

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH JULY 2018 AT 5PM, STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

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

District Councillor: Caroline Tucker

Clerk: Helen McInnes

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from PCSO Tony Wearmouth, County Cllr Rod Williams and District Cllr Nick Townsend.

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 17th May 2018

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

4. Police Matters

The meeting welcomed PCSO Graham Phimister. PCSO Phimister reported that there had been a structural change in the area, and he and PCSO Wearmouth now both cover Staplegrove as part of a much larger area of West Taunton. In the period 10th June to 17th July there had been a total of 23 calls to the police from the Staplegrove area. These can be broken down as follows:

- 3 reports of harassment
- 3 reports of public fear/alarm or distress – particularly relating to a dog causing alarm to another dog owner.
- 1 report of assault
- 2 reports of criminal damage – 1 slashed tyre and damage to gates
- 2 reports of theft – theft from a person known
- 3 reports of burglary to commercial premises along Bindon Road
- 1 report of robbery - suspect known to victim
- 8 reports of anti-social behaviour – relating to a lot of noise coming from neighbouring properties or anti-social behaviour from occupants within vehicles.

PSCO Phimister also reported that a number of calls from local residents have been received about vehicles being driven through the park from Hudson Way up to the skate ramp. The Police continue to patrol the area and have spoken to a number of ramp users. They have informed us that the reason they park their cars there, is that they use them as a ladder to get to the top of the ramps and also to hide themselves when they want to go to the toilet. Advice has been given to them around driving through the park and although they are taking steps to hide themselves when going to the toilet, it still remains inappropriate and an offence. The Police have spoken to Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) with our recommendations, but we have not yet received any formal reply as to how they intend to address the situation.

Cllr Moon asked if the Police were in a position to take action about noise nuisance from the skate park. PCSO Phimister said that this a 'grey area' and that noise nuisance is normally dealt with by TDBC, although he encouraged residents to log their concerns using the non-emergency number 101.

Cllr Clark asked if there was any progress on the approval of the second Community Speedwatch site along Staplegrove Road. PCSO Phimister said to contact PCSO Wearmouth.

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

- i. The Chair of Cotford St Luke Parish Council asked if the Parish Council would support this proposal to First bus for a Sunday service. The Parish Council requested that further details were provide, but supported the idea in principal.
- ii. A Parishioner noted that the footway along Staplegrove Road, westbound towards Silk Mills Road was significantly narrowed. In the winter it becomes muddy and impassable. The Clerk agreed to report it to Somerset County Council (SCC).

6. Matters Arising

i. Update on the purchase of Community Speedwatch signs

The Clerk has received provisional agreement from SCC's Highways department to put Community Speedwatch signs as replacements for the 'new road layout' signs on Manor Road. The Clerk has also been in contact with a branch of BT Openreach about having a sign further along the road on a telegraph pole. The Clerk will continue to pursue this.

ii. Request for SLOW on Staplegrove Road near Village Hall – letter to Somerset County Council

Cllr Clark summarised the discussions that had taken place between the Parish Council and SCC's Highways department. A letter had been sent to SCC offering to pay for SLOW to be painted on the road. SCC had replied that "it is not something that SCC can support". Cllr Clark will reply to SCC, but then the Parish Council will not continue to pursue this.

7. Update on creation of a Parish Emergency Plan

Cllr Talbot reported that he and Cllr Moon had researched the creation of an Emergency Plan. Emergency planning is the responsibility of SCC who have provided a Community Risk Register which prioritises different risk areas. The risk areas that were pertinent to Staplegrove were:

- Outbreak of animal disease
- Pandemic flu
- Extreme weather
- Transport incidents
- Infrastructure failure

However, due to the proximity of Staplegrove to Taunton town centre, it was felt that the creation of an emergency plan was not justified. This was agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk will add links to 'Somerset Prepared' and 'Heat Health Watch' to the Parish website and Facebook page.

