

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE  
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:****C. ROGERS (in the Chair)****L. COWLEY****P. MOORE****A. GOODMAN****J. BRAZIL (County Councillor)****J. GARDNER****MRS P. DOUST****MRS. C. NUTTALL-SMITH****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS****P. SPENCE – Personal****T. HOEKSMAN – Personal****J. BAVERSTOCK (District Councillor) - Personal****J. ANSELL – Personal****R. FOSS****1. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

*Cty Cllr Brazil gave his report at this point as provided under Minute 8 and then left the meeting.*

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were invited to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they had in any items to be considered at this meeting. They were also reminded to consider whether in the light of recent activities any items within their Register of Interests should be updated. It was advised that any unforeseen request for a Dispensation would be considered by the Clerk at this point only if there was no way a councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

The applications below were considered at this meeting and the following observations submitted to District:

- 0227/15/F Householder application for first floor rear extension, additional hardstand to front elevation, new summerhouse and garage conversion 42 Green Park, Way, Chillington – No objection. However there were concerns due to the size of the summerhouse structure within this footprint alongside the extension to the property. It was felt that there should be a condition placed on future use of the summerhouse if used

for business and such knock on effect in the locality with subsequent parking. It was also felt that it should not be used as ancillary bedroom accommodation to the property. As the wood burner chimney would be lower than the adjacent properties there was a concern with regard to smoke intrusion especially on neighbouring bedrooms. It was noted that the extension Juliette balcony could overlook Coleridge Lane properties reducing privacy. With regard to the summerhouse roof landscaping the introduction of a wildflower meadow would not be in keeping with this area and by virtue of its location such sustainability was queried with regard to future visual impact.

- 0267/15/F Householder application for conversion of roof space into habitable space, creation of balcony at the front and construction of single storey side extension Ashridge, Kiln Lane, Stokenham - Objection. The comments as stated before still stood as parish council's comments were not addressed in this design. This was still felt to be an overdevelopment of the site by doubling the property mass together with adjusting the roofline which remains higher and as such out of keeping with adjacent property, creating a dominant point in the village with overlooking of Downham and Doveleys situated below this property. Such balcony would also be out of keeping with the streetscene. The introduction of double aspect velux, appeared to be akin to a cabriolet design and could increase overlooking and care should be given in relation to this with regard to such future amenity use of adjacent properties.

#### **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

- All emailed correspondence already forwarded to all parish council.
- Unsigned letter received raising concern with regard to 2147/06/F Field Barn, Chillington now called Oakloft where it was suggested that the works had not been carried out in compliance with the planning permission. This would be raised with Planning Enforcement.

#### **5. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was felt that advertising should be kept to Stokenham Parish and not inviting other parishes as the items to be discussed within the following Hustings should be focused on matters of concern in this parish.

It was AGREED that arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting be as per the draft Agenda to last about 30 minutes followed by a meeting to 'meet the Parliamentary Candidates for this area' as follows:

- Format for Hustings – Each parliamentary candidate would be offered 5 minutes to introduce themselves, say what aspects they were going to stand for and then briefly cover from a local parish perspective the topics/questions provided.
- The questions provided to the candidates would be placed on two display boards.
- Each candidate would be timed for their presentation (Egg Timer).
- The Chairman would ask those present to try to address questions on local issues as the national perspective would be covered in detail over the next few weeks.
- Advertising – Cllr Spence was to be asked if he would do an article for the Community section of the Gazette and Cllr Cowley would design posters for every parish noticeboard and shops. It would also be good if some young people in the parish attending Kingsbridge School could be present.
- Tea and coffee was to be provided by Cllrs Mrs Nuttall-Smith and Mrs Doust in the Wesley Smith Room for the candidates only. Cllr Gardner would meet and greet each

candidate and take them to the Wesley Smith room whilst the Annual Parish meeting was in progress. Water jug and glasses to be provided on the table for candidates.

- Cllr Cowley would deal with microphone provision.
- Chairs and tables would be put out so helpers needed to arrive at 6p.m.

## 6. REPORTS

### **SUPER CLUSTER MEETING**

Cllrs Cowley and Gardner went to the Super Cluster/TAP meeting expecting it to be laid back and no one could make a decision. However Kingsbridge arrived with the aim to ensure that their bid was given precedence as they felt others did not warrant full monies. Cllr Cowley found that being first up for consideration the questions were confrontational. Kingsbridge received their grant minus 10% and the remainder of all others within this cluster received theirs minus 23%.

