

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015 IN THE  
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****A. GOODMAN****T. HOEKSMAN****C. ROGERS****J. BAVERSTOCK****J. ANSELL****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****T. LYNN****MRS S. O'DWYER****MRS P. DOUST****J. GARDNER****MS. S. BLADON****MRS C. PACK****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS****L. COWLEY - Personal****1. 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. Cllr Ansell declared an interest in application 2216/15/F Beesands.

**2. OPEN FORUM**

Chillington Housing Action Team (CHAT) representatives were not in attendance as they had requested an opportunity to sit down with a few councillors and discuss their questionnaire results received from Chillington residents. This would be arranged the following week.

Peter Sandover advised he ran a renewable energy network in the area. They promoted all the different types of renewable energies and had received funding to research the potential of a community based wood fuel project. He observed that there were 2500 miles of hedgerow which could be coppiced for energy. They bid into the Devon Accelerator Fund, this was funded by Devon County and Regen SWest for a Wood Fuel hub to benefit farmers and landowners as they felt there were a huge number of benefits with an opportunity to produce affordable heat from which farmers and landowners could generate revenue.

Devon Hedge Group had a number of examples around the county of this opportunity and this co-operative which to do training, including workshops, on the ground hedge laying and a wood fuel coppicing event. They would also organise the Coleridge Bus and take interested people around examples where co-ops had been set up. His reason for attending was to make parish council aware and ask them to promote this around the parish.

Cllr Baverstock noted a concern as to what effect this project would have on local log merchants but positively advised that Slapton Field Centre owned France Wood, approximately 100 acres,

with a plan for clearance of an acre a year. Peter Sandover advised that they would not compete with existing suppliers but wanted to engage them in broadening a generation of users as they was often not enough seasoned wood available. Cllr Hoeksma agreed that as much as possible should be done to pare back hedges along the roads as County were no longer doing anything. The Chairman could not see how any material worth burning could come off a hedge that had to form a boundary as a hedge function, therefore by usage it needed flail mowing every other year. If there was somewhere others were achieving this it would be good to visit to see worthwhile wood production. Cllr Rogers enquired about any detrimental effect from the lack of goodness in the ground if trees were grown which take goodness from fields. Peter Sandover explained there would be 10–15 years between coppicing and certain hedges could not be included for Health and Safety reasons for ongoing visibility on roads. If the care was managed effectively it was good for the hedge. The chairman was supportive and explained he would like to be educated and see how this was done and Peter Sandover advised of the place where this was successful. Cllr Ansell noted there was quite a lot of neglected hedgerow around which was ripe for this project but agreed that to manage a hedge for a barrier was different to using as fuel.

The Chairman agreed to put information on the website for the group when informed.

### **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Brazil noted at County the main matter affecting this parish was that County would now remove green waste generated by communities carrying out voluntary works i.e. verges and hedges and this matter would be taken to Torr Quarry free. This was after county councillors had challenged County that people had to pay for assisting but it was advised that volunteers needed to give county officers notice of any works. Cllr Rogers asked if this clearance included any mud from buddle hole clearance. Cllr Brazil felt probably not and it was just green waste but the parish could ask.

