

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office: 2 St Mary's School, High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6EU

Clerk: Nicola Duke, April Rise, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN 01373 864127

Minutes of a virtual (Zoom) extraordinary meeting of the Full Parish Council held on
Monday 15th February 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr Buffery-King (Chair), Cllr Leonard, Cllr Price, Cllr Jones, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Boardman, Cllr Willis and Cllr Cottle.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk) and 30 members of the public.

Open Forum

The Chair confirmed that Standing Orders would be suspended during agenda item 20.079c) in order to enable residents to make comment on the proposals for the temporary structure. She confirmed with those present that there were no other issues residents wished to raise during the Open Forum.

	AGENDA ITEM
20.077	Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given None.
20.078	Declaration of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
20.079	To hear and gather thoughts from parishioners with regard to assessing a need for a new temporary structure to be placed on parish land. a) Peter Hornsey presented the proposals for a temporary structure and a slide show of relevant images was displayed on screen. b) Cllr Beaven summarised the Parish Council position, clarifying that the proposed structure would need to be supported by a group of volunteers and that, if enough support was available, the PC would be looking to form a working group to take the project forward. It was reported that the PC would not be responsible for the structure however, as it would be erected on PC land members needed to be satisfied on issues relating to demand and detail. <i>At this point Standing Orders were suspended.</i> c) Parishioners were given the chance to speak, and a summary of the comments made is attached to the minutes. A straw poll of residents was taken with eleven residents voting in support of the proposals and ten voting against. Five

	<p>residents had expressed a willingness to be involved in a working group to take the project forward, with a further two residents saying they would consider being involved.</p> <p><i>At this point Standing Orders were re-instated.</i></p> <p>d) The Parish Clerk summarised the seven comments which had been received by the PC prior to the meeting; reporting that of those one resident had reported no objection to the proposals, one had expressed support, one was unsure and four were against.</p> <p>e) The Parish Council considered whether the proposal for a temporary structure had sufficient support to ask the volunteers to form a Working Group. The overall resident 'vote' including comments received prior to the meeting resulted in twelve residents being in favour and fourteen being against the proposals. Following debate, the PC resolved that there was an insufficient level of support expressed to take the project forward. On that basis, the proposals for a temporary structure would not be moved forward at this stage.</p>
20.080	<p>Date of next meeting Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.</p>

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

Residents Comments

The following comments were made during agenda item 20.079 c):

- The situation with regard to public events was uncertain due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The long term future of St Mary's playing field had not yet been determined.
- There was insufficient parking at St Mary's and Acreshort Park for a large number of visitors.
- Restrictions would be required on the use of the structure out of hours.
- That policing arrangements would need to be established, as the structure might be misused.
- The structure would result in an increase in noise and litter.
- That the facilities available – such as electric and toilets – would need to be determined.
- Cleaning and monitoring arrangements would need to be established.
- There were concerns as to how events at the structure would impact neighbouring residents' quality of life.
- That the erection of a structure during the summer months would impact the grass cutting regime.
- There were already four marquees available for hire in the village.
- The hiring arrangements and revenue generated would need to be carefully managed.
- The structure and its events might negatively impact on neighbours' privacy.
- The structure and its events might detract from the peaceful nature of the fields and impact on the play areas.

- That St Mary's was a large field and the structure might have less impact if situated there.
- Both proposed locations were windy and would create issues for the structure's covering.
- The available gazebos were labour intensive to erect and a more permanent structure would be easier to use.
- The structure would enable events to re-start post lockdown with minimum fuss.
- Parking was an issue although the structure would mostly be used by local residents, who would walk.
- Winter storage for the structure would need to be arranged.
- That the village generator could be used to provide power to the structure.
- If the structure was to remain erected for summer months planning permission would likely be required.
- It was confirmed that the cover would be left in situ between events.
- The structure may present a health and safety risk given children may climb on it.
- The proposal was a good idea although the need should be firmly established.
- It was not felt that the structure would impact on the use of the village hall.
- The structure was a good idea for open air events, and would provide shelter from inclement weather.
- Sufficient volunteer manpower would need to be in place to run the structure properly.
- It was confirmed that the Village Hall Committee would not be able to take responsibility for the structure.
- The structure would provide a nice 'break out' area for events such as yoga, cream teas and SAGE events.
- Music and parties would need to be 'managed' to ensure minimum impact on neighbours.
- A scoping document would need to be prepared to cover all the details of the proposal.
- There were some doubts that a real need had been established for a temporary structure.
- Without a 'permanent' cover the structure would provide little real benefit.