

Agenda

A Meeting of Staploe Parish Council will be Held at 7.45pm on Thursday 18th January 2024 in the Meeting Room at Wyboston Village Hall.

Apologies for absence

2024/001. Declarations of Interest (7.45-7.46)

2024/002. Public Open Forum (7.46-8.01)

2024/003. Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2023 (8.01-8.03)

2024/004. Solar Farms – Discussion with MP Richard Fuller (8.03-8.20)

Consider the implications of extensive solar farms in our area given the presence of the Eaton Socon substation in our parish.

- Could there be further solar farms in the area in addition to the High Wood (x2), Cobholden and Eastpark?
- Does the government have a policy for solar farm development?
- Why is there no policy to put panels on roofs – residential and warehousing / commercial?
- Bedford Borough Council had allocated our area for wind energy not solar

2024/005. Borough Councillor J. Cox report (8.20-8.30)

2024/006. A428 Project Grant Funding (8.30-8.45).

- **Community Fund up to £15,000**
 - Consider priorities for the Community Fund for grants of up to £15,000 for projects in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire that support local economy, skills and employment; support and connect communities and/or enhance the environment.
 - Current suggestions: play equipment for Duloe Playing Field, replacement decking at the Community Cabins, refurbishment of the interior of the Community Cabins, replacement noticeboards, speed indicator devices, funding to get the village hall project to the stage where builders can quote.
- **Social Value Fund with grants between £15,000 and £200,000.**
 - Consider priorities for the Social Value Fund. The project or initiative must fall near the proposed route, and will meet one of the following criteria:
 - Economic prosperity – investing in new skills, jobs, supply chains and delivering improvements in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire
 - Improving the environment – making sustainable decisions that conserve natural resources and enhance ecosystems
 - Community wellbeing – addressing health-related issues and improving connectivity, amenities, education, and heritage programmes for communities
 - Equality, diversity, and inclusion – supporting the creation of a more equal society by increasing opportunities for under-represented groups

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Other criteria for Social Value Fund applications: linked to or is a direct response to the A428 scheme, includes capital costs only, must be completed and invoiced by 31 March 2027, and maximises opportunities for partnership or joint working.

Current suggestions include: average speed cameras in Staploe / Duloe, purchasing the ex Traveller Site in Upper Staploe for a wildlife and biodiversity area, building the village hall and paying for a Community Fibre Partnership to get fibre to the premises to the whole parish.

2024/007. Planning (8.45-8.55)

Report on the following planning applications:

Application number	Type	Description	Location	Deadline	Link
23/02678/AGR	Agricultural determination	Agricultural barn with 'lean to' section to one side	Tally Ho Gypsy Lane Staploe St Neots PE19 5JF	10/01/2024	23/02678/AGR
23/02649/CPNQ	Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house	Prior notification for change of use from an Agricultural building to a dwellinghouse(s) (Use Class C3) including associated building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building. Not a planning application.	Lower Honeydon Farm Honeydon Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 2LR	01/02/2024	23/02649/CPNQ
23/02335/FUL	Full planning application	New agricultural access.	Land At Manor Farm Duloe Lane Duloe St Neots PE19 5HQ	20/12/2023	23/02335/FUL
23/02578/FUL	Full planning application	Erection of bungalow and car port following demolition of existing dwelling	Cottage Farm Gypsy Lane Staploe St Neots PE19 5JE	01/01/2024	23/02578/FUL

2024/008. Village Hall, Community Cabins, Playing Field and Football Club (8.55-9.00)

- Football cabin hire agreement updated and signed – cabins are hired, field is free of charge.
- PAT testing

2024/009. Highways and Rights of Way (9.00-9.05)

- Grit bin needs filling in Manor Farm Lane, Honeydon
- Request for new grit bin in Honeydon Lane refused – consider buying a bin for residents to use (approx. £69.20 for a 50kg bin).
- Overnight road closures A1

2024/010. Ex Traveller Site Update (9.05-9.07)

On 11th January 2024 at Bedford County Court the Judge agreed an order for the sale of the land. The terms of the order are that the landowner now has until 12th February to settle the debt. If that does not happen then Bedford Borough Council will take possession of the land and can sell it. The means of selling the property are to be considered by the Council. Any funds left over from the sale after the debts have been settled will go to the landowner.

2024/011. Neighbourhood Plan Update (9.07-9.10)

- Green infrastructure plan – BRCC are currently assessing sites for green space allocations. Members of the committee to meet BRCC to agree action plan
- Technical Support (free from Locality)
 - Design Codes – meeting 19th January
 - Housing Needs Assessment – meeting 26th January

2024/012. Finance (9.10-9.30)

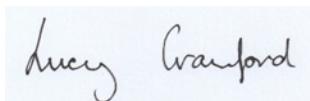
- Receipts and Payments
- Bank reconciliation and balance of earmarked reserves
- Performance against budget to date
- Precept requested
 - Banking: Unity account open – transfer savings, Barclays mandate updated

2024/013. Assets (9.30-9.37)

- Defibrillators
 - Two new ones received. 50% funding from government, 50% from Ward Fund
 - To be installed by post box at Falling Water House and Duloe Community Cabins.
 - Offer £35 to hosts at Falling Water House to cover electricity costs.
 - New owner of the Old Chapel is now inspecting the defibrillator there. Adult and paediatric pads replaced. £35 paid to cover electricity.
- Old PC laptop – wiped, windows reset and donated to person in need. Camera and sound unsuitable for online meetings and laptop becoming obsolete.
- Litter bin in Shakers Way – burned, insurance have replaced it
- Damaged street light from Duloe Butts – damaged when hit by a vehicle during icy weather. Awaiting quote for replacement from Andy Muskett.

2022/014. Review Policies and registers (9.37-9.45)

- Review policy for handling planning enforcement reports – consider including a stipulation that if the person reporting does not want to report it directly to the Borough Council (which is anonymous) and the issue relates to or directly affects one of the following then the Parish Council may consider reporting this directly to the Council:
 - A right of way or highway
 - A watercourse
 - Properties that are not immediately adjacent to the site
- Review internal audit process
- Review equality and diversity policy



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