

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5PM
COMMITTEE ROOM STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Joan Bird, Michael Clark (chair), Alan Debenham, Simon Moon, Ian Talbot, Ros Went (until 6pm)

District Councillors: Dixie Darch (5.15pm to 6.15pm), Andy Sully (until 6pm)

County Councillor: Rod Williams (until 6pm)

Clerk: Janet Coates

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

1.Apologies

No apologies were received.

2.Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

No additions or amendments

3.To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019

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

4. Police matters

PCSO Tony Wearmouth attended the meeting to report on the last month, in total there were 39 calls which included 7 for missing persons, 6 traffic related, 5 thefts from cars and 1 robbery. The robbery was carried out in the early morning against a member of Taunton School staff and the police have run an advice session with the staff on keeping safe. The thefts from cars have occurred at the Village hall, the church car-park and Hudson Way. The Village Hall are considering better lighting and CCTV, the police advised that an article in the Parish magazine on 'locking cars, not displaying possible items of values' and messaging to groups that use the Village hall would be helpful. PCSO also reported that the vulnerable vehicle scheme will run in the Staplegrove area, the scheme involves the police checking cars and writing to owners if they feel that the car is vulnerable eg valuables are on display.

5. Questions from members of the public

No questions from the public.

6.Clerk's report

- i. Deferred items from last agenda – the clerk reported that the work on FOI, GDPR and the new financial model was still in progress.
- ii. Training courses – clerk reported that the VAT course that she and Cllr Debenham were due to go on was over-subscribed. However, Cllrs Bird, Debenham and Cllr Talbot have attended 'Essentials of Being a Councillor' . All three councillors reported that the course had been very useful, Cllr Bird has handbooks to distribute to the other councillors. Cllr Bird reported that there is no financial limit on how much a Parish Council has in reserves, and that there is no cap on the pre-cept from Somerset West and Taunton

- (SWaT). Cllr Bird also reported that Parish Council meetings should not have AOB, any item to be discussed must be published in advance. Cllr Debenham reported that Parish Councils had a number of powers and this should be considered in future planning.
- iii. Risk Register – the clerk reported that she had updated this following the comments at the last meeting. The clerk confirmed that the handyman has not renewed his certificate that enables him to work safely on highways as opposed to footpaths. It is understood that the handyman's work is on the footpaths of the parish. These courses run monthly and it was decided that the handyman would be required to attend such a course if and when he was asked by the Parish Council and that the Parish Council would fund it,
 - iv. Route 60+ training, morning of 6th March has been booked with the Village Hall and SCC. Clerk has put a Save The date article in December's Parish Magazine. Clerk will publicise more in January and take bookings as numbers are limited to 30.
 - v. The clerk reported that an invoice had been received from a previous clerk in respect of training and support given to new clerk.
 - vi. Clerk reported that the Asset Register quarterly check had been completed in October
 - vii. The clerk reported that the annual membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks has been renewed.

7. Update of works to and maintenance of the Grove.

Cllr Clark reported that works were continuing in the Grove on the 3rd section to 'open it up'. This work will cost £1000 and he proposed that the grant available from County Cllr Williams (minutes of 19th September) could be used to part fund this and the buying of woodland bulbs to further enhance the Grove. The bulbs could be planted by the cubs and scouts thus involving young people in an outside activity that benefits the parish. It was agreed that the clerk would submit a bid to Cllr Williams for a grant to support this work.

8. Discussion of North Taunton Development, following consultation event from Redrow and subsequent correspondence a Redrow Consultation Event 24th October 2019

Cllr Clark reported as Taunton's Garden Town status was subsequent to the planning approval he had hoped to see real change but felt there hadn't been any. There was no change on the spine road connection to existing highways and as a result Cllr Clark had now written several letters to Redrow, County Councillors and SCC highways to continue to press for a change in the connection of the spine road. Cllr Clark has asked SCC to explain the positioning of the spine road and has been told 'there are many reasons' but no detail forthcoming. Cllr Clark requested that County Councillor Williams continues to ask SCC Highways for this detail. Discussion on role of SWaT's planning department and Cllr Clark requested Cllr Darch to continue to press the SWaT planning committee for answers on spine road position and why it can't be moved.. As there is an understanding that the positioning of the spine road is now in the hands of the developers Redrow, Cllr Clark has written to Redrow Chief Executive to ask Redrow to reconsider the positioning, the letter has been acknowledged but no reply yet. Cllr Clark thanked ROSAG and WARG for their support in the letter writing to Redrow. Cllr Debenham thanked Cllr Clark for all the letters

