

Minutes of the Great Staughton Parish Council

held on 9 January 2025 – 7.30pm

Present:

R Jewell (BJ)	H Glanville (HG)	G Brittain (GB)
N Yates (NY)	L Goody (LG)	W Mumford (WM)
David Moore (DM)	James Duberly (JD)	

1. **Apologies for absence** – Jo Russell (Clerk) (JR), Helen Hopperton, Stephen Cawley, Ian Gardner
2. **Resident's Forum** – None present
3. **Declarations of Interest** – None.
4. **Reports from District and County Councillors** – None.
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024** – carried forward to next meeting.
6. **Matters arising:**
 - **Footpath 40 – Staughton Moor** – this has moved forward to the extent that it has now been reported to and taken up by Joshua Rutherford Head of Asset Management, BJ met at an unrelated meeting. Emails on the matter have been forwarded and they have agreed that it is unacceptable that we have been waiting 3 years for this to be addressed.
 - **New bin** – this is in place and the service level agreement with HDC to empty the bin has been signed.
 - **Blocked drains – The Green/The Highway** – we need to re-report these as there still appears to be significant surface water collecting on the road in these areas in heavy rain.
 - **Police checks re 20mpb speed limit** – carry forward to next meeting.
7. **Attendance at other meetings** – BJ attended three other meetings:
 - a. Highways Capital Improvement Program - A meeting organised by Cambridgeshire County Council on highways issues. It is now possible to view Highways programme/schedule of planned works online.
 - b. HDC Showcase meeting – indicating how important the Huntingdon and St. Neots areas are becoming with the proposed new rail and road connections and becoming a focal point for business development.
 - c. An East West Rail Consultation event. Information on the construction and routes was available for viewing and discussion. Ultimately, the scheme seems to be beneficial to give the area better public transport connections, however there does not been enough thought given to how people will access the new Tempsford Station. The PC agreed to submit a comment to this effect in response to the consultation.

8. **Roman Site Community Event** – communication has been ongoing with the archaeologist and the company and they are engaged with the school to host an event for the children during the day and the community in the evening. The parties are now trying to agree a mutually convenient date.

9. **Net Zero Projects** – this is a grant scheme available for Huntingdonshire villages, with funds of around £1M unspent by the previous mayor available for community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions. HG has already submitted an expression of interest for the Village Hall to instal an electric boiler. NY intends to apply for the Playing Field Committee for solar panel batteries for the pavilion. It was also agreed the BJ would submit an expression of interest on behalf of the PC for funds to create a cycle way between Great Staughton and Hail Weston.

10. Highways

- LHI bid 24/25 – a meeting has now been held to review the technical details of the proposals to improve the pedestrian crossing. Highways have noted this is a priority job to be carried out ASAP.
- LHI bid 25/26 – It was agreed that BJ would submit an application to purchase another MVAS sign that could be sited, in the main, on the post located near the school and solar panels for the other posts, making moving the sign from one location to another more straightforward. Though not part of an LHI bid, it was also agreed that we would ask Ian Garnder to contact Highways to seek advice on improving matters on The Causeway where the speed limit jumps from 20-40-20mph over a very short distance.
- Blocked Highway in Perry – WM – carry forward.
- Drain – The Town – the drainage team met councillors on site in December and saw that the ditches at the top of the run are full of water. There is a blockage somewhere in front of the houses, which will be the homeowners' responsibility, but before asking them to clear blockages, Anglian Water/CCC needs to establish where the water is supposed to flow into the storm water drain as the location is currently unknown and may also be blocked. In the meantime, the CC has promised to put up signage to warn drivers of black ice and to grit the road. BJ is chasing this and will continue to do so.
- Highways Capital Improvement Program – as noted at 7 above.

11. Planning

- Fives Acres Enforcement Issues – cf.
- Wyboston Garden Village/developments in Beds near A1 – ongoing – cf.
- 22/01813/FUL Land East and West of Little Staughton Solar Farm – comments submitted re Rights of Way – cf.
- 24/02336/S73 The Orchard Garden Farm, The Town – Variation of Condition 2 – our original objections were submitted in 2018. The application was approved. This is an application to amend the approved application by taking away a 2 storey building and extending a single storey building instead. No objections.
- Appeal APP/H0520/D/24/3353088 – 73 The Highway – proposed garage, new boundary, wall and oil tank – we had no objection to the original application and have no comment on the appeal.
- 24/02154/HHFUL – 41 Beachampstead Road – proposed side extension with roof alterations and new cladding – no objections.

12. **Cashbook** – approved.

13. **Budget and Precept 2025/26** – it was agreed to increase the Precept to £23,000 in order to maintain current balances, with projected expenditure for the forthcoming year being slightly more than £23,000. This is the first increase in 5 years and necessary for prudent accounting.

14. **Correspondence** – CCC has written to advise that its plans for introducing electric vehicle infrastructure have been scrapped as it was essentially too complicated to pursue, mainly for legal reasons.

15. **Neighbourhood Plan** – BJ reported that HDC is now out under Regulation 16 consultation with our plan. The closing date is 5 February. Thereafter, the plan goes to an independent examiner for approval. This is an 8 week process, which may mean that the referendum for villagers to vote on the plan might tie in with scheduled elections in May.

16. Reports from:

- a. Village Hall Committee – HG reported that all is going well. A solar panel installation is currently underway, to include a battery to store surplus power. HG is also looking into funding to replace the existing oil boiler with an electric one, that would then of course be powered by the electricity generated by the solar panels.
- b. Playing Field Committee – no report.
- c. Speed Watch – DM reported that 3 people have now come forward and expressed an interest in getting involved. One has completed the training, a second has scheduled the training and a third is a former volunteer who may need to update their training. Once training is completed, this will mean the volunteers should be able to get out soon. More volunteers welcome!

17. Parish Matters

- BJ has reported a faulty streetlight at 12 The Highway
- NY advised that Life Magazine will be having an AGM on 16 January. Rob Young will be stepping down as Editor in the summer after 15 years of hard work, for which heartfelt thanks are extended. We will therefore be discussing the future of the magazine.
- The annual village litterpick will take place on 29 March 2025.
- HG is going to be training as a community first responder and will be asking the organisers of the scheme to write in to the PC to request a donation towards costs, which will benefit the village by having two (there is already one) trained first responders with their own bag of equipment.

18. East Park Energy Solar Farm – cf.

19. Meeting dates for 2025 –

20 March, 17 April (Parish Assembly), 14 May (AGM), 3 July, 18 September and 13 November.

Meeting closed 9.03pm

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20/3/2025