

# 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  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Tapper (Chair in the absence of Cllr Leonard), Cllr Dallison, Cllr Jones, Cllr Petrie and Cllr Yates.

**In attendance:** Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk).

## 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
2023.122	<b>Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given</b> Cllr Leonard due to a family commitment, accepted. Cllr Cottle due to a family commitment, accepted.
2023.123	<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate</b> None.
2023.124	<b>Minutes of Council Meetings</b> The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on <b>4<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Dallison, seconded Cllr Yates).
2023.125	<b>Wiltshire Council Report</b> Wiltshire Councillor Seed had sent apologies for absence.
2023.126	<b>Planning Applications and Consultations</b>  <b>PL/2024/02211</b> - Raydown Farm House, Edington, Westbury, BA13 4NW - Closure of existing access's and creation of new access – No Objection (proposed Cllr Dallison, seconded Cllr Petrie).  Members considered a planning application received after the issue of the agenda ( <i>where the response time fell outside of the meeting schedule</i> ).  <b>PL/2024/02820</b> - Midbrooks, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6HW - Demolition of existing dilapidated outbuilding, creation of new stable area and

	change of use to equestrian – No Objection (proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Yates).
<b>2023.127</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr Tapper reported that the NPSG was next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April and the topic groups would be reporting back on the draft papers for their areas.</p>
<b>2023.128</b>	<p><b>St Mary's Playing Field – Grant Application</b></p> <p>Members received, noted and discussed the grant application form for planting at St Mary's (previously circulated). Cllr Petrie spoke to the application, reporting that the group had been in touch with an organisation that had carried out free planting at the Bulkington playing field. Members had attended the parish and been impressed with the project. It had been confirmed that the planting would be free and had an associated commuted sum (of between £13,000 and £15,000) for onward management and maintenance. Cllr Petrie confirmed that the working group would develop a planting plan to complement the siting of the planned new equipment. It was noted that the strategic planting plan would need to be endorsed by the PC as the landowner and the NPSG (to ensure it was in line with the emerging NP policies). Following debate, it was resolved to support the application and hold the associated commuted sum in an appropriately ringfenced account (proposed Cllr Dallison, seconded Cllr Petrie). The Chair asked for the PC's thanks to be passed to the working group for the work which had been done on this project.</p>
<b>2023.129</b>	<p><b>Council, Councillor and Clerk Reports</b></p> <p>Members received the below reports and updates from the clerk and members including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Community Policing – Cllr Tapper reported that the rural policing team had visited the Village Shop in March and the team were planning to attend the APM on 24 April 2024. The Neighbourhood Watch team would also be in attendance. Cllr Tapper reported that the recent visit to the shop had been productive and that the visual presence of the police was positive. Cllr Petrie reported that she had received a comment that it would also be helpful to promote the visits of the police via the newsletters as well as social media, which was not accessible by all residents. Cllr Tapper noted that the dates of visits may not be known in time for promotion in the magazine however, notices could be placed in the shop and on the parish noticeboards. Cllr Tapper would endeavour to obtain the dates for the visits two months in advance.</li> <li>b) Highways and LHFIFG – Cllr Tapper reported that there had been no meeting or updates since the March meeting. He confirmed that he would contact the Highways Engineer for any available updates on the dates for the outstanding works. It was noted the next LHFIFG meeting was scheduled for May 2024. Cllr Jones reported on the work which the Parish Steward had carried out on a recent visit to the parish. Cllr Petrie asked for the Steward to look at a drain issue in the parish, the details of which Cllr Jones would pass</li> </ul>

on. Members also noted a flooding issue at Stoney Gutter, which it was confirmed was being investigated by Wiltshire Council.

- c) Grounds maintenance contract 2024/25 – the Parish Clerk reported that the current contractor had sent a revised price based on the amended specification in the amount of £3,800. Members discussed the price and the contract price and, following debate, it was agreed that the Council would carry out a tender exercise with a final appointment to be made at the ACM in May. The current contractor would be asked to continue for the month of April and asked to either provide a schedule of works or give 24 hours' notice of attending the parish to enable the Council to address the access issues to St Mary's. It was also agreed to establish ownership of and access to the white line marker.
- d) D Day Event Planning – Cllr Petrie reported that she was in contact with the Village Hall and would be speaking with the local school to establish potential involvement. Events being organised by Keevil PC would also be promoted.
- e) Horse information signs – Cllr Petrie reported that she had attended a meeting on safer road use in Westbury, although there had been no horse rider representation from the village. It had been an informative meeting and it had been confirmed that signs would be provided free to parishes however, horse riders would need to register with the BHS and have an i-Horse app to report any issues experienced – reported issues would then trigger a 'triangle zone' requiring signage. Liaison would then take place with Wiltshire Council. The rural crime team had been at the meeting and had confirmed that all riders were advised to have helmet cameras. The police had promised to provide appropriate information links, which Cllr Petrie would promote on Facebook once received. Cllr Petrie confirmed that there was no further action which could be taken until and unless the horse riding community reported incidents. Cllr Tapper reported that he had received contact from a local resident who had confirmed he could assist with funding. It was agreed to list this matter as a standing agenda item.
- f) Potential defibrillator funding – Cllr Petrie reported that she had carried out research and confirmed that the British Heart Foundation did supply units free but that its funding had been suspended until September 2024. Government grants were available however, the application process was complex. It was noted that planning permission would be required to install a defibrillator on listed buildings although other options were available. Members noted that a location for a unit needed to be identified at Ashton Common. The prices of units were noted to range from £1,500 to £2,500 and electricity supply would need to be established and agreed. It was noted that the PC had previously agreed to proceed to install additional defibrillators, subject to funding. Members considered the allocation of funds to this project and it was resolved to vire the unallocated EMR in the amount of £2,242.25 to an EMR for the Defibrillator Project (proposed Cllr Dallison, seconded Cllr Yates). It was agreed to carry out some research into the option

	<p>of crowd funding and to look into applying to the central government fund. It was further agreed to make an initial approach to Wessex Water to explore the possibility of installing a unit at the pumping station at the bottom of Common Hill. Cllr Tapper would liaise with the Clerk in respect of this.</p>
<b>2023.130</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> None.</p>
<b>2023.131</b>	<p><b>Village Newsletter</b> The following items were agreed for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Rural policing report</li> <li>• Defibrillator project</li> <li>• Horse Information Signs and road safety</li> </ul>
<b>2023.132</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – Annual Council Meeting</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25 pm.