

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Stalisfield Village Hall on 26 July 2021

Present: Cllr Cat Horn (Chair), Cllr Tracy Dove, Cllr Chris Norwood and Cllr Nina Williams;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Rich Lehmann, Ward Member David Simmons and two members of the public.

1. Councillors Vacancy

Cllr Horn reported that Cllr Alexander has resigned and thanked her for her contribution to the Council. The vacancy has been advertised and the Council can now co-opt a Councillor.

2. Apologies

All Members were present.

3. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on 4 May 2021

Cllr Horn read the minutes.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Address: Derbies Barn Stalisfield Road Stalisfield Faversham Kent ME13 0HN

Ref: 21/500781/FULL

Proposal: Conversion of barn to residential use, including alterations to fenestration and roof.

Ref: 21/500782/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to barn, to allow conversion to residential use.

A decision is yet to be made.

Gazebos

Cllr Horn said the Council wanted to help the Village Hall to facilitate outside events especially during the current global pandemic. It was agreed to purchase one large gazebo and four smaller ones.

Cllr Dove said the Village Hall Committee made a donation towards the project.

Litter bin

The Clerk said that Swale Borough Council will provide a bin and empty it, the site needs to be agreed.

Cllr Norwood said a bin could be sited next to the picnic bench, near the hedge.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Swale Borough Council for a bin. Cllr Horn will liaise regarding the site.

6. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

SBCllr Simmons said he had nothing to report.

KCCllr Lehmann asked if verges and 20mph speed limits were of interest to the parish.
Cllr Dove said that previously it had been a major issue to change the speed limit as traffic calming would be needed.
KCCllr Lehmann said a traffic survey would be carried out and if the average speed is 27mph or below a 20mph limit could be put in without street furniture. Previously 30mph limits had to have street lights but this might be unpopular in rural areas.
Cllr Horn said a 30mph limit would be a compromise, currently it is the national speed limit.
Cllr Dove said a scheme without street furniture would be acceptable.

Cllr Dove said the verges are an issue and also pot holes are a problem in the parish.
KCCllr Lehmann said the weather has impacted on verge maintenance as it slowed the contractors work and also caused rapid vegetation growth.
Cllr Norwood said the danger is on the bends as you cannot see round them
ACTION: KCCllr Lehmann to ascertain verge maintenance schedule.
SBCllr Simmons said most rural verges are cut once a year, hedge cutting takes place in January and February.

7. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 21/503298/TCA

Address: Oak Hall House Stalisfield Road Stalisfield ME13 0HX

Proposal: Works to tree in conservation area T1 Ash - Fell

Cllr Horn said the tree has ash dieback disease.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

ii. Ref: 21/503842/FULL

Address: Former Stables And Wagon Lodge Woodsell Farm Hillside Road Stalisfield Faversham Kent ME13 0JF

Proposal: Change of use of disused stables and Wagon Lodge into a holiday-lets

Councillors considered the proposal and concerns raised by residents noting that there are issues regarding the access and water supply. There would be an impact due to increased traffic movements to and from the site; the site plan shows a number of proposed ponds being developed which seem to be over the existing water supply to houses and this could cause damage; the proposal could provide local employment; the proposed new access road is close to neighbouring trees which could be harmed; the access road would cross over a Public Right of Way; guests from the holiday lets might go to The Plough and this would help support a rural business; it is a useful regeneration of derelict buildings; currently there are nine houses using the water supply and if the development, five holiday lets and a cottage, uses this supply there would be more than a 50% increase in usage which would be detrimental to the existing properties, a new supply or bore hole would need to be provided; it is a private water supply; the plans show an outside patio area which would have a noise impact on neighbouring properties; people walking up and down the track to the pub would also have a noise impact on the properties; the new road would affect the landscape.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the proposals as the access road is not suitable; there are issues with the water supply which needs to be addressed; the ponds will be on top of the water pipe; the access across the footpath has not been addressed; the social space would create a noise problem for neighbours and needs to be behind the development; the site plan does not show a neighbouring property which will be affected by the development; there will be loss of privacy to neighbours.

8. Finance

i. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors approved the Accounting Statement which was signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors agreed to certify the Parish Council exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the certificate was duly signed by Cllr Horn and the Clerk.

Councillors considered the comments made by the Independent Internal Auditor and noted that the past year had been difficult due to the pandemic and it was not possible to sign off invoices and accounts. Internal controls will be easier now the Council is meeting in person.

iv. Councillor expenses

There were none.

v. Invoices

There were none.

9. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Thursday 21 October at 7.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.34pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: 25 October 2021