

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2015 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

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

No members of the public were present.

Cty Cllr Brazil gave his report at this point. He noted that there was not much to add since his last report on the budget meeting and the subsequent cuts for parish maintenance, bus subsidy etc. With regard to the buses County had agreed a cut but retained £100,000 to use if any consultation concerns were raised of certain route cuts. There would be no buses in and out of Kingsbridge on a Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday with the intended cut. Responses to this cut could be made on line, by phone or written. The Chairman asked how many passengers used this bus. Cty Cllr Brazil responded that this route was not subsidised greatly but sometimes it was not about money as for people with cars there was no problem but for those without transport it was life changing. The Chairman asked why County could not charge a small rate for bus pass users instead but this was not allowed to by legislation as it was national policy. Cty Cllr Brazil advised that even if each bus pass user gave a small donation each time it would make a massive difference and they could ring-fence and use the money raised for bus services.

John Baverstock noted in his capacity as churchwarden at Stokenham Church that the pedestrian access from Orchard Way into Helmers Way was raised at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council. He noted there was quite a bit of sympathy for cutting through this strip of land owned by the church but there was possibilities that there was a three year stop on providing this. They were not sure this was correct so church officials were looking into it. If a permissive path was provided then the people in Orchard Way were worried they would find people parking there and children making a noise outside their houses and therefore the church could consider shutting the access again. John had placed a comment on the Facebook page of Chillington Community Association website about what the church was thinking of doing and had a very good response. Those responding acknowledged the possible impact on residents in Orchard Way and said they would go out of their way to stop this nuisance. Cllr Mrs Doust had visited Orchard Way

regularly and felt those parking were not from Helmers Way but those without parking along the main road. The PCC had agreed he get on with this project and report back and with the CCA Facebook responses he was going to also drop leaflets through Orchard Way letterboxes.

Cllr Hoeksma arrived.

A concerned resident in Orchard Way had spoken with John and now understood the intention. He would report to the PCC at the end of this month but the creation of the pathway responsibility he felt ought to be shared between parish councillors and volunteer residents of Helmers Way due to the need for bramble clearing and surfacing the gap so that the path was created by the people.

With regard to future consideration as to who owned the strip of land it might well be that at some stage there could be an arrangement between parish council and PCC.

On another matter the Church had a tarmac path from outside the pub up around the back of the church and out through the churchyard that was becoming undermined and thus deteriorating and they needed to reinstate it. PCC would like parish council to consider providing a grant as quotes for these works range from £7750 - £11500 and thus this was on the agenda tonight.

John Baverstock having decided to take on the post church warden felt this would be good after he stepped down as District Councillor as it would involve continued community work due to some unrest. One function of his functions would be to bring the congregation back together again and another to consider bringing Beesands Church 'back up to scratch' as it needed maintenance.

Cty Cllr Brazil 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. None received.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 19th February 2015 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee none held March 2015

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 0407/15/F Installation of 4000 litre LPG tank in garden to serve public house Open Arms, Chillington – No objection.
- 0419/15/F Householder application for alteration to existing property The Old Cider Press, Mill Court, Frogmore – No objection.
- 0468/15/F Householder application for raising of roof level to permit construction of first floor dormer extension The Nursery, Chillington – No objection.
- 0527/15/F Householder application for new conservatory to side elevation 45 Gratton Drive, Chillington – No objection.

- 0528/15/F Householder application for extension and alterations to dwelling (resubmission of application 53/2943/14/F) Taffrail, Hallsands – No objection. No letters of objection had been received by parish council on this application so in view of local concerns previously raised by adjacent neighbours it was questioned whether any changes made herein reflected concerns that had been previously expressed. There were also concerns with regard to the siting of the air source heat pump and the neighbouring property. Whilst not a planning consideration residents in the road behind wished assurance that the contractors would park within the applicant property during building works as they had previously experienced being inconsiderately blocked in by contractors using their area.
- 0532/15/F Retrospective planning application for amendments to planning approval 53/2407/11/F (changes include changing room/beachstore, landscaping, stone cladding to painted render) Start View Lodge, Hallsands – No objection.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- All emailed correspondence already forwarded to all parish council.