At District council there had been a long Executive meeting wherein a number of interesting and pertinent issues were covered but not specific to this parish. The medium term financial outlook was positive and District was awash with money due to the New Homes Bonus of £500,000 to £1mill p.a. put aside. Every new house attracts £1000 p.a. for six years from Government. Stokenham Parish could still bid for funding for projects due to the recent development. From this fund £500,000 was being used assist South Hams District and with the recent reduction in staff the finances were in a good position. Cllr Brazil had encouraged them to invest some of this money in the planning department because at present it was not as good as should have been. He noted that District had cut the number of councillors from 40 to 30 and then introduced the locality officers who were paid employees to assist. Unfortunately these officers only work 9 – 5p.m. and therefore could not attend parish council meetings where Cllr Brazil felt the knowledge was. Due to changes to the Council Tax Benefit as part of the welfare reforms only Oaps could obtain the 100% benefit. For people of working age Government had set the cap at 80% of council tax to be paid in benefits. This was all part of the scheme to make it worthwhile for people to work. Cllr Brazil felt that District had done well on this change and sent in the first year a letter explaining this forthcoming change but made up any difference from District budget. However this year they had to implement the 20% cut in benefit. They did have a safety net for people i.e. a hardship fund which people could apply to so he urged councillors to let him know if they heard of people suffering or direct them to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr Baverstock noted that there were a number in this parish who fell into this bracket and they had all been successfully dealt with. The Chairman asked if District were budgeting for an increase in council tax defaults in payment. So far District had encouraging success with assistance on the changes with 41% of people affected being encouraged to pay by Direct Debit. The hardship fund had so far only needed to help 41 people. However it

was acknowledged that in April 2016, along with all the other benefit cuts, it could be more of a shock for people.

The next meeting for the Beesands Group to meet was on 2<sup>nd</sup> November but Cllr Brazil wanted to propose having a wider meeting with all the residents in Beesands. This would be arranged in the coming months and he asked the Chairman, Cllr Spence, to chair this public meeting.

***Cllr Brazil and Peter Sandover left the meeting.***

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the:

- (a) Full council meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 was approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting none held September 2015.

### **4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

- 2014/15/F Retrospective householder application for construction of raised platform with decking and associated excavation and engineering works together with summer house and wooden balustrading Broadwaters, Torcross – Objection. It was felt that this structure provided overlooking to the end of Florence Cottages and was not in keeping with this landscape setting. By virtue of its position it was unduly prominent and visible from along the A379 highway and within the village which sits within the SSSI and AONB and thus affected the important landscape and current ridgeline.
- 2135/15/F Householder application for addition of window to rear second floor loft 2 Copperfield, Chillington – No objection.

**Cllr Ansell left the meeting whilst the following application was considered.**

- 2216/15/F Householder application for proposed first floor extension, alterations and erection of detached garage (revisions to approval 53/2587/12/F) 4 Beesands Cellars, Beesands – No objection.

### **WORKS TO TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA**

- 2099/15/TCA Location The White House, Chillington Proposal to fell conifer. No objection. This was felt to be an ‘ugly’ looking Lawson cypress (i.e. a Leylandii lookalike), about 20 ft tall, healthy on one side and threadbare on the other in the middle of a walkway. The tree had little or no amenity value and was clearly in an unsuitable location being a classic example of a tree grown too large for its surroundings. The roots were indeed pushing up the flagstones all around it.

### **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 from Dr Sarah Wollaston MP with regard to outstanding planning enforcement matter.
- Email dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 from Heather Nesbitt Planning Enforcement advised that there was no condition nor traffic management plan for the Grist Mill site and therefore enforcement could not offer any assistance with the traffic problems.

### **5. COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT**

Cllrs Ms Bladon and Hoeksma gave a report of the meeting with David Kinross of Devon Communities and outlined the possible training and support that could be available to increase the resilience of the Stokenham community. This was a project very much in its infancy with many blue lights services and higher tier organisations recognising the need for grass roots intervention to deal with local wellbeing. It was suggested that a different training which could be piloted to cover

dealing with an incidence of Heart Attack, Stroke etc before the blue light service arrived and any locally based Chapter 8 training. A further assistance consideration could be for a central kit for flooding alleviation.

It was AGREED that further discussion and project ideas would take place and hopefully the areas highlighted for training and issues raised that put obstacles down would be dealt with.

## **6. CYCLE PATH PROJECT**

DEFERRED as the working party meeting was to take place next Thursday at 7p.m.

