

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH JULY 2017 AT 5PM, STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Joan Bird, Michael Clark (in the chair), Ian Talbot, Ros Went

District Councillors: Nick Townsend, Caroline Tucker

Clerk: Helen McInnes

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel Coates and Alan Debenham.

2. Code of Conduct - Declaration of interests

All the Parish Councillors have a personal interest with respect to the North Taunton Development, as does Cllr Tucker.

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2017

Having been circulated, the word 'aware' was corrected to 'unaware' in the first line of point 15. The minutes were then taken as read and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Police Matters

PCSO Tony Wearmouth had sent a report which was read to the meeting. This stated that 35 calls had been received between 19 June and 19 July 2017; this was three less than the same period last year. These covered range of issues including a successful drug warrant. PCSO Wearmouth stated that he continues to patrol around Staplegrove School in relation to parking, and is working alongside Taunton School regarding road safety. It was understood that a further check on observing the possible 'jumping' of the traffic lights at the Manor Road junction was to be undertaken and it was agreed that a copy of the survey of similar incidences at the adjacent pedestrian crossing, carried out in September 2014, would be sent to PC Gear.

5. Questions from Members of the public re items not on the agenda

i. Dog waste bin

A Parishioner noted that while some dog owners were using the dog waste bin in Nash Green, he had noticed an increase in the number of bags of dog waste in the ordinary bin in the Hudson Way play area. Cllr Tucker noted that the current advice was that any bin could be used.

6. Matters Arising

i. Dog signs in Hudson Way play area

The Clerk reported that a quote had been received from DLO to supply and fit these signs. The cost for two aluminium signs (1100mm x 500mm) is £251 plus VAT. The Parish Council agreed this expenditure.

ii. Parking and provision double yellow lines on Bindon Road

Cllr Tucker said that she had been working with Cllr Rod Williams on this, but they currently have nothing to report. They will continue to push this issue forward.

7. Update on North Taunton Development

Cllr Townsend he had been in correspondence with John Burton, Director Planning and Environment, who had indicated that there was still no movement due to 'viability issues'. That is, that the land promoters are currently prepared to include 15% affordable housing rather than the 25% required by TDBC. This is a reduction of 170 affordable homes. It was reported that TDBC

planning officers are looking for a precedent in legal history where an appeal was upheld on this basis. TDBC's solicitor hopes to be coming to a decision on this point in the near future.

It was reported that Tim Burton, Assistant Director Planning and Environment, recently said that he was not sure whether he would recommend approval of the applications if he were asked to make a decision now. The land promoters are pressing Tim Burton for the application to go before the planning committee as soon as possible, and this could be in September. Cllr Townsend agreed to let the Parish Councils and local action groups know as soon as he heard anything concrete.

Cllr Clark added that he had heard from Cllr Williams that Central Government might make money available to ensure that the planning application goes through. If this is the case, he hopes that the money might be allocated to building the spine road before house construction begins.

Cllr Clark asked whether there is a likelihood of one of the applications being accepted and the other being refused. Cllr Townsend replied that he did not know for sure, but that TDBC had, to this point, always considered it as the development of a 'neighbourhood' rather than two discrete applications.

8. Report on submission of request for Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) works

Cllr Clark outlined two papers that the Parish Council had prepared with regard to possible SIS works. The first relates to the Parish Council's continuing concerns about the safety of all road users as a result of the excess speed of traffic on Staplegrove Road near the Village Hall. The other concerns the narrowing of the footpath on Staplegrove Road. A SIS request was submitted for this in October 2014, but nothing happened – as a result the footpath has narrowed more.

Cllr Williams has suggested that reclaiming the full width of the footpath should be considered as maintenance for which there is a separate budget, but that measures to increase road safety could be considered as a SIS.

Cllr Townsend noted that he had been contacted by a resident of Colin Road who could not get their mobility scooter along the footpath on Staplegrove Road. Cllr Clark said that this has also been raised as an issue by a Staplegrove Parishioner. Cllr Talbot highlighted that this must be raised as a Health and Safety issue as the narrow footpath could possibly endanger life. The Parish Council agreed that this issue should be put forward to SCC as a maintenance issue.

The Parish Council also agreed that the road safety measures outlined in the SIS application were of high importance and supported their submission.

9. Maintenance of fences by footpath (T24/16)

This is the footpath that runs from the Manor Road playground, past the duck pond and heads towards the Village Hall. Cllr Clark reported that there is a 'hedge' growing up from the fence along the west side of footpath, and while it is the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the grass along the footpath, this vertical growth is the responsibility of the landowner. In this case, the landowner is understood to be an investment trust who will pass on the maintenance to the lessee. Cllr Tucker agreed to talk to Mary Cook about spraying and/or cutting down this growth.

