

Minutes of the meeting of STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 14 January 2021 at 5pm

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Joan Bird, Michael Clark (chair), Alan Debenham, Simon Moon, Ian Talbot, Ros Went; Clerk Janet Coates

County Councillor Rod Williams, District Councillors Dixie Darch and Andy Sully.
Two members of the public for item 12.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies received from Cllr Firmin
2. **Declarations of interest not already recorded** – no additional declarations made.
3. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2020.** Having been circulated the minutes were agreed and signed by the chair as a correct record of proceedings. The clerk will change surname of Mike Gingell to Ginger.
4. **Police Report** The Police are not able to join by zoom but had sent a report of incidences in the last month. 17 incidences were reported and several relate to vulnerable people known to the Police.
5. **Questions from members of the public** No questions received from the public.
6. **Clerk's report to include matters arising from previous minutes**
 - i. **Kibby's Field** – The clerk reported that she had emailed the strategy team at Somerset West and Taunton to register the concern of the parish Council that Kibby's Field has been included in the Local Plan 2040 – Issues and Options Consultation. The strategy team has responded that the site is included at this stage as it has been suggested for development by the land owner and is listed for that reason. The council has not yet assessed any of the sites and no decision has been made on future allocations.

After discussion and input from the District and County Councillors it was agreed that the clerk will reply to the strategy team to state that as Kibby's Field is part of one of three green wedges in Taunton that form part of the newly acquired 'Garden Town' status and is a vital 'green' route on this side of Taunton; then the Parish Council will not expect to see this site listed as development once Somerset West and Taunton council have assessed the list of sites suggested for development. If it is included the Parish Council will require an explanation and will object to its listing

- ii. **VAT Refund** - the clerk reported that she had submitted a VAT refund request for the 9 months to the end of December 2020.
- iii. **Grove Tree Report** the clerk reported that Gareth Machell will carry out the next tree report in February and will include the trees in the children's playground. The clerk will contact Charlie Saville about starting the clearing work in the north side of the Grove.

It was agreed to take item **12 i) 34/30/0024 erection of detached dwelling south of Shepwell** as the next item on the agenda .

Several residents have submitted objections and comments to this application and the Parish Council have looked at the plans and the feedback submitted to date. The chair invited the two residents at the meeting to tell the meeting what their objections were. The chair had also been in contact with the planning applicant and shared the information he had received from him. Several points were raised and discussed at length including points made by other residents and previous applications for this site. The consensus of the Parish Council was to support the residents where they could and Cllr. Talbot proposed that there were 3 valid objections the Parish Council could make. Cllr. Talbot agreed to draft a response and circulate it for approval. The clerk would then submit the agreed response.

7. Budget Setting for 2021-22 to include:

I Agree and approve proposed budget for 2021-22 – Cllr Talbot and the clerk as RFO had prepared a budget for 2021-22 and this had been circulated with the meeting papers. The budget includes some uplifting for inflation, extra expenses such as zoom, increase the amount for maintenance of the Grove and include funding for a speed indicator device. Cllr Bird asked what the playground expenses covered; this was clarified as replacement equipment and repainting. The budget was agreed and approved. Cllr Talbot was thanked for his work

li Agree precept request to Somerset West and Taunton – as part of the budget process Cllr Talbot proposed that the Parish Council continue to lower their reserves by £2000 and request a pre-cept of £12,934. This was agreed and approved.

lii Agree and authorise regular maintenance payments for 2021-22 – the clerk proposed that the regular maintenance payments for grass-cutting and footpath maintenance for 2021-22 are agreed and approved. This was agreed and approved.

8. Discussion on response from Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) to Expression of Interest submitted to use S106 funds for cycle path

The Parish Clerk reported that SWT had replied to say that Community Levy Infrastructure (CIL) money was normally used to pay for infrastructure but as the Parish Council did not have any CIL funds then an application could be made for S106 funds for this project. The application will need plans and 3 quotes to be sent with it. This is felt to be a lot of work without the guarantee of funding and that the Parish Council would want to know that the funding would be forthcoming before undertaking the work needed for the application. Cllr. Moon was asked if he could look into finding a plan/drawing for a cycle path and footpath. The clerk reported that she had not heard back from Somerset County Council Rights of Way team about removing the current cycling ban on the footpath and she will follow this up.

9. Annual Review of Parish Council Risk assessment

This was reviewed and the Parish Clerk will make the changes agreed.

10. Discussion on litter/alcohol problem in Showell Park wooded area

Cllr Talbot expressed his concern about the amount of litter being left on the ground outside the bin in this wooded area and at times this includes a large amount of beer cans. Other councillors said they had noticed beer cans and bottles in other areas as well. A ban on drinking alcohol in the Staplegrove area was discussed and the Parish Clerk was asked to raise this again with Helen Phillips our Community Engagement Officer at Somerset West and Taunton, as it was raised in the summer following problems in Hudson Park playground.

11. Request for donation to Citizens Advice Taunton

Citizens Advice Taunton have made a request for a donation to help fund their service. In the last 12 months they have supported 57 Staplegrove residents. It was agreed to make a donation of £200.

12. Planning Applications – details on Somerset West and Taunton website

- i. **34/20/0024 - Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling to the south of Shepwell, Staplegrove Road, Staplegrove** – this was discussed after item 6 of the agenda

- ii. **34/21/0001 - Formation of additional access with extension to parking area at Cooks Commercials, Apple Business Centre, Frobisher Way, Staplegrove** – after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should note their concern at the large number of mature trees being removed but nothing in the plans to suggest replacement planting or landscaping.

13. Financial Matters

- i. **Bank Reconciliations – October and November 2020**

These had been circulated with the agenda, Cllr Talbot confirmed that he had carried out the independent check and signed them as correct.

- ii. **Budget Statement - 31st December 2020**

Cllr Debenham asked if the projected annual spend was likely to be reached. The clerk thought it likely as there were 3 months of the clerk's salary to be paid, expenditure of £600 for January, tree report due.

- iii. **Receipts and Payments since last meeting see table below**

Cllr Bird asked who Challick Hill Services are, the clerk replied that this is who planted the hedge. The clerk reported that Gatekeeper services were the website company who had updated the website and given the clerk training.

14. Proposed dates of next meetings

Thursday 18th March 2021 5pm and Thursday 20th May 2021 5pm

15. Staplegrove Road/A358 Concerns were raised about a the stability of a section of wall near the Firs Nursing Home and a section of land near the lay-by at the Silk Mills end of Staplegrove Road. The clerk was asked to report the concerns to SWT building control and SCC highways.

Receipts and payments since the last meeting

Receipts		£
	Santander – bank interest – Dec	0.16
Payments		
	Clerk's salary – Oct/Nov/Dec	1155.90
	Howard SW Ltd – grass-cutting Nov	48.00
	Society of Local Clerks annual membership	109.00
	Wee Tree Nurseries	217.50
	Somerset Playing Fields Assoc Annual Membership	15.00
	Challick Hill Services	150.00
	Gatekeeper Services	410.00
	Information Commissioner – Data protection fee	40.00