

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18th of January at Waterford Village Hall at 7:30**

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

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Danielle Houghton (parish clerk)

1: Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023: Signed as a true record.

2: Matters arising from the minutes.

Waterford Marsh Trees: Following the tree survey of the Marsh, the report has outlined that there is nothing that needs to be worked on immediately, however there are recommendations. Of the thirty-six trees eleven may require work within the next few years to stagger the possible costs related to this.

Breach in River / Waterford Marsh: Cllr Oakins and Tony Bradford (Head of Countryside and Rights of Way at Hertfordshire County Council) have spoken about what work needs doing on the drinking sites for any future animals that are placed on site. Tony has assured Cllr Oakins that he has chased this matter and should provide dates for the implementation of these sites as the Parish Council will need to organise animals.

Parish Council Website: An update on the list of councillors was done. It could also be worth noting local events, such as Tea, Cake and Chat - every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2.30pm, Stapleford Village Church.

It is an opportunity to meet and chat whilst enjoying delicious homemade cakes. Very informal and although hosted in the church, it is a non-religious event.

Waterford Heath: Nothing to report.

Internet Banking / change in mandate: The clerk and Cllr George will need to go into branch again as the change of address form has not taken affect again.

Defibrillators for Stapleford & Waterford: Cllr George requested a cheque of £1,500.00 to be issued to London Hearts for the dibs, she has asked Andrew Powell to assist with instillation. Cllr Oakins is to discuss with the Waterford Committee on where on the hall to place it.

ROSPA: The new bin liner for Stapleford Playing field has arrived and Cllr George has invoiced the Parish for this cost.

3: Correspondence:

- Holocaust Memorial Day event on the 24th of Jan by East Herts Council
- East Herts Environmental & Climate Forum 23rd Jan

4: Finance and accounts

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

1. D Houghton Salary (January)	£250.00
2. Clerks Expenses (Q3)	£82.58
3. Defiberator Funding (London Hearts)	£1,500.00
4. PFK Littlejohn LLP (auditing fees)	£80.00
5. Hedge cutting	£72.00

RECEIPTS**BALANCES**

Current Account – £17,833.59 end of Jan 2024

Money master Account - £350.39 as at 21.03 .22

5: Planning:

New Applications:

- 42A High Road, Stapleford
- 5 Bramfield Lane
- 12 Waterford Common

Applications Refused:

None

6: Any other business:

Cllr Randall: Cllr Randall: A meeting with Affinity Water will be held on the 20th of February at Stapleford Village Hall.

This will be

regarding the re-routing of the river Beane, north of the village. It starts at 7pm.

She asked Vic Knowles if we could revert back to using [x] Stapleford Village Hall as the polling station.

There is no news on the Bengo field plans after 120 new homes were proposed.

There is a new bus stop on the northbound main road for Bullsmill residents

Cllr Randall would like to thank Highways for making the pavements around Stapleford and Waterford more accessible.

Cllr Oakins: On the east end of the Waterford Marsh the gate has rotted through and is unstable, it should be removed.

Clerk: Precept agreed for 24/25 at £7,500.00

Date of next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday TBC 29th of February 2024 at Stapleford Village Hall at 7.30pm