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBSIDY – COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

The proposals within the County consultation to remove the subsidy to the 93 bus route were noted and it was AGREED that the following comments be made:

A subsidy of £3500 was felt not to be excessive in assisting and encouraging transport of 1500 passengers and it would appear mean spirited to congest roads more by those having to seek to use a car. The 164 Kingsbridge to Totnes Station early bus carried 50 passengers and had received a subsidy of £1500 so the 93 was exceptionally good value. Also it had to be remembered that the 93 served all the communities through surrounding villages along this major arterial route. The journey was also known as the best tourist experience travelling on the upper deck along this vista and should perhaps be marketed better. Removing this service on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday during summer time was foolhardy considering this was an area for tourist industry. Another factor was that any 16-18 year old who had a Sunday job in Kingsbridge could not then get to work.

6. GRANTS

It was AGREED that a grant of £300.00 be made towards the replacement of the flag pole commemorative flags and smaller flags placed on the tank and flown at specific occasions at Torcross Tank car park.

7. FOOTPATH THROUGH CHURCH

It was AGREED to vire the monies held for the churchyard to the footpaths budget to allow a grant up to £2000 to be made to the Parochial Church Council to assist with the upgrading works to the cemetery path through the churchyard.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT

It was AGREED to request Hawthorns Accounting to carry out the internal audit of the parish council accounts for 2014/15 and to raise any points of audit trail put forward by parish councillors.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cowley for all his work over the last four years in producing the parish newsletter. It was proposed and AGREED that in future only one newsletter would be produced to coincide with the Annual Accounts and Chairman's Annual Report. This would then be delivered to the whole parish during the summer months.

Cosmic were providing free training with regard to social media and protocols and this was to be booked for the incoming parish council. Cllr Gardner noted that the parish website was up and running but needed more work to complete it. Cllr Cowley enquired if the website could be made accessible for groups to update their own sections but this was not felt possible in view of the access requirements.

10. STOKENHAM PLAYING FIELD

The owners of this land had instructed a solicitor to bring the agreement for the use of this land to an end and it was AGREED to comply with the legal requirements to allow such changes.

11. TAP FUND

Discussion took place with regard to allocation of these funds and it was AGREED as follows:

- 2013/14 £1631.60 held for highway passing place and awaiting further details from Highways as to payment
- 2014/15 £1958.34 held and thus applied to buddle clearance and vegetation access for footpaths.
- 2015/16 £1540.00 to be claimed and applied to the Church footpath with additional from parish council.

12. MAINTENANCE

DEFERRED with an overview and breakdown of ongoing responsibility requested for the next parish council meeting.

13. REPORTS

COLERIDGE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Cllr Ansell felt that the turnout was low and three of regular independent attenders were leaving after the election so this did not bode well for the group. He felt this was a shame for this group because even if they did not carry out any tasks for 3 – 4 years they were united when area problems arose. The group had a presentation from Dementia Friendly parishes around with advice from Liz Hitchins. They had obviously done a lot of work and had a part time paid coordinator and thus went around talking to shops and businesses and requesting if customers/residents appeared confused please direct them to this organisation. The next Coleridge meeting was 17th June.

CHILLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cllr Gardner noted that they group were changing their meeting to every quarter and the next meeting was scheduled for 11th June.

DEVON HEDGE GROUP MEETING

Cllr Ansell attended and had a talk on wood fuel from hedgerows. It was suggested that local schools could install a woodchip boiler and all surrounding farmers when they cut hedges could chip this and feed into it. Also this group would teach people in the parish to hedgelay. Frances Ansell talked to Stokenham School but they had just installed a new boiler today and advised that County Council discouraged them from using such boilers.