8. Update on Taunton Transport Strategy – consultation meeting 22nd June 2018

Cllr Clark summarised the events leading to the consultation meeting. Many of the attendees had felt that the meeting was not fit for purpose, as a discussion was needed about the state of the traffic now, rather than in 20 years' time. The Parish Council have requested the minutes of the meeting and readable versions of the slides that were shown at the meeting (these were too small to be of use). This information has not yet been provided. [Post meeting note, this information has now been received.]

The Parish council, and others have requested another meeting where current concerns can be aired; including the provision of the 'spine road' before any construction work is begun, and the continuation of the 'spine road' to form an outer ring road. This proposal has the support of 8 other Parish Councils.

All Taunton residents are encouraged to complete the on-line consultation, where there is space for comments to be added in addition to the fixed response questions. The on-line consultation can be found at

<http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/TauntonTransportStrategy/consultationHome> and is open until 3rd August 2018.

9. Discussion of the impact of the skate ramps in the Hudson Way open space

Cllr Moon reported that the residents of Westerkirk Gate had sent a letter to Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC). A response had been received which is felt to be unsatisfactory. The Parish Council agreed to send a letter to TDBC outlining their on-going concerns about the ramps. These include: noise nuisance; location; lack of toilets and parking; and safety of users. It was noted that the Police are not likely to take action about noise nuisance as this is an issue normally dealt with by TDBC's Environmental Protection department.

10. An introduction to Taunton Vale Sport Club – David Hambly, General Manager

The meeting welcomed David Hambly, General Manager of Taunton Vale Sport Club. Mr Hambly noted that whilst Taunton Vale Sports Club was in Staplegrove Parish, the majority of its users came from elsewhere. He is trying to engage more of the local community and encourages residents to come and have a look at the facilities on offer. Facilities include cricket and hockey pitches; an indoor sports hall that is set up for netball but can accommodate other sports including badminton; a café and bar which is open to the public; and four tennis courts. Facilities and rooms can be hired for meeting, parties conferences etc.

The Clerk noted that many people feel that they cannot go into the club unless they are members. Mr Hambly agreed that new, more welcoming signage was needed and invited residents to come up and have a look around. He also agreed to host the next Parish Council meeting at the Club.

11. Parishioner concerns about parking at North end of Mill Rise

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident of Mill Rise about cars parking in the turning circle at the northern end of Mill Rise. The Clerk had visited the site and seen vehicles parked here. It was noted that several properties in Grove Gate had rear gates on to this area which might encourage parking here. The Clerk had contacted Liverty Housing who manage the development asking for letters to be sent reminding residents that this was not a parking area.

The Clerk has also asked Liverty to remind all residents about safe and considerate parking, particularly in respect of the junction of Grove Gate and Mill Rise.

12. Replacement of Parish Council noticeboard near Post Office

The meeting considered the quotes that had been circulated with the meeting agenda. It was agreed to purchase an open fronted, oak framed board from the Harry Stebbing workshop. This was felt to be most in keeping with the surroundings and also continues to provide a space for public notices. The Clerk will order this and arrange its erection onto concrete stub posts.

13. Presentation of proof of artwork for the new information board in the Grove

The Clerk circulated copies of the proof artwork for the new information board in the Grove. It was noted that when reproduced on the noticeboard the text will be bigger and much easier to read. The Parish Council were supportive of the overall design, but noted a few anomalies on the map. The Clerk will report these issues back and ask for amendments to be made.

14. Draft recommendations: electoral review of Somerset West and Taunton

The meeting was referred to the document circulated with the meeting agenda. This briefing paper from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) summarises the draft recommendations on new electoral arrangements for Somerset West and Taunton Council. Cllr Tucker noted that the area that Staplegrove Parish falls within (marked 18 on the map) currently has four District Councillors and it is proposed that there will be three under the new arrangements. This will make it one of the bigger Wards.

