

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Leonard (Chair), Cllr Ash, Cllr Tapper, Cllr Cottle and Cllr Jones.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk), Wiltshire Councillor J Seed and 9 members of the public.

Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern: None.

	AGENDA ITEM
2022.50	Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given Cllr Dallison due to family commitments, accepted.
2022.51	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate Cllr Leonard declared an interest in planning application PL/2022/06464 - 1 ST MARYS, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EN as a near neighbour. Cllr Tapper declared an interest in the correspondence relating to the wildflower verge planting as the sponsor of the project was known to him.
2022.52	Minutes of Council Meetings The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st August 2022 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Cottle).
2022.53	Wiltshire Council Report Wiltshire Councillor Seed reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In relation to a previous query regarding The Lamb at The Strand Cllr Seed reported that work there was coming to an end and that there was likely to be a change of landlord. It was expected that the outstanding issues would be resolved under the new management.• There were no further updates available regarding The Sanctuary, Dark Lane North; Cllr Seed reported that the new owners were working with the Planning Department at Wiltshire Council to resolve outstanding enforcement issues.

2022.54

Planning Applications

None at time of issue.

Members received and considered planning applications received after the issue of the agenda (*where the response time falls outside of the meeting schedule*).

PL/2022/06464 - 1 ST MARYS, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EN - New single storey dwelling – Members noted that the application was a resubmission of plans relating to an expired permission and further noted that the Council had objected to that application on the grounds of the height of the building.

At this point Standing Orders were suspended in order to enable a resident to address the Council.

The resident made the following comments:

- The ownership of the bank affecting the application was queried and clarification sought as to whether its onward maintenance would continue to be managed by the Parish Council.
- The plans appeared to indicate that the bank would be reduced in size and clarification was sought on this and whether, if this was to be the case, the Parish Council had been approached as the landowner.
- The existing hedge did not appear to be in a healthy condition and the Parish Council was asked if it would consider requesting a condition on any grant of planning permission that some form of hedging must remain in place to protect the street scene.
- The previous planning permission had contained a condition on the windows and the Parish Council was asked to consider that this condition be extended to the current application, if permission was to be granted.
- The plans contained no information on heating and clarification was sought as to the type of heating to be installed and, if heat source pumps or oil, clarification as to the siting of the associated units was sought.
- The previous application had provided for the installation of timber windows however, the current application referenced the installation of PVC windows; the resident asked for a condition that Wiltshire Council approve the colour should the application be permitted.

At this point Standing Orders were reinstated.

Following debate, it was resolved to request an extension so that the application could be considered at the October meeting; such an extension to be requested due to the late receipt of the application and the concerns expressed by a resident. The Clerk would advise the Council should this extension not be granted and endeavour to ascertain the land ownership query raised by the resident.

<p>2022.55</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan for Steeple Ashton</p> <p>Members considered the next steps following a zoom meeting held on 30th August 2022 with three potential planning consultants (August minutes refer). Members noted that the application for the area designation (for the entire parish) had been submitted to Wiltshire Council and was being progressed.</p> <p>Following debate, it was agreed to ask Planning Street and Master Land Planning to provide a staged and costed Project Plan; which would include confirmation of the consultants input, role and expected attendance at meetings within each stage. The costed plans would be presented to the October meeting of the Council for an appointment to be made. Members agreed to bring forward the November Full Council meeting to October and defer the October Planning meeting to November so that this meeting could focus on Neighbourhood Planning; hopefully, with the new consultant in attendance.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to chase Wiltshire Council for updates on the Area Designation application and the request for a Rural Housing Needs Survey.</p>
<p>2022.56</p>	<p>Steeple Ashton Recreation and Community Development Group</p> <p><i>At this point Standing Orders were suspended to enable representatives of the Group to address the Council.</i></p> <p>A representative from the SARCD Group provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the resignation of Cllr Dampier a new Chair of the Group was being sought and Cllr Ash was asked to consider if he would accept the role. • The group were continuing to look into available grants, including those available from the Melksham Area Board. The PC was asked for confirmation as to the funding it held towards the project. The Chair subsequently confirmed that the reserves held a total of £10,000 towards the redevelopment of St Mary's (£5,000 for each of the two expected stages) and a further £2,500 in revenue funding for required repairs to existing equipment. • The group was planning a consultation exercise to establish the wishes of the village in terms of play provision; this would include consultation on the future of football at St Mary's. • Liaison had taken place with the Acreshort Park Group and the Charitable Trust. • The School Building Management Committee (SBMC) had been contacted to ask if the hard standing at the rear of the building might be available for recreational use; it had been confirmed that this was unlikely due to the

