

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS FOR THE PARISH OF
STAPLEGROVE HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009 AT 6.00 PM AT STAPLEGROVE
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Dr G Hayes (in the Chair), Mr M Clark, Mr J Morris, Mr D Ware, Mrs J Brockwell, Taunton Deane Borough Councillor, PC Andy Davies and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tom Harris and Alan Debenham.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2008, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. ANNUAL REPORTS

Staplegrove Trust

Noted a report by Tom Harris, one of the Parish Council representatives on the Staplegrove Trust, which referred to the weakened financial position of the Trust, as the result of the economic recession, and reported in general on the allocation of grants over the past twelve months. He added that the long-standing chairman of the Trust, Mr Arthur Coles, intended to stand down and a new Chairman would be elected at the AGM in the autumn. Tom had indicated his willingness to continue, as the Parish Council's representative on the Trust, for the next four-year term of office, if the Parish Council wished to re-appoint him.

Staplegrove Primary School

A report by the Head of Staplegrove Primary School stated that the school had received its third OFSTED inspection in as many years. The latest inspection had judged the school as good with some outstanding features. Several staff changes were reported as well as enhancements to the school, including a bike shelter and covered play area. The Head had been pleased to report that pupil numbers were increasing with 192 children currently on role.

Staplegrove Youth Football Club

The Clerk read out a report from the Staplegrove Youth Football Club Development Officer. He reported on the success of the various teams and the need to increase fees last season in order to compensate for fewer members and consequently lower income. This had been the first increase for a number of years. This year it was hoped to hold the fee for the next twelve months. It was disappointing to note that even though the Club had helped secure funding from the Football Foundation for the floodlit training surface at the Taunton Vale Sports Club it had not been granted any preferential terms for use of the changing facilities, car parking or any of the other features. The Club was currently in discussion with Somerset County Council (SCC) regarding a replacement building to replace the Club's current toilet/changing block (estimated cost in the region of £20,000).

5. REVIEW OF PARISH MATTERS

The Chairman referred to the following matters during the last year:

- Following complaints and criticisms about the pinch point in Manor Road installed in April 2008, SCC's Safety Inspector had subsequently deemed that there was adequate visibility and that as long as traffic heading west observed the 'give way' sign there should be no problems. Motorists now seemed to have got used to the obstruction and pedestrians and mobility scooter users were delighted that they could cross the road more safely.
- A meeting with the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator had resulted in a speed detection device being installed on Manor Road. The data collected had indicated that there was not a speeding problem on this road and did not qualify for any speed reduction measures.
- A meeting of representatives from the Parish Council, SCC, Police and local residents had resulted in SCC agreeing to place additional signage, warning of the dangers on the junction of

Corkscrew Lane/Manor Road, as well as alterations to the white lines, in attempt to slow drivers on this stretch of road. SCC had also agreed to consider the feasibility of constructing a foot path/cycle path through the woods opposite 'Village World'.

- New play equipment, purchased by the Parish Council, was installed in March 2009, thanks to grants from Staplegrove Village Hall and SCC's Local Initiative and Community Budgets.
- Further major developments were completed during the year at Taunton Vale Sports Club, with the additional playing areas and a large indoor facility with provision for handicapped athletes. An official opening took place in the Spring.
- A team of local volunteers worked hard on four separate sessions to clear grass and weeds encroaching on the Manor Road to Village Hall footpath. Some resurfacing of the tarmac along this much-used path has been requested to SCC's Rights of Way Department.
- The Parish Council Chairman had toured local footpaths with SCC's Rights of Way Officer to identify problems. Promises of action and repairs had been made.
- Inspections and reports on trees in The Grove were received and further thinning carried out.
- The PCC had installed new noticeboards in the church grounds and the Parish Council a new 2-sided board outside the post office.
- Dr Tom Harris had presented a paper on the enhancement of the Parish Journal which had received support by the Parish Council but which had been rejected by the PCC.
- Following a request from the Parish Council the wooded area at the junction of Showell Park/Staplegrove Road (in future to be referred to as Badger's Copse) had been thinned by Taunton Deane Borough Council to make it more open in order to deter drug and alcohol abuse activities here.
- Inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of Nuffield Hospital had been a contentious issue but with helpful co-operation from the hospital and residents there had been some improvement.
- The Chairman thanked the Clerk for dealing with the numerous enquiries and complaints she received, increasingly through the parish website, which was continuing to thrive.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

