River Beane group Wildlife Trust are coming to Waterford Marsh to conduct studies

Jane Guinn: Has suggested that the council use Mudlarks for gardening jobs in the area.

Date of next meeting: The Parish Council will meet on 19th June 2025 at Stapleford Village Hall, at 7.30pm.