

Minutes of Staverton Parish Council Meeting held at the Court Room, Staverton on Wednesday 5 July 2023 at 7.25pm

Present: Cllr Warren (Chair), Cllrs Joyce, Nixon and Prowse
Attending: District & County Cllr Hodgson (from 8.10pm) and Karen Smith (Clerk)
Members of Public: 4

Public Forum

Various Highways matters raised. The verge on the A384 near the Riverford turn-off has been cut again and all the wildflowers have gone. Clerk to feedback to DCC. The lane from Thornecroft – Penn Farm and then from Penn in both directions to Parkfield X and Baddaford was reported as virtually undriveable. Tidwell X – Barkington also has issues. Sign indicating steep hill (near North Cottages) has gone. Earth has come out of bank onto the lane on Ruggadon Hill (uphill from Thornecroft) and traffic is getting jammed at this narrow spot. Cllr Warren voiced happy to meet Highways Rep in Parish. The signpost in the triangle outside the Sea Trout is leaning and possibly needs wedging back up.

July 2023: 01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Bloomer & Vidler

July 2023: 02 There were no declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the Agenda.

July 2023: 03 The Minutes of the previous Full Council Meeting and Planning Committee Meeting held on 07/06/23 were APPROVED.

July 2023: 04 Councillor Monthly Reports

a) Allotments

Quotes to replace the gatepost were presented. It was **RESOLVED** to order the 6'6" galvanised square hanging post from Wynnstay at £89.40 inc VAT. Cllr Vidler has offered to collect from Dartington. Cllr Warren to seek quote for installation & bring to next meeting.

b) Highways

- Following the PC report last month, Highways want clarification on the level of priority ahead of scheduling any capital works to fix the excessive cracking & crumbling edges on Sandy Lane between Newtake & Kingston turn-off. Council regard this stretch as dodgy and it is a main thoroughfare between the two main centres in the Parish, however it is in nowhere near the state of the Thornecroft – Penn, and Parkfield X – Penn – Baddaford, referred to under Public Forum, which must remain open for milk tanker access. Clerk/Cllr Hodgson to update Highways on both issues.
- It was noted that the 'no waiting at any time' is being implemented on a reduced length (from what was advertised) of Huxhams Cross to Staverton Bridge.
- South West Water works will close Memory X – Fursdon X between 7-11 August 2023.

c) Parish Paths & Riverside

Written report received from updates provided by Bruce Thorogood & path surveyors. The Clerk is to chase DCC regarding the gate on Footpath 5 and flag up the ditch proposal re BW16. P3 Grant of £410 still awaited – Ros Davies is investigating.

d) Playgrounds

- Written report presented for Staverton, and verbal for Landscope. Quote for various remedial works at Landscope will be brought next time. The gates for Staverton Playpark are due to be installed any time – Council accept the supplier's clarification, via Cllr Bloomer, that the gates cannot both open outwards due to the proximity of the footpath. Both gates will be higher than the Allianz recommendation of 60-110mm but this is regarded as unavoidable and can be justified.

- It was **RESOLVED** to renew the current service from SHDC (monthly)/Allianz (annual) when it comes up for renewal in September. Council regard monthly visits by a professional inspector as invaluable and felt that one annual inspection, as offered by Play Inspections, did not meet current needs.

July 2023: 05 Working Group Updates

a) Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan is currently undergoing a 6 week Consultation under Regulation 16. It will then go to an independent Examiner, with Referendum anticipated in the autumn.

b) Sustainable Staverton

The Open Gardens was a great success, raising some cash donations and the recent Tantalising Talk was very interesting and well attended.

July 2023: 06 SCS Report

The AGM was held on 22/06/23 and Committee members remain in place. Cllr Nixon to forward minutes to Cllrs via email.