Additionally, the area where the path opens out near the duck pond is also very overgrown. Although this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council an offer has been made to use existing Parish Council equipment to cut back the grass in the Autumn/Winter. Cllr Tucker said she would also discuss this area when she spoke to Mary Cook.

10. Car park works at the Nuffield Hospital

Cllr Clark had attended a meeting about car parking at the Nuffield Hospital on 10 July 2017. It was reported that 25 new spaces will be created as a result of works being carried out by the hospital. The hospital noted that the work had been delayed due to the planning application taking longer to be approved than they had thought. However, Cllr Clark had counted approximately 59 cars parked in Showell Park, Nash Green and Hudson Way that were likely to be related to hospital business. He had discounted some of those in Hudson Way to take into account school staff and visitors.

Previously the Nuffield Hospital have enquired about the possibility of leasing an area of the Hudson Way playground to use as additional car parking. TDBC said that they would only do this for an initial 5 years which would make it difficult to justify any capital spending on making it suitable for car parking. The Parish Council feel that perhaps TDBC could now be encouraged to sell this piece of land to the Nuffield Hospital. Cllr Tucker said that she had informally been given the impression that the Nuffield Hospital would be unlikely to fund this purchase. She also stated that she would raise this potential sale of land with the appropriate person at TDBC.

It was noted that another meeting to discuss car parking would be held in late September. A Parishioner mentioned that he, and others, felt that communication with the Nuffield had been very poor. Cllr Tucker agreed and said that this had been highlighted at the initial meeting. She asked the Parishioner if he would be prepared to act as a contact point – he agreed, and also suggested an additional contact.

Cllr Clark said that car parking was likely to be a growing concern if new buildings continue to be planned and built with insufficient parking spaces. For example, the new school which might be built if the North Taunton development goes ahead will need enough car parking spaces for all of its staff who are likely to come from outside of the area. Cllr Townsend agreed that the 1½ car parking spaces per household is too few, but added that this figure is set by Central Government.

11. Planning applications

i. **34/17/0019T - Notification to fell one Ash tree within Staplegrove Conservation Area at Steading Hay, Manor Road, Staplegrove**

It was noted that the residents close to this tree were supportive of this application. The Parish Council agreed to support it.

ii. **Decisions since last meeting to be noted**

The Chairman talked through a paper giving details of planning application received and decisions made since the last meeting.

12. Financial matters

i. **Bank reconciliations – May and June 2017**

The Clerk circulated the details of the bank reconciliation for May and June 2017, which had been checked and certified by an independent person.

ii. **Receipts and payments since last meeting**

iii.

		£
Receipts:	Precept and Council Tax Support grant	8742.00
	Santander – bank interest (April)	5.45
	Santander – bank interest (May)	5.71
	Santander – bank interest (June)	7.10

Payments:	Charlie Saville – April/May footpath maintenance and playground strimming	215.00
	B J Howe – internal audit	171.00
	Donation to Life Education Wessex	150.00
	Came & Company – insurance 2017/18	669.03
	Helen McInnes – May salary and expenses	341.09
	HMRC – May PAYE	59.80
	P J Signs – dog fouling notices	111.60
	Keep Britain Tidy – dog fouling resources	46.32
	Web hosting 2017/18	70.00
	Charlie Saville – June footpath maintenance and playground strimming	270.25
	Helen McInnes – June salary and expenses	278.04
	HMRC – June PAYE	58.00

iii. Budget Statement as at 30th June 2017

The Clerk circulated the Budget statement as at the 30th June 2017. She explained that the figures in red indicated that money had been carried forward from the previous financial year.

13. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

14. Any other Business

- Cllr Clark asked the Clerk to request that SCC to spray the small patch of Japanese Knotweed in The Grove that they had attended to last year.
- Cllr Talbot reported that he had spoken to two Parishioners on Manor Road about the bank between their boundary walls and the road. There seems to be some confusion as to who is responsible for the upkeep of this area.
- Cllr Tucker reported that there had been an exchange of views about the design of the new skateboard ramp in Hudson Way, which at one point became quite heated. This had now been resolved with the assistance of Richard Parker and others.

15. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 21st September 2017 at 5pm. The subsequent Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 16th November 2017.

A meeting of the Staplegrove Children’s playground Trust will follow both these meetings. All meetings will be held at Staplegrove Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm

These minutes are approved as a correct record _____

Date _____