	<p>impact on the tenants. It was therefore a possibility that some hard standing would need to be provided at St Mary's for ball games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the group had secured free trees and hedging plants from the Wildlife Trust. • Representatives of the group had met with the Play Area Inspector to identify remedial works required on the existing equipment. It was subsequently confirmed that the Chair and the Clerk were liaising with contractors for quotes for this work and the issue would be an agenda item for the October PC meeting. <p>The Group had the following questions for the Parish Council, which were asked and answered as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ash was asked if he would be content to accept the Chairmanship of the Group; Cllr Ash responded that he would defer his decision on this point until the next working group meeting. • The PC was asked to provide transparent information on the costs of providing football facilities at St Mary's; the Chair confirmed that, due to recent changes to the arrangements with The Stiffs, the costs were now breaking even. Given the increase in utility bills however, this situation would be kept under careful review. • The PC was asked whether it had any central document storage available to the group. The Clerk confirmed that documents would be stored on the PC's servers and it was agreed information would be published on the website to ensure documents were publicly available. • The Group asked the PC to consider carrying out some works to the hedges at St Mary's, which were very overgrown. This work was approved and Cllr Cottle would liaise with the contractor accordingly. • The PC was asked to consider designating the recreation areas as Local Green Spaces in its emerging Neighbourhood Plan; it was confirmed that this would be an element of the Plan. <p>It was clarified and understood that, as a working group of the Parish Council, any planned actions and consultations would need to be submitted to the PC for approval prior to being taken forward.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the representatives from the Group for attending.</p> <p><i>At this point Standing Orders were re-instated.</i></p>
<p>2022.57</p>	<p>Grant Application</p> <p>Members considered a grant application from SA Brownies (information previously circulated) and it was resolved to award the amount of £300 (proposed Cllr Tapper, seconded Cllr Jones).</p>

2022.58	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>School Building Management Committee (SBMC) re: next meeting – members noted that the next SBMC meeting was being arranged and, following the resignation of Cllr Dampier, agreed that Cllr Tapper be appointed as the new representative to the organisation. The Clerk would advise the SBMC accordingly.</p>
2022.59	<p>Councillor and Clerk Reports</p> <p><i>At this point Standing Orders were suspended to enable residents to address the Council on points of interest.</i></p> <p>Members received any reports and update from clerk and members including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Platinum Jubilee tree planting (August minutes refer) – Members noted a suggestion to plant an ash tree variant (information previously circulated) and agreed to approve the proposal subject to the agreement of the neighbouring homeowners. Cllrs Cottle and Jones would liaise with residents accordingly. The Chair suggested that the CPRE award plaques sited in the vicinity could be relocated to the Village Hall and it was agreed to list this as an agenda item for the October meeting. b) Wildflower planting – Members noted the negative feedback which had been received about the signage provided by the sponsor, which was discussed with input from the sponsor. It was noted that the sign had now been removed. Members referenced a letter which had been sent to the PC about this matter and it was agreed that the Chair would draft a response for circulation and comment. It was further agreed that the Council should establish a Sponsorship Policy and the Clerk was asked to prepare a draft for consideration at the next PC meeting. The Council thanked the sponsor for his kind sponsorship and dedicated support of the project; expressing disappointment at the negativity the sponsor had received and the problems this had created. Members also noted that the vast majority of comments received about the wildflower planting had been extremely positive. Members discussed the future of the project and Cllr Cottle expressed the hope that the wildflower planting could be expanded to cover at least a mile in length. Cllr Cottle suggested that a group of interested parties should meet to discuss the plans for the development of the verges and explore funding options. This was agreed and the possible links to the St Mary’s development plans were noted. Cllr Cottle highlighted the hedging grants available to sites within the Trowbridge bat migration zone and undertook to liaise with the Recreation and Development Group in respect of this. c) Highways and CSW reports – Cllr Jones reported that the SID unit was not operating correctly and that this would be raised with the manufacturers if

not resolved. Cllr Tapper provided a report on Community Speed Watch and the team were thanked by the PC for their efforts:

- a. The CSW unit was shared with West Ashton Parish Council and had been used six times since the beginning of August.
 - b. The response from the local community to the launch of the CSW had been tremendously supportive and suggestions had been received for appropriate days and times for the CSW to operate.
 - c. The team normally operated for about an hour and had been getting reasonable results. The busier the roads, the less the speeds being recorded.
 - d. As a result of the CSW operations 62 letters were being sent by the Police to offending motorists.
 - e. Additional surveys had been requested from Wiltshire Council to further expand the sites from which the CSW team could operate.
 - f. Further volunteers were being sought – the team currently had 3 however, 6 was reported to be an ideal number as this would provide the team with resilience. Anyone interested was invited to contact Cllr Tapper.
- d) Play area repairs – St Marys & Newleaze – Members noted that the Chair and the Clerk were liaising with contractors to obtain quotes for the remedial repairs required and that this would be an agenda item for the October 2022 meeting.
- e) Tree works - Newleaze & 3a High Street – The Clerk reported that the Tree Surgeon’s visit to 3a High Street had been delayed. The agreed replacement trees for this site would be listed as an agenda item for the October meeting. The Clerk was also asked to liaise with the Tree Surgeon to ask for the ash tree in the Newleaze play area to be checked for ash die back.
- f) Climate Group - future of group & tree planting – The Chair reported that the group had disbanded but was still active in tree planting. 400 trees were expected in late autumn with locations for the planting yet to be determined. It was agreed that any new tree planting should have appropriate tree guards and stakes. Cllr Cottle would investigate the associated costs and the Clerk would add the item to the agenda for the October meeting. A resident queried whether there was any planting advice from the Fire Service to mitigate fire risk and the Chair confirmed that the majority of the trees would be planted in the countryside and not in the village proper. Cllr Cottle would provide the Clerk with a map showing the location of the trees already planted, which would be filed and published on the website.

At this point Standing Orders were re-instated.

2022.60	Village Newsletter It was agreed to include the following items in the village newsletter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbourhood Planning update – Chair• Planning Applications and Decisions - Clerk• Tree planting – Chair• Request for new members – Clerk• CSW report – Cllr Tapper
2022.61	Date of next meeting Monday 4 th October 2022 – Full Council (swapped with the November meeting, which would now be Planning Only with a focus on Neighbourhood Planning).

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.54 pm.