It was agreed that no representation would be made by the Parish Council, but that individuals could respond if they wanted to. Cllr Debenham raised his preference for the Council to be called Taunton and Somerset West Council. Cllr Tucker replied that this, and the names of the Wards were all part of the consultation, so people can indicate their preferences there. The on-line consultation can be seen at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/somerset/somerset-west-and-taunton> and is open until 27th August 2018.

15. Planning applications

i. 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, Staplegrove

It was noted that this application has caused concerns within the Parish. It was noted that the development is likely to be used as emergency accommodation for people/families who have become homeless; and those finding it difficult to access other forms of accommodation. The rooms within the HMO are likely to be let.

The Parish Council made the following observations:

- There is insufficient parking for the number of people who will be housed in the HMO. The Parish Council are concerned that residents and their visitors might park along the road, or use the Village Hall car park. Neither of these options is acceptable.
- There is no secure cycle storage. If residents are encouraged not to have cars, then provision must be made for alternative transport methods, and the storage of these.
- There is no provision made for the secure storage of waste and recyclable materials. The Parish Council are also concerned about where a recycling/waste collection lorry might stop, and about the safety of the people working on it.
- The Parish Council foresee potential noise issues with this number of people in one dwelling. This is both internally (what sound proofing measures are planned?) and externally in respect of near neighbours.
- There is no on-site management or supervision to deal with any disputes or difficulties that occur between residents. The Parish Council note that this development would put a large number of unrelated people in very close proximity to each other. When looking at other HMOs, there is a history of issues occurring concerning noise, thefts of food/belongings, waste disposal, cleanliness etc. The Parish Council are concerned that this development would put more strain on already stretched services.
- The scheme seems to be an over-development of the site.

As a result of the above issues, Staplegrove Parish Council object to this application.

ii. 34/18/0015, Variation of Condition No's 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10 and 14 of application 34/16/0029 to allow the development to be delivered in a phased approach on land off Silk Mills Lane, Staplegrove

The Parish Council made the following observations:

- The type of development outlined in the application seems more akin to what was originally proposed ie light industrial units.
- The Parish Council would object to any development akin to that identified in application 34/17/0016, when a 20MW Flexible Electricity Generation Facility (FEGF) was proposed.

Therefore, Staplegrove Parish Council support this application.

iii. Report from Planning Sub-committee meeting, 20th June 2018

The Council noted the minutes of the Planning Sub-committee meeting held on 20th June 2018. The meeting had been advertised on the Parish's website and noticeboards.

iv. Decisions since last meeting to be noted

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

16. Financial matters

i. Bank reconciliations – May and June 2018

The Clerk circulated the details of the bank reconciliation for May and June 2018, which had been checked and certified by an independent person.

ii. Budget Statement as at 30th June 2018

The Clerk circulated the Budget statement as at the 30th June 2018.

iii. Receipts and payments since last meeting

| | | £ |
|------------------|--|--------|
| Receipts: | Santander – bank interest (April) | 13.22 |
| | Santander – bank interest (May) | 14.99 |
| | Donation – Mr Jennings | 300.00 |
| | Santander – bank interest (June) | 16.40 |
| Payments: | Helen McInnes – May salary and expenses | 370.75 |
| | HMRC – May PAYE | 47.40 |
| | Howard SW Ltd – May grass cutting | 140.80 |
| | Helen McInnes – June salary and expenses | 334.57 |
| | HMRC – June PAYE | 45.20 |
| | Howard SW Ltd – June grass cutting | 140.80 |

17. Correspondence

The Clerk had received an email from a Parishioner who reported that 'No motor vehicle' signs and bollards had been erected towards the southern end of Mill Rise. This now creates a traffic free path from Silk Mills Road linking to the cut through on to Darwin Close.

18. Any other Business

There was no other business.

19. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 20th September 2018, and then on Thursday 15th November 2018. Both meetings will start at 5pm. The September meeting will be held at Taunton Vale Sports Club.

A meeting of the Staplegrove Children's playground Trust will follow both these meetings
The meeting closed at 7.15pm

These minutes are approved as a correct record _____

Date _____