### **PUBLIC BUSES**

Cllr Gardner noted a recent new grant wherein funds can be obtained for a community bus that would be provided if the community ran it. It was noted but currently the Coleridge Community Bus had a bus but a lack of drivers.

### **VARIOUS FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Mrs Nuttall-Smith noted that the footpath down through Brooking field to the caravan site had become worn and had a rivulet that a walker could turn an ankle on. The section through Nick Howard's land looked alright for the surface but was tatty due to the fence being down. Paul McFadden County Footpaths had advised that he was due to look at this footpath then report so this could be used to instruct works required. She also noted the constant stream of water along Kiln Lane had been repaired at the juncture with the post box but was now coming out at a manhole by Butsons Close. This needed attention. **Report No: W15774662.**

Cllr Mrs Doust noted that on the path from Helmers to access Helmers Playing field there were little lights within the trees which users of the Brooking Wood path felt would be fitting for this area. The Helmers estate was overseen by a private Management Company and therefore any question with regard to lighting would need to be directed to them. As to their suitability within the Brooking Wood this would need discussion with the landowner.

The Chairman enquired how the works to the path along the stream just off Summerye Lane were holding up and was advised that there was no flooding. There was still a muddy area on the Summerye Lane pathway at the gate but this could be walked around. However a review of the works would be undertaken and consideration given to any improvements needed.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- County currently had a Public Transport consultation document out as they felt that cuts were necessary to services that were not regularly used. This would affect the 93 on Sunday and perhaps was short sighted for future tourism and those unable to achieve different forms of transport.
- Met with Adam Keay again now that the works have been carried out to release blockage and flooding at Coleridge. The water still lay quite high and whilst now clear would probably still come across the road. That said he agreed that a hard surface could alleviate the problem. However the farmer would need to be asked to keep the highway thereabouts cleaner than at present as much of the problem was from on road silt blocking the area.

Adam Key would put in for drainage funding and this added to the parish council TAP funding for passing places it was hoped could be done in the next few months but realistically after the beginning of the new financial year.

- Reported sunken culvert in the village feeder road past the Exchange, Church and pub directly to Adam Key when he was in the area and could be shown such.
- Forwarded report from Alan Denbigh with regard to Slapton Line and Torcross shingle bank and the expected outcomes from such works.
- Dean Small was supposed to get information to parish council with regard to purchasing two new flags for all commemorations at the tank. He currently held these flags and raised them for Exercise Tiger, Remembrance Sunday and other services he was asked to do so for. The previous flags had been provided by District but were now so tatty due to the weather beating their replacement would cost in the order of £400. Parish council were sympathetic to this civic need.
- Letter dated 16th February 2015 from a resident within Helmers Way advising of concerns with regard to what they consider a dangerous entrance/exit onto the estate for pedestrians from the A379. The request was that further discussion was pursued with regard to the ransom strip which would allow safe access from Helmers into Orchard Way. Parish council were in agreement but not the land owner and thus unable to pursue such until the landowner was ready to do so.
- Last May 2014 District Council changed their planning committee so that Parish and Town Councils could ask to speak to specific applications. It was expected that this would continue after May 2015 and thus even though parish council would have formally responded on an application if such were called to go to District Committee parish council could now elect for a representative to state the parish council opinion on such application.
- Letter received from the Stokenham Guides explaining their experience in London allowed by the Grant received and thanking the parish council. A wonderful photographic record and synopsis of a special group experience was provided.
- Letter received from David Cohen and forwarded to all parish councillors with regard to his proposal to seek a change to Localism legislation and the planning system to give more weight to the local parish and town council opinion. Parish Council felt that such local representation would be preferable but so unlikely that parish councils could veto a development. They felt that they should see who the new Government would be after elections and review any new policies.
- Questionnaire from South Devon Community Orchards Project asking for information with regard to orchards in the parish in order that they could assess needs for grants was noted and completed for Beeson Village Green, Chillington Orchard and Stokenham Village Green.
- Notification received from Devon County Footpaths with a Public Creation and Extinguishment Order to realign Footpaths 10 and 18 following the storm erosion at Beesands.
- Letter received from Tozers solicitors with regard to the transfer of land at Helmers Playing field. District had declined to waive the right to charge for parking should such become a problem but would reconsider if it became a nuisance. The overage period would be reduced from 80 to 50 years and the percentage payable from 75 to 50%. As the Section 106 monies had been paid over and the hall build completed this item in the contract would be removed. Ground maintenance had been received for one year and a further payment would be paid this year before parish council became solely responsible. Clarity with regard to the insurance and play equipment inspection to run for two years from the date of transfer had not been confirmed although District currently charge £100 p.a. for this service on any play area. However the actual period of guarantee from

Playdale had not been provided and this would be requested. Nothing had been stated with regard to the ongoing placement and collection of litter bins and this would require clarification.

