

Minutes of the meeting of STAPLEGROVE PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 18th November 2021 at 5pm

PRESENT:

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

District Councillor Andy Sully; County Councillor Rod Williams
One member of the Public

MINUTES

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – apologies received from Cllr. Darch
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 16th September 2021** – minutes agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Questions from members of the public** - no questions from the public.
5. **Somerset Unitary – feedback from Local Government Reorganisation Conference** - Cllr Talbot reported that he and the clerk attended this conference on 7th October along with parish and town councils from across Somerset. There was an interesting presentation from Wiltshire about their experience as a unitary council although they did not use specific examples which might have been more useful eg an example of a Parish Council that has taken on a service or an asset. Overall, Cllr. Talbot felt that not a lot of new information was shared. Cllr. Williams updated on the progress of forming the new Unitary Council due to start on 1st April 2023, it will be called Somerset Council and will be a continuing authority from Somerset County Council. Implementation Plan has started and all five councils are working together. There are 54 divisions in the County and it is expected that there will be 2 councillors per division, an election is due on 6th May 2022 but all council and political parties have asked the Secretary of State that this is pushed back to May 2023 to align with the setting up of the new council. The LCN (Local Community Networks) plans for the county are for 20-23 to be formed and the make-up of each LCN is being worked on. The LCNs will comprise of groups of parish and town councils. Separate to the LCNs, parish councils can take on assets and services but it is not yet known how this will be resourced. ie will parish councils receive additional funding and for how long.

6. Community Governance Review – Taunton Town Council – feedback from meeting on proposed area to be consulted on. Cllr Talbot summarised the position, there is not a town council for Taunton and this is unusual as most towns have a town council. The centre of Taunton is 'unparished' and one view is that the current unparished area becomes the new Taunton Town Council area. However, the area to be considered has been extended to include adjoining parishes including Staplegrove and this will form the Community Governance Review by Somerset West and Taunton Council. Cllr Talbot reported that at the meeting he attended with the other 'affected' adjoining parishes there were mixed feelings, some parishes are strongly against being part of Taunton Town Council and some felt that there might be benefits. Stage One of the consultation closes on 12th January and it was agreed that the Parish Councillors should meet in early January when more information is known and invite Cllr Rigby who proposed the 'area' to be considered and Carlton Brand from SCC One Somerset.

7. Clerk's report to include correspondence and actions from last meeting

- i. **Police Report** – clerk reported that the Police unable to attend the meeting and latest newsletter has been circulated.
- ii. **Grove - tree felling** - clerk reported that this started on 16 November, cut wood will be left in place for bug hotel construction
- iii. **Response from the Co-Op** - Cllr Talbot reported that he has had a phone call with the logistics manager for the Co-op distribution centre in response to his letter requesting smaller delivery lorries are used. The answer is 'No' as the lorries service more than one shop, but all the drivers are instructed on how to enter and leave the car-park which includes turning right not left on exit as the pedestrian traffic island prevents a left-hand turn. Cllr Bird reported that some lorries are driving on the edge of the Grove and Cllr Talbot said he would inform the logistics manager.
- iv. **Response from Mr. White regarding tree planting** - response received that this will not be possible.
- v. **Update on Somerset Wood** – clerk and Cllr Williams gave an update on the number of trees now planted at the Somerset Wood in Cheddon Fitzpaine.
- vi. **Bin in Children's Playground** – clerk reported that the playground is on the SWT list to have its bin replaced by a larger one. Not expected until 2022 due to steel shortage.
- vii. **Stoneleigh Close** - clerk reported that SCC Highways have agreed to apply a surface dressing to this road.
- viii. **Correspondence** - clerk reported:
 - Thank You letter had been received from the Parochial Church Council in respect of their grant;
 - Devon and Somerset Fire service have started a consultation on their future aims/plan

- West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine's revised neighbourhood plan is out for consultation
- Carne and Co our Insurers have changed their name to Gallagher

8. Update - North Taunton Development - Cllr Talbot reported that there had been no updates since the last meeting. The 'wetlands' application discussed in the summer has not yet been submitted to SWT planning.

