

Minutes of the meeting of STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 15th July 2021 at 5pm

PRESENT:

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

District Councillor Dixie Darch (until 6.30pm)

One member of the public

MINUTES

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – apologies received from Cllrs Firmin, Sully and Williams
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 6th May 2021** – minutes agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Police Report** – clerk reported that the Police were unable to attend the meeting but had reported that extra patrols are being conducted in the retail area in Livingston Way due to the anti-social behaviour of one person.
5. **Questions from members of the public** - no questions from the public.
6. **Clerk's report to include correspondence and actions from last meeting**
 - i. **Certificate of Exemption for External Audit** – clerk reported that she had emailed the Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor by the deadline.
 - ii. **Publication of Accounts** - clerk reported that the accounts had been published on the council website and posted on the noticeboard at the Post Office.
 - iii. **Annual Insurance** – clerk reported that the insurance had been renewed through Carne and Co
 - iv. **Somerset Waste Partnership** – invitation received to attend briefing on Recycle More. Cllr Debenham interested in attending.

- v. **Grove Tree Report** - clerk reported that the report has been received, there are no major issues but Gareth Machell has recommended that he does an interim check this summer to check for ash dieback and Dutch elm disease . Clerk will ask him to carry out check.
 - vi. **Update on cycle track/footpath** - Sarah Elwood SWT Cycling Champion is leading on this, she updates the clerk regularly. She is currently working on removing the 'cycling prohibited' bye-law.
 - vii. **Celebrate Staplegrove's Living History** - clerk has received an email from Staplegrove History Society that details their next Community Event on Saturday 4th September 2021 and that the parish council are welcome to display anything of interest.
7. **Update - North Taunton Development** - Cllr Talbot gave an update. The latest meeting with SWT was a presentation from the developers of the west side on their proposal to address the phosphates issue. Their proposal is for 'Integrated Constructed Wetlands' making use of streams in the area. The proposal is expected to go to planning for approval in August.

8. Highways

- I. **Update on Bindon Road** - SCC highways has proposed the painting of double yellow lines along parts of Bindon Road near Matalan, Cllr Clark has responded on behalf of the Parish Council to request that the lines are painted outside Chaplins as that is where the problems with congestion and visibility are greatest. No response has been received from SCC Highways and the clerk will follow this up.
- II. **Traffic Lights at Manor Road/Staplegrove Rd junction** - Cllr Talbot reported that an SCC Traffic Engineer had spent a day observing the traffic light junction at Staplegrove Rd/Manor Road, following the concern from the Parish Council on the removal of one of the traffic lights. He concluded that the traffic light system generally works well, he did make a few minor tweaks to the timings but reported that the removal of the traffic light from the middle island is correct as this allows for the national system of Right Turn If Gap Acceptance (RTIGA) to operate. He said that there are two sensor pads under Staplegrove Road in the area where a car would sit to wait for a gap in the traffic to turn right, and whilst a car is there, the traffic lights that signal to drivers exiting from Manor Road remain red until the car moves. It was suggested that the clerk could publicise this information on the website.
- III. **Safety of walkers/cyclists at Manor Road/Corkscrew Lane** - Cllr Clark reported that the safety of walkers and pedestrians continue to be at risk through the 'S bend' at the Manor Rd/Corkscrew Lane junction and that there is an opportunity with the new development that a footpath is constructed here. It was agreed that the Parish Council need to wait until Redrow's revised plans for the site are published before deciding how to take this forward.