he had written. Cllr Debenham reported that at the event he had questioned Redrow on how they were addressing climate change emergency for example eco-houses, solar panels and did not get a satisfactory answer. Cllr Darch reported that she had similar conversation. Cllr Talbot reported that the SCC Highways representative at the event had said that SCC no longer had the legal power to tell a developer where to put a road.

b Discussion on distribution of the £7.2m grant

No change since the last meeting, the £7.2m is a grant to SWaT and then a loan to Redrow and the conditions of that loan are still not known. County Cllr Williams reported that Staplegrove East developer is David Wilson and that Redrow and David Wilson have common agenda on access/spine road and are now in discussion. ROSAG and WARG reported that they have been invited to a meeting by SWaT on 16th December 2019 where the conditions of the loan will be discussed.

9. Discussion on Website

Clerk reported that the writer of the website does not have the capacity to offer training on making better use of the website. Clerk has sourced support from elsewhere, clerk asked for feedback on the website and navigation is the main issue. Clerk will work on improving this in the next few months.

10. Grant from County Councillor

Covered in agenda item 7.

11. Correspondence received

- i. Love Musgrove – request to support two new appeals - agreed to donate £100 to making Eliot ward -dementia friendly
- ii. Citizens Advice Bureau – request to support service for next year. CAB reported that 68 Staplegrove Parishioners had used their service last year. Agreed to make donation of £200
- iii. Age UK had sent a number of leaflets and the clerk will display them on the Parish noticeboards. Discussion on loneliness in the parish and if Parish Council should initiate a support scheme, Cllr Darch reported on schemes that Kingston St Mary had set up and that they had not been used. Agreed that the clerk will send Age UK a parish magazine that lists the various groups/coffee mornings and they can use this to sign-post people
- iv. Somerset Community Foundation – clerk has been emailed poster on Surviving Winter, forwarded it to editor of Parish magazine and will put poster up.
- v. SWaT Localities Engagement team – introductory letter from this team, offering support with community issues. Cllr Darch suggested that an invitation to a parish coffee morning or council meeting might be worthwhile

12. Planning Applications

- a. Report from Planning sub-committee meetings on 22nd October and 13th November – clerk reported there had been two applications at the first

meeting and one at the second. For each application no comments/observations to make were submitted. Minutes of both meetings are on the parish website

b. Planning Applications

34/19/0032 : Erection of a two storey extension to the side and a single storey extension to the rear of 19 Mallory Close, Staplegrove

The Parish Council decided that they had no comments/observations to make

34/19/0033/T : Application to carry out management works to one cedar tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Staplegrove No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1973 at 9 Stoneleigh Close, Staplegrove (TD15)

The Parish Council decided that they had no comments/observations to make

13 Financial matters

i – Bank reconciliations - September and October – these were circulated to the meeting. The clerk reported that an independent person had checked and signed them

ii – Budget Statement – 31st October 2019 – circulated to the meeting. The clerk reported that the cost of the duckpond path resurfacing had not been included in the budget set for the year – hence the ‘over-spend’ in footpaths.

iii – Receipts and payments since last meeting as below. Clerk briefly explained each entry.

Receipts and Payments since last meeting

Receipts		£
	Santander – bank interest October	12.13
	Santander – bank interest November	9.89
Payments	Howard SW LTD – August Grass cutting	192.00
	Salary - September	387.21
	RW Gale Ltd – duckpond path	10,122.00
	Charlie Saville – Sept Footpath maintenance	117.00
	SW Stump Grinders – Honey fungus	50.00
	Admin support to ex clerk	75.00
	Howard SW Ltd September Grass-cutting	96.00
	Howard SW Ltd Oct Grass-cutting	144.00
	Salary - October	315.06
	Annual membership to Society of Local Clerks	106.00
	Sutcliffe's Play equipment	117.59

AOB

Clerk circulated details of suggested VE day celebrations in May 2020. Agreed to discuss at next meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm