

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5PM, STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Alan Debenham, Joan Bird, Michael Clark (in the chair), Ian Talbot, Ros Went
District Councillors: Nick Townsend, Caroline Tucker
County Councillor: Rod Williams
Clerk: Helen McInnes

Five members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel Coates.

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 20th July 2017

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

4. Police Matters

It was noted that PCSO Wearmouth was on annual leave.

i. Reporting of 'near misses' at pedestrian crossing

The Clerk had been in communication with PCSO Wearmouth about incidences of vehicles cutting across the pedestrian crossing (near the Post Office) when the traffic lights were on red. It has been recommended that these 'near misses' should be reported to the Police using the 101 telephone number. The Police will need at least the vehicle registration, time and date.

Cllr Williams noted that Taunton School are reporting to the Police all 'near misses' occurring at the crossing on Greenway Road.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. Matters Arising

i. Dog signs in Hudson Way play area

These signs had now been fitted and it is hoped they will encourage more responsible behaviour by dog owners using the open space.

ii. Maintenance of footpath (T24/16)

Cllr Tucker has spoken to Mary Cook about the field edges being sprayed at the end of the growing season. The brambles which were overhanging the footpath near the Village Hall have been cut back by the resident. The Parish Council extended their thanks for this.

It was noted that soil and grass had encroached upon the width the footpath and that this needed to be recovered. A working party was suggested.

The trees along the path were in need of a crown lift. The Clerk was asked to contact David Galley (Taunton Deane Borough Council's Tree Officer) to discuss this.

7. Update on North Taunton Development

The Planning Committee meeting for the North Taunton Development had taken place on Wednesday 20th September 2017, and had resulted in a request for the decision to be deferred. The deferral was to allow for further information on four issues. These are:

- the possibility of the spine road being completed before any construction being started.
- the possibility of an increase in the percentage of Affordable Housing.
- a reconsideration of the location of the access point onto Kingston Road, to avoid the felling of trees.
- for further information to be provided about the impact of the development on Highways throughout Taunton.

No timescale was given for the deferment.

The Parish Council extended their thanks to Jackie Calcroft and Chris Rix for organising the speakers to maximise their impact. It was acknowledged that the lack of overlap between speakers and the references to Policy increased their significance.

It was noted that the site promoters were keen to meet with Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) as soon as possible. The next planning committee meetings are scheduled for 11th October, 8th November, and 6th December. However, an additional committee meeting could be arranged.

It was noted that both John Burton and Tim Burton has said at the meeting, that a request for a deferment of the applications could impact negatively on the bid for money from the Housing Infrastructure Fund. However, they had also said to the Committee that whether the funding was in place was not a planning consideration. It was felt that there was a tension between these two statements.

8. Planning applications

i. Report from Planning Sub-committee meeting, 14th August

The Council noted the minutes of the Planning Sub-committee meeting held on 14th August 2017. It was noted that the meeting had been advertised on the Parish website and noticeboards. The contribution of the Members of Public who had attended was welcomed.

ii. Decisions since last meeting to be noted

The Chairman talked through a paper giving details of planning application received and decisions made since the last meeting. Applications 34/17/0005 and 34/17/0024 had been granted Conditional Approval since the paper had been produced.

It was also noted that the Parish Council had been alerted to a concern relating to application 34/17/0016. Initially the Parish Council had raised no objection to the application for the construction of a stone track across the site of application 34/16/0029, which has itself gained approval for the site to be used for Research and Development, Light Industry and Storage. However, it was felt that the installation of an emergency power station is not in accordance with the categories of use given in that approval and that a further application would be required. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to such a further application on the grounds that no regular employment would be forthcoming from such a change of development, coupled with the associated, very undesirable, emissions from the many diesel generators needed.

9. Financial matters

i. Bank reconciliations – July and August 2017

The Clerk circulated the details of the bank reconciliation for July and August 2017, which had been checked and certified by an independent person.

ii. Receipts and payments since last meeting

	£
Receipts:	
Santander – bank interest (July)	6.49
Santander – bank interest (August)	6.68
Payments:	
SW Stump Grinders and Tree Services – work in the Grove	180.00
Helen McInnes – July salary and expenses	352.75
HMRC – May PAYE	59.80
TDBC - printing	21.94
Charlie Saville – August footpath maintenance and playground strimming	190.00
Grant Thornton – External Audit of Accounts	120.00
Helen McInnes – August salary and expenses	306.79
HMRC – August PAYE	59.80
Somerset Playing Fields Association – Annual Safety Inspection	80.00
TDBC – supply and fit of dog fouling signs in Hudson Way park	301.20

iii. Budget Statement as at 31st August 2017

The Clerk circulated the Budget statement as at the 31st August 2017. It was noted that there are still funds in the budget for tree works, so advice would be sought from David Galley with regard to further management of the Grove, in addition to the trees on footpath T24/16 near the duck pond.

iv. Conclusion of External Audit

The Clerk reported that notice of the Conclusion of the External Audit had been received from Grant Thornton. They had noted that the Annual Return had been completed in accordance with proper practices and that all regulatory and legislative requirements had been met.

13. Correspondence

An invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Somerset, had been received. The meeting will take place at 1pm on Thursday 12th October 2017 and be held at St James Church Hall. Flyers were distributed to interested parties at the meeting.

14. Any other Business

- Cllr Williams reported that he had made two submissions to Somerset County Council (SCC). The first related to works to improve the crossing on Greenway Road near Taunton School. The School had spent £20k to get advice on improving the crossing, and this had been submitted to SCC. It was noted that these works might be more costly than the scope of a request through the Small Improvement Scheme (SIS).

The second request was for the restoration of the full width of the footpath along Staplegrove Road, near Westerkirk Gate. He has made this request as a maintenance issue rather than a SIS. The Parish Council once again, raised their concern that the narrowness of the footpath was a serious safety issue.

Cllr Clark asked about the possibility of submitting a SIS for the other Road Safety improvements identified for Staplegrove Road. Cllr Williams recommended contacting Alyn Evans at SCC Highways with regard to these.

- Cllr Tucker asked if another meeting had been arranged to discuss parking at the Nuffield Hospital. It was understood that PCSO Wearmouth had initiated the first one. Cllr Tucker reported that she had spoken to TDBC about the possibility of selling part of the Hudson Way Open Space to the Nuffield. It appears that it would be possible, but potentially a bureaucratically complex procedure. Cllr Tucker also noted that she had tried to contact Sasha Burns on a number of occasions, but had been unsuccessful.

A Parishioner noted that the incidence of inconsiderate and illegal parking in Showell Park was increasing. Cllr Tucker agreed to contact PCSO Wearmouth and ask him to attend the area on a Thursday, as this is one of the worst days.

- Cllr Bird reported that she had emailed PCSO Wearmouth about parking problems in Rectory Road. The existing issues here were being exacerbated by Nuffield employees.

15. Date of next meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 16th November 2017 at 5pm. The subsequent Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 18th January 2018.

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 6.20pm

These minutes are approved as a correct record _____

Date _____