July 2023: 07 District & County Councillor Monthly Report

Cllr Hodgson arrived late to the meeting, but her report is summarised here. The Regional Transport Consultation finishes next week. DCC Summer Programme for 2023 Holiday Activities & Food Programme is now live - it is for Primary & Secondary age range and is split into localities so you can see what is happening in each area. Free activities and meals are available to eligible children over the school summer holiday. Jacqi has input on the Highways priorities in the Parish for 2024/25 and has noted the PC's view that Thornecroft – Penn Farm and on to Parkfield X and Baddaford is undriveable and should be considered an urgent priority (milk tanker access) as well as the already reported issues with Sandy Lane. She will take both these locations up with Highways on our behalf. Devon's 20 is Plenty Campaign is gaining momentum. Involvement by SHDC in the South Devon Freeport is under review. Sustainable South Hams have been granted £40,000 to enable its programme of sustainable projects and activities that will support SHDC and its residents to reduce their carbon footprint, enrich understanding and behaviour towards wildlife and habitats and help SHDC reach its climate and biodiversity targets. More info on these and many other topics, such as composting & waste management, can be found in Jacqi's full report, available on the parish website. In regard to TRAYE, the AGM has been put back, but it is hoped to hold it before the end of July.

July 2023: 08 Finance (documents in meeting papers)

- The quarterly bank reconciliation April – June 2023 was **APPROVED**.
- The monthly financial report to June 2023 was received.
- Receipt of £100 locality funding for the Riverside Supper expenditure was noted.
- The monthly payments schedule was **APPROVED**. BACS payments total £3091.88 and this includes the annual payment to TRAYE @ £2500 for 23/24 as budgeted.
- It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the payment of Wick's balancing invoice for the gates to the Clerk, anticipated @ £1933.80 net from original quote. Clerk to be advised on works completion ahead of payment.
- Having now clad the containers, the Garden Show have proactively paid £9.06 rent for 23/24 based on the amount quoted in the lease - £1 peppercorn rent and £8.06 to cover insurance. This was the insurance cost in 2019 and since then, the rent had been waived. The amount in the premium to cover the containers has been advised by Gallaghers as £62 net. As lease clause 8 allows for annual increases in insurance to be passed on to the Tenant, it was **RESOLVED** to invoice the Garden Show for the balance of £53.94.
- It was **RESOLVED** to defer updating the gilt bars on the Chairmans Pendant until the end of the current Chair's tenure.

July 2023: 09 Co-option

- a) Any further discussion on the policy to recruit further non-voting members was deferred until September. It is hoped further cooptees may come on board in the meantime.

July 2023: 10 Admin & Correspondence

- The Clerk has actioned the Re-declaration of Compliance with the Pension Regulator. This is a 3 yearly exercise, so will be due again in June 2026.
- DALC have recommended our Defibrillators are registered on ‘The Circuit’. Cllr Warren to look into need, when already registered via Community Heartbeat Trust.
- There is a South Hams Town & Parish Council virtual event on 26/07/23 – the Clerk will circulate joining details.

July 2023: 11 Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

Cllr Warren raised potential basic life support/defibrillator training at Landscope.

July 2023: 12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6 September 2023 at the Victory Hall, Landscope.

Opportunity for Parishioners Comments

- *Although Sandy Lane is clearly more driveable than Thornecroft – Penn & Penn – Parkfield X & Baddaford, it is still very dodgy, particularly to someone who doesn’t know the area. The road surface is dropping away significantly at the side in two areas with deliberate scouring of verges. Sandy Lane definitely requires patching. Photographs to be forwarded to Cllr Hodgson.*

The public meeting ended at 8.35pm

Signed:

Chair

Date

If you have any queries about these minutes or would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk: Karen Smith on clerk.stavertonpc@gmail.com

ABBREVIATIONS

DCC	Devon County Council
DALC	Devon Association of Local Councils
BW16	Bridleway 16
P3	Parish Paths Partnership funding
SCS	Staverton Community Spaces
SHDC	South Hams District Council
TRAYE	Totnes Rural Youth Engagement Project

Please note information on all payments, together with the written meeting reports submitted ahead of the PC meeting can be found here [PC Meeting Papers - 05/07/23 - Welcome to Staverton & Landscope in Devon](#)