Also the nuisance caused by a neighbouring landowner allowing their dogs access across the stream and exercise within the play area had not been dealt with.

Legal fees were quoted to be in the region of £760 - £920 but were now £600 to £800 plus VAT. Respond that there needs to be some sort of legal stance taken deal with regard to the dog nuisance being allowed into the park not on leads before any further commitment was made.

## **7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dist. Cllr. Baverstock – No report.

## **8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cty Cllr Brazil had that day been at County Hall where they put tax up by 1.99%, equivalent to £22 on a Band D property. With the pressure that they were under from central Government and their cuts to Local Government there was a consensus around the chamber with this increase. There were disagreements about where the cuts should come from but in the end it was agreed £1.6million would come out of public transport so this would affect Bank Holiday and Sunday service in the summer. Another issue which he was against was the effects of bus subsidy removal on post 16 year olds in education training, which they must now do until 18 years old. They could be 'means' tested must effectively must now pay £500 pa. for school transport. For families on an income between £15 and £20000 pa. they would not qualify for assistance from Government but this would be another burden on outgoings. Making educational training compulsory and then not providing funding for rural transport was unfair. County Council was in support of a new premium tax on second homes and had written to the Local Government Association and the County Councils network to look at the practicalities of that as this would need primary legislation to enact. Devon County were led to believe that there would be no grant from Government by 2022 and all tax would have to be raised locally so a second home premium tax was an opportunity to raise £10s millions to offset such cuts.

The Clerk enquired how the cuts to subsidising public transport could have been agreed when the County Consultation lasted till April 2015. There was to be a £1.7 million cut so County had put £100000 back in to cover any challenge to a specific cut. This appeared cynical consultation. Cty Cllr Brazil felt that there was still an opportunity to comment on the consultation with regard to the 93 as it was only subsidised about £1.20 per ride, whereas some services were £20 per journey. The County Councillors from South Hams had tabled an amendment to cut money from the business enterprise pot and keep the bus services but other County members did not support this choosing public bus cuts. Historically County had 'salami sliced' bus services so that it was now almost impossible for people to commute to and from work and then the operatives complained such buses were not used! Parish Councillors asked why the companies used double deckers on this route where there is a lower take up. It was suggested that the operatives hand the bus service to a local company such as Tally Ho and they could provide a shuttle. National companies such as First kept smaller companies out and it was agreed that in rural areas deregulation did not work because there were not the local companies to compete.

The reinstallation of the footpath from Stretegate to Strete was going ahead but Cllr Rogers was concerned on hearing about such costs for the path and wall. Cty Cllr Brazil acknowledged this but noted that the wall was going up was through people's private gardens so this was why it is being done to safeguard their security. County Council did push and say the footpath had to be

allowed through private gardens or they would go for compulsory purchase but if they did this they must show they had been reasonable. With four or five gardens to go through and County agreed a wall. Costs for paths such as the one in Charleton cost in the region of £20,000 but this was how it was, even though locally traders could manage it cheaper. County put in £1/4 million to this project which would make a massive difference to the area and walkers. Also this had included all the ordnance and metal detecting due to the sensitivity of the area and they had found unexploded bombs so it was necessary. The repairs to the path down at Lannacombe were to be done imminently.

The Chairman noted that it was good to receive the information on the shingle movement at Torcross from Alan Denbigh and asked if Cty Cllr Brazil had received this. It was felt that this technical information put to rest some of the comments that had been circulating with regard to this project.

### **9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES**

Balances were provided and the below cheques were noted and agreed for signature:

Current £6376.22

Savings (1) £37296.32

Savings (2) £4924.09

Transferred: £NIL

002204 M.J. Hallett – Torcross hedgetrimming £96.00

002205 HMRC – Tax & NI £303.82

002206 Wages – February £1138.42

002207 – 002012 Various - Councillors Allowance £571.20

002213 G. Claydon – Money for electricity meter £20.00

002214 Eclipse – Broadband, emails and 24 months Domain registration £155.50

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 19th March 2014. Planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in March 2015 if further plans needing consideration in the interim were received. All meetings were to commence at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.50p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman      Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015.