## **7. SCARECROW FESTIVITIES**

It was AGREED to set up a working group consisting of Cllrs Mrs Doust, Mrs Pack, Lynn, Hoeksma and Spence to outline the requirements for the day in order that costings for the project could be obtained and an application for TAP funding made by December 2015.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **COMMUNITY ISSUES:**

- A question was raised as to whether parking was allowed on the pavement in front of Helmers Meadow barns. Parking was not allowed on the pavements but as to who could deal with this whether it was highways enforcement or the police was unknown.
- All the boulders had been reinstated at Hallsands and their sea wall was going in. It was said that County had agreed to resurface the highway.
- Cllr Gardner noted that the news had indicated that 34 Police Stations were closing down in Devon.
- Potholes at the entrance to Chillington adjacent to the White House plus another one further along needed reporting.
- Cllr Rogers advised that he had approached Landmark with regard to a quote for drainage of Chillington Playing Field and had hoped for some comments by now but they were unable to meet until the following week. In invited any other councillors wishing to attend to please do so. He was carrying out a free of charge hedge trim along the Permissive Path from the Church Car Park to the wooded area. The BT super cable had been laid all the way to Beeson and the workers advised it should be up and running by the end of the month. There was an issue with footpath 12 in Chillington as the signage was indicating the wrong route and with advice and permission from Paul McFadden, the Footpath Officer, Cllr Rogers was rectifying it. Cllr Mrs Doust noted she had walked along the path from the Fairfield Road junction end and pushed back fences through Grist Mill before site workers had moved this aside for her and noted it had been clear since.

Cllr Rogers continued and requested that the Snow Warden duties and volunteers needed to be on the agenda for next month. He no longer wished to head this team up and others were asked to approach volunteers and bring names for each village to the next meeting.

- Cllr Hoeksma attended the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Estuary Forum at Kingsbridge Community College where most of the news was about the Salcombe bioblitz and inshore consultation. As water ski ing had been opposed and was not felt to fit with this area the group wanted to look at ways of promoting the estuary as a calm green area.

He went on to note that Adrian Mundy Stone Mason had completed the restoration works to the Stokenham Church War Memorial. It was noted that Remembrance

Sunday would fall before the next full council and the Chairman, Cllr Spence, would place the Remembrance Service Wreath.

### **COLERIDGE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS**

Cllr Ansell noted that Station Manager Danny Slade of the Fire Brigade had attended and explained that they worked on fire prevention. He asked those present and parish councillors to be their eyes and ears identify vulnerable people whom the Fire Brigade could assist with advice on fire prevention and precautions for warning. Those included in vulnerable were people over 55 years of age, those with dementia, hoarders along with others groups. The fire brigade were joining with the police to carry out 'all-risks' visits to vulnerable people. At present ex firemen were on contracts going around doing these visits and it had been found these visits did reduce deaths effectively. Cllr Mrs Doust noted she knew of someone in the community who could be helped. The police and fire brigade could also hold a key safe number so they could gain access. This information could be posted on the website.

Sgt Dave Green noted that since 17<sup>th</sup> June till October for the period 2014 there were 10 crimes and this year only 3. He went on to explain the possible cuts to the police service. Under parish reports West Charleton advised of their traffic calming island being built out into the A379 out to allow safer crossing. The Environment Agency had advised Strete that the children could not use their village green because of dog mess and possible toxocarasis.

