

ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Meeting of Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council held in Ansty Village Hall on 11th March 2024 at 7:30pm.

Members present: Brad Williams (Chairman), Bob Birthwright, Crispin Salimbeni, Amanda Saunders, Heinrich Schmidt, Mandi Graves, Jon Gilley, George Morley, James Steadman, Simon Stokes.

Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk), Pete Bradbury (WSCC Councillor), Richard Bates (MSDC Councillor), Loraine Carvalho (MSDC Councillor), 5 members of the public.

1. Public Session.

Two members of the public spoke in opposition to planning application WSCC/007/24, for Integrated Constructed Wetlands at Staplefield. There has been insufficient consultation for this experimental proposal. It appears that not all options have been considered including piping the waste to another existing works for treatment. The proposal which includes hard landscaping will have a detrimental impact on existing habitats and a detrimental visual impact on the AONB. The Parish Council were urged to strongly object to this proposal.

A member of the public asked to speak regarding the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting. The approval of minutes is a matter for Councillors alone and so his request was denied.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Nuala Hampshire.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Amanda declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6b.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th February 2024.

The minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning decisions by MSDC.

The following decisions were noted:

- a. DM/23/3178 description: removal of lantern to allow for new roof over proposed side extension location: St Margarets, Brook Street, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath. Granted.
- b. DM/23/1893 description: nonmaterial amendment to application DM/16/5136- to extend the external floor area and alter various windows and glazed areas. Location: Pinks Wood, Bishopstone Lane, Ansty. Granted. The Clerk will query why the Parish Council did not receive this application to consider.

6. Planning applications.

- a. WSCC/007/24 Location Staplefield Wastewater Treatment Works, Cuckfield Road, Staplefield, West Sussex, RH17 6ES Proposal Installation of Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) and associated infrastructure at land adjacent to

Staplefield Wastewater Treatment Works. Bob and Crispin both spoke in support of the residents' concerns. The visual impact is likely to be much greater than the impression given in the leaflet circulated to residents. The proposal is the first of its kind and it was agreed that more information is required. The Clerk was asked to contact Southern Water to request a meeting in Staplefield Village Hall.

WSSC Councillor Pete Bradbury confirmed that this is a significant and contentious application and that he has arranged for it to be considered by the WSSC Planning Committee instead of delegated powers. That meeting is likely to be in May and up to three people may speak at the meeting, this could be Parish Councillors or residents.

- b. DM/24/0165 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Conversion of existing garage structure to habitable space. Site Address: 5 Pullman Avenue, Haywards Heath. Amanda Saunders declared her interest and left the room for this item. No objection.
- c. DM/23/3133 Application Type: Full Application Proposal: Use of land as a travellers caravan site consisting of 1 no pitch, containing a residential mobile home, dayroom and associated development. (Corrected plans received 14th February showing revised location of development). Site Address: Land At Highfields, Brighton Road, Warninglid. The Parish Council object to this application as it is not in the Neighbourhood Plan and is for a new dwelling in open countryside.
- d. DM/24/0420 Application Type: Lawful Development Certificate -Existing Proposal: To retain the use of the property known as The Garage Flat as a residential dwelling. This is an application to establish whether the development is lawful. This will be a legal decision where the planning merits of the existing use cannot be taken into account. Site Address: Holmsted Farm House, Staplefield Road, Cuckfield. Noted.
- e. DM/24/0433 Application Type: Full Application Proposal: Visitor and community hub, outdoor learning and adventure playground, community growing area and historic botanical propagation polytunnels, new and improved access and connectivity infrastructure, wider landscaping and biodiversity enhancements and associated works. Site Address: Borde Hill Garden, Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath. No objection.
- f. DM/24/0529 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Proposed first floor rear extension above an existing single storey flat roof. The extension is proposed to have painted brickwork, pitched roof and windows/french doors to match the existing elsewhere on the property. Juliet balcony proposed to the rear. Site Address: Willow Tree Cottage, Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath. No objection.
- g. DM/24/0346 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Erection of 3 bay garage timber framed garage with enclosed ground floor workshop and first floor studio space. Site Address: Keepers Cottage, Pickwell Lane, Ansty. No objection.

7. Updates from District and County Councillors.

MSDC Councillors reported that in common with other Councils they are using reserves and Treasury Management Funds to maintain services because their precept cannot rise above 3%. This situation is largely due to inflation, and they do not expect to be using reserves in the longer term.

WSCC Councillor reported that WSCC have a balanced budget without dipping into reserves. They have also invested in new machinery to improve pothole repairs.

