

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY AT 5PM AT STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL.**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mr M N Clark (in the chair), Mrs J Bird, Mr B Evans, Mr A Debenham, Dr T Harris District Councillors Mr N Townsend and Mrs C Tucker.

10 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Ware. County Councillor Mr D Wedderkopp was not in attendance, no apologies had been received

2. Code of Conduct - Declaration of interests

No interests were declared

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2015

Having been circulated, it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2015 were taken as read and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Parish Councillor Vacancy

It was agreed to co-opt Mr David Ware to the Parish Council. It was noted that David Ware had previously been a parish councillor and lived in an area of Staplegrove Parish where the Parish Council did not currently have representation.

5. Appointment of Clerk

The Chairman reported that Helen McInnes had agreed to accept the position of Clerk and would start the role on 1st February 2016. Helen was welcomed to the meeting.

6. Police Matters

PCSO Claire Escott was unable to attend the meeting but had reported that there had been some thefts of quad bikes and motor cross vehicles from farms.

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

Questions regarding the North Taunton Development.

The Parish Council were asked for their position on the PC and Resident Groups working together with reference to the North Taunton Development. The Chairman responded that the PC did not want there to be conflict in what the PC and Residents Groups put forward regarding the North Taunton Development. The PC intend to arrange a public meeting once the planning application for the North Taunton Development has been submitted, the PC would like Residents Groups, County Councillors, District Councillors, MP to be part of this meeting.

A parishioner raised concerns over flooding for houses on Lawn Road if the fields behind these houses are built on. The Parish Council were asked if they will try to protect the houses on Lawn Road that currently flood. The Chairman acknowledged that the risk of flooding was a serious problem and responded that large attenuation lakes were detailed in the current proposals for the North Taunton Development. It was also noted that RoSAG (Residents of Staplegrove Action Group) are investigating the drainage issues.

The Parish Council were asked if the current 4 exits routes from Staplegrove Village will be protected. It was noted that the current proposals for the North Taunton Development detailed that Rectory Road and Whitmore Lane will be closed off by the spine road and that it was hoped that the spine road would be wide enough to accommodate junctions to allow continued access to/from Rectory Road and Whitmore Road. There were fears that this might allow traffic to use Rectory Road to pass through the village and turn left at the Post Office traffic lights.

Concerns were raised over the Spine Road detailed in the proposals for the North Taunton Development joining existing junctions/roads in Staplegrove and that this will increase traffic and journey times in/from Staplegrove. A Parishioner reported that a SCC review had detailed that the addition of traffic lights at a junction incorporating this road would add an additional 20 minutes to journey times. A Parishioner reported that the relief road at Norton Fitzwarren is not going ahead and that it will now just be an estate Road.

8. Matters Arising

Update on Speed Indicator Device

The Chairman reported that he has written to Gary Warren, Traffic Engineer, County Highways re this, that this request has been passed on to the appropriate person and that the PC are awaiting a response

Manor Road - Update on damaged post, faded road markings, traffic survey

The Chairman reported that the damaged posts on Manor Road have been replaced and that the faded road markings have been refurbished, it was noted that there may be more road markings that would benefit from refurbishment. The chairman reported that the PC traffic survey to find out how many heavy lorries are using Manor Road and also to check the turning ability of lorries at the Greenway/Kingston Road junction is planned to be performed.

To make a decision on replacing the noticeboard on Manor Road with a larger noticeboard

It was noted that the existing noticeboard on Manor Road is not an official Parish Council Noticeboard. It was agreed that the PC would like to accept the offer from a parishioner to make and fit a larger replacement noticeboard at no cost to the PC.

It was noted that the parish would benefit from a noticeboard near to the shops at Bindon Road.

To make decision on purchasing 30mph stickers for wheelie bins

After discussion it was agreed that the PC would not purchase 30mph for wheelie bins

To make a decision on putting bark along the wall in Manor Road Play Area to create an area to walk on

The Chairman reported that previous attempts in providing a path inside the wall of the play area have resulted in the PC being informed that from a legal point of view the land in the playground was given to the parish for the use of the children of the parish, and if a path is installed there needs to be a replacement area equivalent to the amount/area of path to compensate for the loss of area available to children. It was agreed that the PC would investigate the legal stance again to see if a path could be installed.

Update on fencing of Hudson Way Play Area

It was noted that TDBC have allocated the contract for installing the new fencing to DLO and that the fence should be installed soon.

The Chairman reported that following the notifications of lots of litter in Hudson Way Park the PC had communicated with Debbie Arscott, TDBC who will pursue the installation or additional bins on behalf of the PC.