- IV. Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – Cllr Talbot has obtained 4 quotes for Speed Indicator Devices. He shared details of costs/functions/installation of each device. He proposed that the Parish Council purchase an Evolis system which is the company that have supplied Kingston St Mary. All Councillors were in agreement. Cllr Talbot has identified 5 possible sites where the SID could be placed including Staplegrove Rd, Bindon Rd, Greenway Road and Manor Road. Cllr Talbot will ask for a volunteer from the local speed-watch team to train with him as an installer.
- 9. Footpaths, Grove maintenance and rubbish bins** - the clerk reported that the SCC Rights of Way (RoW) officer has been in contact with the clerk, David Bird (Parish Paths Liaison Officer PPLO)) and has met Cllr Bird whilst checking some of the footpath network. There has been a rise in complaints about the condition of three footpaths in particular – Rag Hill, Gypsy Lane and Stonehouse Farm. SCC currently only cut the Rag Hill footpath and that is only once a year; as a one-off this year they will cut Gypsy Lane and StoneHouse Farm but the RoW officer will continue to speak to landowners about the requirement to maintain footpaths on their land. The clerk reported that she and the PPLO will review the footpath network and responsibilities for maintenance. The Grove has had a large number of weeds cut back to maintain the paths, support the trees and improve visibility for drivers and walkers. Litter continues to be a problem especially at the Co-op carpark, the clerk will email Somerset West and Taunton and request that the Co-op car-park is an ideal location for the new recycling bins they are introducing and that the children’s playground bin is replaced with a larger one.
- 10. Update on Somerset Unitary/ Local Government Reorganisation and Local Community Networks** – West Monkton PC has invited the Parish Council along with several other Parish Councils in the area to a meeting to discuss Local Community Networks. Cllrs Talbot and Bird will attend and the clerk.
- 11. Electoral Boundary Reviews - Staplegrove’s position in proposed review** - The proposed electoral boundaries for the UK has moved Staplegrove from the Taunton constituency into the Tiverton/Minehead constituency. The new electoral boundaries are proposed to make constituencies of similar size in terms of number of voters. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would respond to the consultation stating Staplegrove Parish Council regard Staplegrove as being aligned to Taunton as the majority of the village is barely 2 miles from Taunton town centre and has always been part of Taunton Deane.

12. Climate Change – Sharing Good Practice - Cllr Darch stated her wish to set up a group involving several Parish Councils to promote collaboration/share good practice on Climate Change. It was agreed that Cllr Debenham would represent the Parish Council on this group. Cllr Darch also high-lighted the Bus Back Better strategy as a new initiative the group could input into.

13. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – The clerk reported that she had been emailed about the number of national events scheduled for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee from 2nd to 5th June 2022. There have been some suggestions made as to how Staplegrove can mark the occasion, this includes planting an avenue of trees, regilding the clock on the bell tower. Cllr Talbot asked for suggestions from the Parish Council and a decision could be taken at the next meeting.

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

- i. **Application 34/21/0010** from last meeting, no comments were received by the clerk so no comment was made.
- ii. **34/21/0012; 34/21/0013 and 34/21/0014** have been considered by the planning committee since the last meeting and no comment has been made on any of the applications
- iii. **34/21/0015 LEW Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing change of use of land from agricultural to residential at Bramblings, Edgeborough Farm Road, Staplegrove** - agreed that the Parish Council would make no comment.

15. Financial Matters

- i. **Bank Reconciliations – April 2021 and May 2021** – these had been circulated with the minutes and Cllr. Clark had carried out the independent check.
- ii. **Budget** - budget position to the end of June 2021 was reported on,.
- iii. **Discussion on self part/full funding to mitigate against reduction in precept** – Cllr Moon raised this as a discussion point as grants from SWT and precept are likely to reduce in the future and the Parish Council might need to consider other funding sources. Agreed that this could be an issue to consider with other parish councils in our local network
- iv. **Receipts and Payments since last meeting see table below** – the clerk reported that the Internal Auditor recommended that each payment is listed separately i.e do not group together more than 1 payment to the same recipient

16. Date of next two meetingsThursday 16th September 2021 – 5pmThursday 18th November 2021– 5pm**Receipts and payments for approval since the last meeting**

Receipts		£
	Santander – bank interest – May	0.13
	Santander bank interest - June	0.14
Payments		
	Clerk's salary – April	427.04
	Clerks's salary – May	411.67
	Clerk's salary - June	396.15
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting and Grove – May	312.00
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting - June	120.00
	Craig Challick – replacement cheque - hedge	150.00
	Charlie Saville – footpath maintenance May and June	475.00
	Jill Larcombe Internal Audit	119.80
	Ian Talbot - weedkiller	36.71
	Village Hall – booking 2019-20	81.00
	Carne and Co – annual insurance	790.63