9. Highways

- I. **Update on Bindon Road – proposal from SCC on yellow lines** – Cllr Williams updated the meeting as he had met with SCC Highways to discuss their revised proposal after feedback from local residents. Cllr. Williams shared the revised plan which now had less double yellow lines than the first proposal; the plan only showed a small extension to the current double yellow lines at the entrance to Chaplins rather than double yellow lines along the whole section of road outside Chaplins. Cllr. Williams said he supported the revised proposal but Cllr. Clark said he did not support it. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would ask SCC Highways to consider single yellow lines rather than no yellow lines as this would restrict parking during the day and give residents and their visitors parking in the evenings.
- II. **Speed Indicator Device** - Cllr Talbot reported that he has had confirmation from SCC Highways on the proposed 5 sites for the speed camera to be placed and the order for the speed camera has been placed. The proposed sites for the camera are Manor Rd, Greenway Rd, Staplegrove Rd and two places on Bindon Rd. More volunteers are needed to help move the cameras.
- III. **Finger-posts** - the clerk reported that the 'finger-post' road-sign near Edgeborough is in need of maintenance due to rust etc and that SCC has confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the 'finger-post' road-signs in the parish. Cllr Sully suggested that the Parish Council use the same contractor that Norton Fitzwarren use and this was agreed by all. Cllr Sully will forward the details to the clerk.

10. Free Trees from Somerset West and Taunton - Cllr Talbot reported that he had ordered 'Free Trees'. Ideas for where they could be planted include the Grove to replace some of those that have been felled and Hudson Way park.

11. Open Spaces

- I. Footpaths –T24/4** - clerk reported that she has asked the SCC Rights of Way officer about repairs to this footpath and has been referred back to the team SCC Highways , clerk feels we are back to 'square one' and no further forward on using S106 money. Cllr Sully asked the clerk to send him her correspondence on this matter and he would investigate.
- II. Grove - planting of bulbs/biodiversity** - Cllrs Talbot, Clark, Bird and Moon have met with a knowledgeable parishioner to discuss bulbs and bug hotels. Agreed that bulbs will be bought and planted to enhance the Grove and Cllr Talbot will organise a planting party; and bug hotels will be built using branches from the recently cut trees.

12. Budget 22-23 – Cllr Talbot distributed his paper on a proposed budget and precept amount for 2022/23. Cllr Talbot asked that councillors consider the proposal and email him with any comments and that the budget and precept will then be decided on at the Parish Council meeting in January.

13. Queen's Platinum Jubilee - discussion/decision on how to mark the occasion – Cllr Clark reported that the regilding of the clock is in hand but does require planning permission from the Church authority. Cllr Talbot reported that he had spoken to Staplegrove History Society and they are planning an event; a concert is also being organised by a local resident.

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

- i. Application 34/21/0024T** - it was noted that some trees have already been cut down before planning application decided. After discussion, agreed to submit 'no comment'
- ii. Application 34/21/0025** – after discussion, agreed to submit 'no comment'

15. Financial Matters

- i. Bank Reconciliations – August 2021 and September 2021** these had been circulated with the minutes and Cllr. Clark had carried out the independent check.
- ii. Budget – October 31st 2021** - budget position to the end of October was reported on.
- iii. Receipts and Payments since last meeting see table below** - these were noted and approved.

16. Date of next two meetingsThursday 20th January 2022 – 5pmThursday 17th March 2022 - 5pm**Receipts and payments for approval since the last meeting**

Receipts		£
	Santander – bank interest – September	0.14
	Santander bank interest - October	0.13
	Precept 21/22 -2 nd payment	6467.00
	Parish Grant	1700.00
Payments		
	Clerk's salary and expenses – September	497.41
	Clerks's salary and expenses – October	396.15
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting – August	48.00
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting - September	48.00
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting – September	48.00
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting – October	48.00
	Howard SW Ltd – Grass-cutting - October	48.00
	Annual membership Society of Local Clerks	112.00
	Charlie Saville – footpath maintenance Sept	235.00
	Charlie Saville – footpath maintenance	221.00
	Grant to Parochial Church Council	525.00
	Somerset Playing Fields Association – Inspection fee	80.00
	Somerset Playing Fields Association – Annual Fee	15.00