

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 5PM,  
BLACKDOWN ROOM, TAUNTON VALE SPORTS CLUB**

**PRESENT:**

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

District Councillors: Nick Townsend, Caroline Tucker

Clerk: Helen McInnes

Seven members of the public were also in attendance.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from PCSO Tony Wearmouth.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Having been circulated, the minutes were then taken as read and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

**4. Police Matters**

The Clerk read a report sent by PCSO Wearmouth. In the period 18<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 there had been a total of 31 calls to the police from the Staplegrove area. These can be broken down as follows:

- 6 administrative
- 5 traffic related
- 4 reports of threats
- 3 domestic issues
- 3 reports of suspicious behaviour
- 3 reports of theft from a motor vehicle
- 2 calls relating to concern for welfare
- 1 report of a missing person
- 1 reports of burglary
- 1 report of sudden death
- 2 reports of anti-social behaviour.

From these calls there were only eight actual crimes. In the same period last year there were a total of 20 calls.

Calls to Police about the Hudson Way play area have ceased; and the new Speedwatch site on Staplegrove Road has been approved.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

## **6. Clerk's report to include matters arising from previous minutes**

### **i. Update on the purchase of Community Speedwatch signs**

The Clerk reported that full agreement for the erection of two signs on Manor Road has been received from Somerset County Council's (SCC) Highways department. One sign will replace redundant 'new road layout' near Magnolia cottage; the other will be placed on a telegraph pole near Orchard Cottage. Permission had been granted by BT Openreach for use of the telegraph pole. The Clerk has ordered the signs from Morelock Signs, and has checked that the signs will be covered adequately by insurance for public liability claims.

### **ii. TDBC's response to letter about the impact of the skate ramps in the Hudson Way open space**

It was reported that an exchange of emails had taken place between the Clerk (on behalf of the Parish Council) and Taunton Deane Borough Deane's (TDBC) Open Spaces department about the impact of the skate ramps in the Hudson Way open space. There had been little movement forward with regard to any of the issues, including the request for details of the ramp manufacturer.

Cllr Townsend noted that the role of Open Spaces manager was transferring to another person in the coming weeks. He suggested raising the issue again with the new incumbent, and offered his and Cllr Tucker's support. Cllr Moon has details of the skate ramp manufacturer, and will pass these to the Clerk.

### **iii. Replacement of the Parish Council noticeboard near Post Office**

The replacement noticeboard has been delivered and will be erected in the coming weeks.

## **7. Final proof of artwork for the new information board in the Grove**

The Clerk showed a full-sized proof of the artwork for the replacement information board in the Grove. She asked that Councillors send any suggested changes or additions to her by email by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018. After this time the board will be ordered, and no further changes will be possible. Cllr Moon suggested contacting the local press when the new noticeboard has been installed.

## **8. Report of meeting with SCC Highways – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Cllr Clark noted that this meeting had been called in response to the Taunton Transport Strategy consultation meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. At that meeting, the Parish Council had requested another meeting where local concerns could be discussed. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Parish Council, RoSAG, TDBC and SCC.

The SCC Officers had agreed to add the proposed 500m extension to the spine road on future plans and modelling. Other requests for clarification were agreed such as, the reason for the change of location of where the spine road connects with Silk Mills; and if the modelling that has been done has taken the proposed closure of Manor road/Corkscrew Lane (to all but local traffic) into consideration.

Cllr Debenham asked if there was a timescale for the construction of the Monkton Heathfield Western Relief Road. Cllr Clark replied that the one of the developers had appealed against making a financial contribution, and therefore SCC had been left with a reported £1m shortfall. Cllr Townsend noted the delay has been at least five years, but believes that the financial shortage has been resolved and that construction of the road will begin 'imminently'.

The Clerk reported that notes of the meeting had been circulated widely, and were publically available on the Parish website.

## **9. Discussion of works to clear small trees and undergrowth in the Grove**

Cllr Clark noted the proposal to undertake some clearance work in the Grove and drew the meeting's attention to the attached quote summary. This will involve the clearance of small trees, brambles and undergrowth to allow for improved visibility from the footpath running behind the Post Office. It is also hoped that the clearance work will encourage more usage of the Grove, and allow light through to stimulate the growth of spring flowers.

It was agreed unanimously to ask SW Stumpgrinders and Tree Services to carry out this work on the Post Office side of the Grove. Once this was done, further work on the other side of Manor Road would be considered.

## **10. To note works being carried out by Wessex Water in the Children's Playground**

The Clerk reported that Wessex Water will be undertaking some work in the Manor Road Children's Playground. They are planning to install a new pressure control and meter chamber which will allow them to better identify and rectify potential leakage from the supply network. The infrastructure will require more room so they need to increase the size of the existing chamber which borders the playground.

Wessex Water have made an 'early entry payment' of £50 to facilitate investigative visits before the main work, which is scheduled for w/c 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. The Clerk has asked that Wessex Water keep access open to the footpath, and noted that they have taken photographs of the area to help ensure that it is put right when the work is completed.