8. Monthly Finances

The financial statement including the schedule of payments, the receipts and bank reconciliation were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

9. Arrangements to replace the retiring Clerk.

The Clerk is retiring after 22 years with the Parish Council. The deadline for applications is 15th March, although some applications have already been received. It was agreed that an interview panel consisting of a representative from each of the three large wards will be created with interviews being conducted asap. Final appointment and salary details will be ratified at the April meeting.

10. Deaks Lane gates.

Simon met with a representative from WSCC Highways and identified four possible sites for the gates. Proposed designs for the gates and signs need to be sent to Highways so that they can issue a license. The Horse Society can provide signs free of charge.

The effectiveness of the gates was queried, but WSCC Highways have evidence to show that they can be effective, especially at drawing attention to the narrowness of the lane and the other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and horses.

Simon also spoke with Highways regarding the traffic approaching the Ansty roundabout from the Burgess Hill side of the Cuckfield Road. They will consider some sort of measure to slow traffic down including possibly rumble strips and signage providing community support can be demonstrated.

11. Grant request for parish community events.

The Parish Council has regularly supported Staplefield Fun Day and it was suggested that it could support other community events around the parish with small grants. Councillors will submit requests for consideration at the next meeting.

12. Proposal for a 20mph speed limit in Cuckfield.

Cuckfield Parish Council have proposed a 20mph speed limit in Cuckfield. They are conducting a consultation. Pete Bradbury is conducting his own consultation which will also incorporate a consultation on parking charges in villages.

13. Staplefield pavilion plans.

Some Councillors recently met at the pavilion and confirmed that whilst the exterior is now looking quite smart the interior is very poor. Their recommendation is to make it

into an open plan flexible space, strip out the old plumbing and upgrade the toilets. James and George will create a plan so that quotes can be obtained with a view to getting the work done in the Autumn after the cricket season. The showers will remain out of action for the cricket season this year and the caretaker will be asked to run the water at each visit to mitigate against legionella.

14. Minor matters and items for the next agenda

- a. **Staplefield drainage scheme and appointment of solicitor.** The Clerk provided a brief outline of the WSCC drainage scheme at Staplefield which will address the water running through the village. Some of the work will need to be carried out on land owned by the Parish Council and so WSCC will need an easement. The Clerk will contact a solicitor.
- b. **Ansty Bus shelter.** The flooding at the new bus shelter in Ansty has now been addressed.
- c. **Additional SID (Speed Indicator Device) charger.** The Clerk will purchase an additional charger and battery for use in Staplefield.

MEETING CLOSED

Draft Minutes subject to confirmation.

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council Monthly Finances: 11th March 2024

Transactions for approval

Voucher	Date	Supplier / customer	Account name	Receipts	Payments		
					Net	VAT	Total
361	08/02/2024	EDF Energy	Staplefield Pavilion		39.05	1.95	41
362	15/02/2024	Information Commissioners Office	Subscriptions		35	0	35
363	20/02/2024	O2	Equipment and software		11	2.2	13.2
364	28/02/2024	Castle Water	Staplefield Pavilion		21.43	0	21.43
365	11/03/2024	MSDC	Dog Bins		365.04	73.01	438.05
366	11/03/2024	velocity	District Plan/Cuckstye		1500	300	1800
367	11/03/2024	Westcotec Ltd	Boards, signs, shelters		175.5	35.1	210.6
368	11/03/2024	WSCC	staff salaries and on costs		2825.11	0	2825.11
369	11/03/2024	Steve Tilbury Consulting	District Plan/Cuckstye		200	40	240.00
372	11/03/24	BlockBusters	Misc Payments (Gulley clearance)		180	36	216.00
373	8/03/24	EDF Energy	Staplefield Pavilion		39.05	1.95	41.00

Bank Transfers

371	06/03/2024	From Deposit Acct	-20000	0	-20000
370	06/03/2024	To Current Acct	20000	0	20000

February 2024 Bank Reconciliation

Council name

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council

Bank account

Current Acct and Deposit Acct

Balance per bank statements at 29/02/2023		Current Acct	31,021.21
Uncleared Payments			
Date	Customer/Supplier	Reference	Amount
12/02/2024	Haywards Heath Rugby Club		-20,000.00
12/02/2024	WSCC		-2,773.27
TOTAL			-22,773.27

TOTAL NET Current Account BALANCES AT 29/02/2024

8,247.94

Balance per bank statement at 29/02/2024

Deposit Acct

144,279.06

TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES AT 29/02/2024

152,527.00

Cashbook

Opening_balance	113112.89
Current Acct Total receipts	125,158.64
Current Acct Total payments	-88,731.29
Deposit Acct Total receipts	2986.76

Deposit Acct Total payments	0.00
Closing balance per cash book (must equal net bank balances above)	152,527.00

Signed by Chair of Parish Council meeting 11th March 2024