

**ORDINARY MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10
FEBRUARY 2009 AT 5.00 PM AT STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Dr G Hayes (in the Chair), Mr A Debenham, Mr M Clark, Mr J Morris, Somerset County Councillor (SCC) R Tully, Sgt J Brandon, PC A Davies and Mr D Greig, Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tom Harris and David Ware

2. CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2008, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Footpath – Village Hall to Recreation Ground

The Chairman reported that the widening of this footpath had been completed and expressed his thanks to the volunteers who had undertaken the exercise. He added that he had discussed with SCC's Rights of Way Officer the possibility of re-tarmacing the footpath and he had agreed to consider this request. The Officer would also contact the owner of 'Woodlands' whose duck pond was leaking onto the footpath and which had caused a dangerous icy patch during recent bad weather.

Cut through footpath from Staplegrove Road to Showell Park

Following a request from the Clerk, TDBC had thinned the trees on the Staplegrove Road side of this wooded area so that drug users and other antisocial individuals were not hidden here and would be deterred from leaving litter, beer cans, bottles and syringes.

Notice board at Staplegrove Post Office

The new notice board, which had not attracted funding from the County Councillors' Local Initiatives budget, had been ordered and was almost ready. John Morris would ask the contractor to speak to either the Clerk or the Chairman about instructions for preparing the ground prior to installing it.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)

The traffic matters relating to Corkscrew Lane/Manor Road were discussed at minute number 8.

PC Andy Davies reported on a problem with water running onto the Gipsy Lane cycle path. He had raised the matter with Dennis Quick, Somerset Highways. Ray Tully would also mention this to Dennis, as he was due to meet him the following day.

PC Andy Davies also referred to burglaries at Stonehouse Farm and the Acorn Business Centre and a number of thefts from cars in the Bindon Road area.

7. STAPLEGROVE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND – PLAY EQUIPMENT

Noted that the Clerk and Chairman had met with the Sutcliffe Play representative to ask him to update his quotation, retaining the commando frame and having it re-painted, as had been agreed at the last meeting of the Staplegrove Children's Playground Trust. The representative had confirmed that two small pieces of equipment instead of one could now be installed at roughly the same cost as the original quotation as they could be put on a Safagrass surface, which was considerably cheaper than putting them on the existing commando frame surface and upgrading that. Having consulted Parish Councillors the Clerk had then placed an order with Sutcliffe Play South West for a T for Two swing

with a flat seat and pod seat, a dish roundabout and Springie Helicopter and associated Wet Pour Safety Surface and Safagrass, the supply of paint and painting of the climbing frame and site security fencing. Total cost £6982.00 + VAT. The installation date was planned for 10 March 2009. Trevor Cavill and David Warr had removed the old swings and the Clerk had written to thank them.

The Clerk had been advised that an independent post installation safety inspection was required to ensure that the equipment met safety standards and it was agreed that this be carried out by the Somerset Playing Fields' Association at a cost of £220. There would be no need for the usual Annual Safety Inspection of the playground in 2009, as this inspection would cover this.

The Chairman thanked Ray Tully for the grant of £3000 from the County Councillors' Local Initiatives Budget (LIB) and £1500 from his Community Budget to go towards the cost of the play equipment. Noted that a gift of £2000 from the Staplegrove Village Hall Management Committee had also been received and the Clerk had written to the Committee to thank them. Agreed that the Staplegrove Children's Playground Trust be asked to contribute the rest, namely £482. The Parish Council would pay for the post installation safety inspection.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would take ownership of the equipment, which was to be placed on the Playground Trust land, and would have responsibility for its maintenance and upkeep. The equipment would be insured under the Parish Council's insurance policy for 3rd party liability for users of the equipment and loss/damage. The equipment would appear on the Parish Council's asset register.

8. TRAFFIC MATTERS – CORKSCREW LANE/MANOR ROAD

Maps by the County Highways Traffic Engineer showing his proposals to try to slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists at the bend at the Corkscrew Lane/Manor Road junction were tabled. He suggested the erection, at each end of the bend, of a pedestrians/no footway sign and a double bend/maximum speed 20mph sign (advisory sign), 'SLOW' with yellow bars to be painted in four places and the removal of the existing central line and replacing it with white edge lines to give the impression of a narrow road. The Parish Council agreed that the proposals were excellent and the Clerk was instructed to ask the Traffic Engineer to proceed with them.

It was noted that SCC's Local Implementation Officer was looking into whether a combined footpath/cycle path through the woods at Seistan Cottage would attract more funding than a footpath alone which was not considered value for money according to government priorities.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Noted a paper giving details of planning applications received/decisions made, since the last meeting.

10. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME AND GUIDE TO STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

Agreed to adopt the model publication scheme, published by the Information Commissioner's Office, from 1 January 2009. A paper by the Clerk giving a guide to publications available to members of the public from the Parish Council was noted. The guide was published on the parish website and would be displayed on noticeboards.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter inviting Parish Councillors to a demonstration of equipment for filling sandbags was read out. The Clerk referred to the 'Safe in Your Community' information booklet produced by SCC which contained information and statistics about community safety issues and highlighting SCC's role in this matter.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank reconciliations

The Clerk circulated details of the bank reconciliations for November and December 2008 and January 2009, which had been checked and certified by a parishioner.

Internal auditor

The Clerk reported that she had written to Bryan Howe confirming his appointment as internal auditor. Noted that his hourly rate was £30 per hour. He would not need to make a charge for travel

expenses as the Clerk's husband would take the accounts and associated paperwork to his Minehead office, which was near to Bryan's house, and Bryan would collect them from there.

Receipts and payments since last meeting		£
Receipts:	Altered Images - fee for entry in business directory on website	5.00
	Taunton Pram and Nursery Centre – fee for entry in business directory on website	5.00
	Alliance & Leicester – bank interest	0.28
	Alliance & Leicester – bank interest	18.00
	Aquapleasure - fee for entry in business directory on website	5.00
	Staplegrove Lodge B&B - fee for entry in business directory on website	5.00
	Somerset County Council – grant from Local Initiatives Budget for play equipment	3000.00
	Kings of Taunton - fee for entry in business directory on website	5.00
	Alliance & Leicester – bank interest	8.53
	Alliance & Leicester – bank interest	0.29
	Somerset County Councillor- grant from Ray Tully's Community Budget for play equipment	1500.00
	E Bagnall (Staplegrove P.O and Hairdressers) - fee for entries in business directory on website	10.00
	Staplegrove Village Hall Management Committee – grant for play equipment	2000.00
Payments:	PWLB – ½ year loan repayment	
	J Peake – Clerk's ¼ year salary, back dated pay award and admin expenses	750.81 1037.50

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Chairman reported on his meeting with SCC's Rights of Way Officer and the issues that he had brought to his attention.
- The Clerk would report the potholes that had appeared in Edgeborough Lane and at the bottom of Dr Benn's hill.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The annual meeting of electors for the parish will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 6.00 pm followed by the annual meeting of the Parish Council. The annual meeting of the Staplegrove Children's Playground Trust will also follow.