## **11. Discussion of Parishioner request to purchase commemorative items to mark 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1**

The Clerk had been contacted by a Parishioner asking how the Parish Council intended to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The Parishioner had suggested the purchase of a 'Silent Silhouette' from There But Not There. The Clerk had circulated a paper outlining the various options to the Parish Council.

Cllr Debenham noted that he strongly disagreed with purchasing such items. Cllrs Bird and Went felt that £750 was large sum to spend on a single item. There were other concerns raised about the positioning of the item; ownership of land; and, potential vandalism. Cllr Clark suggested that in lieu of making a purchase, a donation of £250 could be made to the Royal British Legion. The Council voted and this was agreed with five votes for, and one against.

## **12. Planning applications**

### **i. Report from Planning Sub-committee meetings, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The Clerk made a brief report of the last three Planning Sub-committee meetings, noting that minutes of the meetings were available on the Parish website.

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

Cllr Clark talked through a paper giving details of planning applications received and decisions made since the last meeting. He noted that the most contentious application was 34/18/0014, Change of use of public house (Class A4) to a 13 No. bedroomed house of multiple occupancy at The Staplegrove Inn, 206 Staplegrove Road. The applicant had made changes to their original plan after the public consultation had ended. The Parish Council had made an up-dated submission in response to this.

Cllr Clark thanked Cllr Went for raising awareness of this application locally, and noted that there had been approximately 50 comments made to TDBC's planning department. It is likely that the application will be discussed at the Planning Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Jackie Calcroft asked if the Parish Council planned to speak at this meeting, as it is felt that this would be significant. It was agreed that a member of the

Parish Council would attend and that the agenda for the meeting would be released a week before its scheduled date.

- iii. **Building being erected opposite the junction of Manor Road and Staplegrove Road**  
Many members had noticed the large building being erected opposite the junction of Manor Road and Staplegrove Road. The Chair and the Clerk could not remember when permission had been granted for this building and will enquire with TDBC. In addition, several trees had been lopped to allow access to the site by a crane. The Clerk will check with TDBC's tree officer whether permission should have been sought for this work.

### 13. Financial matters

- i. **Bank reconciliations – July and August 2018**  
The Clerk circulated the details of the bank reconciliation for July and August 2018, which had been checked and certified by an independent person.
- ii. **Budget Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**  
The Clerk circulated copies of the Budget statement as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.
- iii. **Receipts and payments since last meeting**

		£
<b>Receipts:</b>	Santander – bank interest (July)	15.03
	Santander – bank interest (August)	15.54
	TDBC – burial, footpath and playground grants	1,700.00
	Wessex Water – early entry payment	50.00
<b>Payments:</b>	Charlie Saville – footpath maintenance	239.50
	Helen McInnes – July salary and expenses	366.15
	HMRC – July PAYE	47.40
	Howard SW Ltd – July grass cutting	142.40
	Howard SW Ltd – playground path maintenance	576.00
	Staplegrove Parochial Church Council – burial ground grant	525.00
	Helen McInnes – August salary and expenses	346.54
	HMRC – August PAYE	47.40
	SPFA – annual playground inspection	80.00
	Howard SW Ltd – August grass cutting	70.40
	Harry Stebbing Workshop – replacement noticeboard	853.20
	Morelock Signs – Community Speedwatch signs (x2)	76.94
	Charlie Saville – footpath maintenance	200.00

### 14. Correspondence

The Clerk had received an email from the Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for the £525 grant towards maintenance of the churchyard.

### 15. Any other Business

- i. Cllr Moon raised the idea of the Parish Council funding a series of free workshops for residents, such as basic IT skills, keep fit etc. While the idea was generally supported there was concern that it might take away income from existing local providers of these services.

- ii. Cllr Talbot suggested that the Parish Council might fund the planting of some spring bulbs and/or poppies around the Parish. Sites that were suggested included Lawn Road near the Royal Marines commemorative stone; and the grass triangle next to the Grove. The addition of bluebells and snowdrops to the Grove was also raised. The Clerk will investigate costings and bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- iii. Cllr Debenham had been in contact with Bristol Energy regarding the provision of solar panels on community buildings. It was noted that the Village Hall had investigated this, but was not in a suitable location; the Clerk reported that she thought the school were also looking into this possibility.
- iv. Cllr Debenham had attended a meeting about the new warding patterns. He reported that his preference was for single member wards, and noted that this will not be the case in the new Norton Fitzwarren and Staplegrove Ward which is projected to have three members. Cllr Tucker noted that this is essentially a cost saving exercise and that she feels the new boundaries are actually more sensible than the previous ones.
- v. Cllr Bird reported that she had attended the Chair of SCC's Civic Service held at St Mary Magdalene Church on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018. She noted that it was a very enjoyable service, but was poorly attended.

### **16. Date of next meetings**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and then on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Both meetings will start at 5pm.

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 6.10pm

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These minutes are approved as a correct record \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_