9. Damage to Manor Road wall caused by car to be noted

The Chairman reported that in November 2015 the wall in Manor Road had been damaged by a car crashing into it. The PC have informed the PC's insurance company, identified what repair works are needed and requested quotes for the repair work which will be passed to the insurance company on receipt.

10. Bus Stop trial to be noted

The Chairman reported that the Grove bus stop with shelter is back in use on a 4 month trial basis until the end of March 2016 as a request stop. It was noted that if buses do not stop on request to report this to the Chairman, Mr M N Clark, who will report this to the bus operator.

11. Staplegrove sports club (SSC) expansion proposals

Simon Cutler from SSC was in attendance and presented the expansion proposals. The expansion would consist of the provision of football pitches, cricket pitches, tennis courts, a new club house, improved access road and new parking area, with one of the pitches being a 3G floodlit pitch. SSC are seeking some land behind their existing facilities to enable this expansion and would like the Parish Council to consider contributing to funding the initial project costs of around £6000 – (£3000 for architect fees and £3000 for planning application fees). SSC would also like the PC to consider further investment with allocated CIL funds.

Strong concerns over the impact of floodlights on residents were raised by Parish Councillors and parishioners and these were acknowledged by Simon Cutler.

Parish Councillor Mr B Evans suggested the possibility of expanding in the area where Staplegrove Youth Football Club/Taunton Vale Sports Club is as this area is already floodlight.

12. Report from Taunton Deane Site Allocations & Development Management Plan (SADMP) initial hearing on 1st & 2nd December 2015

Bryn Evans attended the above hearings are reported that:

- The Planners in attendance at the hearing reported that the Core Strategy Review had begun.
- The hearing dealt with Planning Application for The North Taunton Development and not with infrastructure concerns/issues. The Government Planning Inspector may sometime this year (2016) convene with Staplegrove Parish Council and Trull/Comeytrove Parish Council regarding infrastructure.
- The Government Planning Inspector noted the historical significance of the conservation area and asked if the PC would support a heritage assessment for Staplegrove
- The County Ecologist was present who talked about the foraging area for bat. The foraging area for bats from Hestercombe House has been monitored. A proposal of the delivery of 16 hectares for new habitat for bats between Hestercombe House and Staplegrove was noted.
- The Government Planning Inspector supported the Planning Application for the North Taunton Development but with certain conditions attached

13. Planning applications

Noted a paper giving details of planning application received/decisions made since the last meeting

14. Financial matters

14.1 November & December 2015 Bank reconciliations

The Clerk circulated the details of the bank reconciliations for November & December 2015, which had been checked and certified by an independent person.

14.2 Receipts and payments since last meeting

Receipts:	Staplegrove Village Hall PWLB loan payment repayment	£750.81
	1 Website Business Directory entry	£5.00
	Santander Interest	£8.93
Payments:	TDBC Election Fees 2015	£100.00
	SLCC Membership Renewal Fees	£88.00
	L Booth- Clerks Salary Nov & Dec 2015 + Nov 2015 expenses	£681.93
	Information Commissioner - Data Protection Register Renewal	£35.00

14.3 Budget Statement as at 13th January 2016

The Clerk circulated the Budget statement as at the 13th January 2016.

14.4 Removal and adding signatories to bank mandate update

The Clerk reported that Parish Councillor Mrs J Bird had been added as a signatory and that former Parish Councillor Mrs C Cornell had been removed as a signatory from the Parish Council's bank accounts. It was agreed to remove the retiring Clerk Lisa Booth as a signatory on the Parish Council's bank accounts and that the new Clerk Helen McInnes would be added as a signatory for the Parish Council's bank accounts.

15. Any other Business

The Chairman reported that the PC, in conjunction with Norton Fitzwarren PC, were still pursuing the reduction of the speed limit on the B3227 between Norton Fitzwarren and Staplegrove from 40mph to 30mph.

The Chairman reported that the Village Hall Committee are planning a 'Clean up the Parish' campaign/event in June/July 2016. It was agreed that the PC will support this campaign/event.

It was noted that the planning application for the North Taunton Development is likely to be submitted during the first week of February 2016 and will be examined by TDBC before being released to the public for comment.

District Councillor Mr N Townsend reported news from Taunton Deane which included:

- Somerset Waste Partnership costs will be increasing by 0.1%, and consideration is being given to reducing the grey wheelie bin collections to once every 3 weeks.
- The grants from TDBC to Parish Councils are decreasing by 1/3 each year until they are zero.
- Parking charges in car parks are increasing/changing with the idea of encouraging people to not use car parks designed for short stay parking for long stay parking.

20. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 and Thursday 26th May 2016 at 5pm. A meeting of the Staplegrove Children's playground Trust will follow both these meetings.