CLERK'S REPORT

- The parish council solicitor had advised that all outstanding points had been agreed between the parties save for any action with regard to the unlawful bridge. Once such

point had been dealt with the Transfer document for this land from District to Parish Council would be sent for signature.

- Concern from a resident with regard to the lack of signage in relation to speeding in Torcross and the need for more litter bins and more frequent collections was noted. However there was sufficient signage in Torcross and County had advised earlier in the year that they would be carrying out speed checks through Torcross. District had provided the litter bins and when further ones were considered for installation the residents had complained about the siting of such and therefore the amount and location was down to this. Collections are set by District but with the reduction in staff and budget it was not felt that further collections would be undertaken however if there was a bin missing due to the storms this could be reported.
- A resident in Chillington had complained about dog faeces and this had been forwarded to the Dog Warden. The resident felt that the Dog Warden had missed the point but she had explained in further emails that signs had been placed around Chillington and more would be put up but that until someone was prepared to act as a witness or provide such information so that they could be caught those concerned did not read the signs and often removed them.
- The response with regard to the Community Orchard Questionnaire was sent off to Robin Toogood and the information provided acknowledged. They will use this to design an application for support funding.
- Community Reinvestment Fund application was submitted for the remaining section of path from the Church car park to Stokeley Farm Shop entrance and an award had been received.
- Four letters received from residents with regard to overhanging trees causing a nuisance were raised and the tree warden asked to review this matter.
- Parish Council were advised they needed to consider possible projects in the community as there was £33,000 earmarked for Section 106 contribution at Grist Mill. However this funding had not been ringfenced for just Stokenham Parish and could be lost if there were projects elsewhere ready. Also by highlighting future projects that work could be used to bid for the Community Reinvestment Fund. Any ideas should be put forward in order that they could be worked up and costed ready for an application at the end of 2015.
- The Parish Clerk had contacted the Fire Brigade and Community Council of Devon with regard to the Resilience Project and been advised by Greg Davies on 27th February 2015 to say that Lesley Smith and David Kinross had since discussed the project. They had met with Hatherleigh and Shaldon since their non-attendance at the first meeting and both were keen to progress. CCD had experienced problems dealing across so many agencies with differing visions but hoped to take this forward shortly.
- Cllr Foss had advised by phone that in his District Council capacity he had gone to London with other District officers and agency representatives to meet with Oliver Letwin MP. They were requesting that funding be put towards a study into the loss of economic income should the A379 Line breach. District, County and the Environment Agency had pledged £30,000 and Oliver Letwin MP indicated that he may find the remaining £10,000 for a scoping study.
- Nomination forms for Parish Council had been received and those wishing to stand were advised to collect such and apply.

14. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dist. Cllr. Baverstock advised that Torcross beach levels were good and were about 1 metre higher since the works carried out. As mentioned in the meeting there had been a further £12000 granted by District Community Reinvestment Fund towards the Stokenham to Torcross footpath and he

had attended this District meeting to speak in favour of such funds. He still had grave concerns with regard to Transition 18 and the current redundancies across the District which was losing so many experienced officers. Also he noted that in the back lanes on his way home he had stopped to allow a passing car whose driver informed him that he was a bank driver for District and had been one for four years. Obviously those who can be called upon from a bank of reserves at any time would be being paid at a higher rate and he wondered how much could have been saved at District by just attending to these in house anomalies.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cty Cllr Brazil reported as above in Open Forum then left.

16. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

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

Current £4475.88

Savings (1) £37297.47

Savings (2) £4924.28

Transferred: £NIL

002215 British Telecom – Council phone £167.10

002216 HMRC – 238.27

002217 Wages - £1101.66

002218 G. Claydon – Travel and Sundries £47.65

17. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 16th April 2014. Planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in April 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: 9.30 p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 16th April 2015.