

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS FOR THE PARISH OF STAPLEGROVE HELD ON TUESDAY 25 MAY 2010 AT 6.00 PM AT STAPLEGROVE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Dr G Hayes (in the Chair), Mr M Clark, Mr A Debenham, Mr J Morris, Mr T Harris and PCSO C Escott.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from David Ware, David Greig, (Taunton Deane Borough Council's Parish Liaison Officer), County Councillor Elaine Waymouth and Ron and Sara Jennings, parishioners who had hoped to attend.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2009, 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 the annual report by Arthur Coles, the Chairman of the Staplegrove Trust, which referred to the number of meetings held and the form of assistance provided. It was noted that Mr Coles had subsequently retired as Chairman and had been replaced by Peter Heal. Tom reported that, contrary to the report, he had been elected as the representative nominated by the Parish Council until 2013.

Staplegrove Primary School

A report by the Head of Staplegrove Primary School confirmed that the school was continuing to thrive, featuring well in local league tables of performance and was recognised as a safe and caring community. The number of children on role stood at 193. A new national assessment framework had been introduced which, hopefully, would allow the scrapping of testing of children at year 6 in the future. The school continued to work actively with the Taunton Learning Partnership. This group, which consisted of all the schools in Taunton, worked to promote the best learning opportunities. The group had organised joint training of teachers, a children's carnival through the town centre and a celebration, at St James' Church, of the 1100 years of the diocese of Bath and Wells.

Staplegrove Youth Football Club

The report from the Staplegrove Youth Football Club Development Officer referred to a drop in membership numbers, typical of other clubs in the area, which resulted in a loss of income. Efforts were being made to boost numbers. The Club was still a FA Charter Development Club. Taunton Vale Sports Club had not agreed to the Club using its new facilities and as a consequence the football Club had to refurbish its old changing block instead, at a cost in the region of £8,000. The Club was also looking at increasing its parking area within the Corkscrew Lane site to deter members and visitors from parking on the dangerous bend on Corkscrew Lane. The meeting suggested that the Parish Council be asked to help with some of the funding for the refurbishment of the changing block.

5. REVIEW OF PARISH MATTERS

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

- The Staplegrove Trust had appointed a new chairman
- Graham Bennett who maintained the parish footpaths had retired and had been replaced by David Lock
- Tom Harris, editor of the Parish Journal for many years had handed over to David Bridges
- There had been much needed resurfacing at the lower end of Rectory Road
- Widening and siding of the footpath at Anjalin in Manor Road had improved pedestrian safety
- A contribution from the Parish Council helped to renew the ancient exterior lighting in the churchyard of St John's church.
- A new seat had been provided in the Hudson Way playground

- A Speedwatch scheme had been introduced, mainly in response to complaints of speeding on Manor Road
- Ownership of the village post office and stores had recently changed with big changes anticipated
- The Local Development Framework Core Strategy had suggested a new northern outer distributor road and 1800 new homes in Staplegrove in the next 16 years. However, a recent meeting attended by the Chairman had given him the impression that major new roads were no longer viable and Staplegrove did not seem to qualify as a suitable site for major urban extension, due to poor communication and lack of local amenities. Any future development in the Staplegrove area would most likely be in the Kingston Road area.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parish councillors were disappointed at the lack of parishioners attending this meeting, despite it being widely publicised. The Clerk agreed to investigate whether next year the meeting could be advertised in the County Gazette.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.