### **DEVON HIGHWAYS TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

Cllr Baverstock provided a written report (attached). There were around 60 people from parish and town councils at the event run by the Highway Authority from DCC.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Cllr Mrs Doust had highlighted a funding pot for Village nameplates and investigation had found that these would cost £250 - £350 depending on if the current sign was recently renewed or not and that included the funding discount. The Parish Clerk was requested to ascertain whether smaller versions could be provided for hamlets such as Kellaton. Cllr Baverstock supported this idea and suggested he, Cllr Mrs Doust and the clerk meet to consider requirements and perhaps also apply to the Community Re-investment Fund mentioned by Cllr Brazil.
- Robin Toogood, Treasurer, Orchard Link and part of the AONB team had advised that the application for Heritage Lottery funding for the Orchard Project had been successful. Currently they were completing the paperwork and hoped to launch the scheme mid-November but were unable to announce this publically until they had received the go ahead. Once this was received they would link with the Orchard Groups to set up support and training projects.
- Email received from Rob Sekula District Council inviting parish council to a meeting 10a.m. Weds 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 with regard to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plans to be created locally to administer any Section 106 or CIL funds received due to local development. Cllr Hoeksma offered to attend and Cllr Mrs O'Dwyer would check her availability with the Chairman saying he would attend if others were unable.
- The Local Government Boundary Commission review of Devon would be delayed for consultation until 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to allow North Devon further comments.
- Notification received of Road Closure for Chillington A379 from Carehouse Cross to Coleridge Lane from 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 for essential water main works. Noted.

- Road Closures for various sections of the A379 at Strete, Torcross and Chillington to Frogmore were to be carried out from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 till 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 all by night from 7p.m. till 7a.m. Noted.
- Copy letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 advised that County had informed the property owner at Lea Cliff Cottages, Torcross that the water leak was on their private property and their responsibility to repair. Urgent work was requested as it was illegal to discharge water onto the public highway. Noted.
- Correspondence highlighting U3A self-help learning movement and asking parish council to encourage people to find out their local branch and take part was noted.
- Copy of application for Event Booking Form to District Council together with all attachments for comment on by parish council in relation to Chillington Community Association firework display and activities was emailed from District. A copy had already been provided by the CCA. It was noted that the insurance on the playingfield was still covered by District as the transfer was yet to be finalised and the application stated that the firework contractor was organising the event when in fact it was the CCA as overarching body. No details were given as to where the food outlet was to be sited as it was originally stated that this was a van but it was now advised by the parish council CCA representatives that this would be a hog roast.
- An inaugural Devon Community Resilience Forum was to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 4p.m. at Fingle Glen Golf Resort, Tedburn St. Mary, Nr Exeter and representatives from parish and town councils were encouraged to join others and share ideas and experiences. This would be emailed to parish council so that they could decide on their attendance.
- Stokenham Pre School email 15<sup>th</sup> October explained a need to renew and expand their timber framed building at the Stokenham Primary School site. As a charity funding was a hurdle and they had expressed their wishes to the Green Park Way proposed developers with a view to securing a ring-fenced proportion of Section 106 money. In order to raise as much funding as possible they were asking guidance from parish council on obtaining such Section 106 and other possible funding. This was noted and would be considered in the evolving Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan.
- Slapton Ley Annual Research Seminar to be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 4p.m. Those who would benefit from attending needed to contact Nick Binnie at the Slapton Field Centre.
- Snow Warden contact information was required by Devon County Hugh Griffith and this would be included as an agenda item next meeting for discussion with regard to further volunteers and contact points.
- It was noted that County had offered those who had signed up as Road Wardens Chapter 8 training on a two day course to be paid for by County if registered on 26-27 November and 17-18 December.

## 9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided:

Current £3864.78

Savings (1) £56329.39

Savings (2) £4,925.73

Transferred £2000.00

Received      HMRC -VAT Reimbursement £8,378.73  
                   SHDC - 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept £16010.00  
                   SHDC – Community Reinvestment Part Payment Fund £4491.60  
                   DCC - County Grass cutting payment £425.00

Payments below were considered and approved to be remitted electronically or by cheque, if applicable:

HMRC – Tax & NI £158.22

Wages £1073.13

Peninsula Pensions/DCC – Pension £330.81

G. Claydon – Annual Parish Meeting sundries £32.73

Greenscape – Grass cutting at Helmers Field, August £110.00

Charles Rogers Building Contractor – Com Rein v works Church Car Park to caravan site permissive path £8022.00

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and a planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in November 2015, if necessary, due to plans being received. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 10p.m.

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