

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2016 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****A. GOODMAN****MRS S. O'DWYER****C. ROGERS****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****T. LYNN****J. ANSELL****MRS P. DOUST****MRS C. PEARCE****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS****L. COWLEY****J. GARDNER****MRS C. PACK****MS. S. BLADON****T. HOEKSMAS****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. None received.

2. OPEN FORUM

No members of the public present this was dispensed with.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil *gave this report when he arrived at the point indicated later in the meeting.* – County last month reported they had cut provision of lollipop ladies but the following week they decided not to but all other cuts stands. With regard to ongoing discussions on the Devolution agenda he felt this would take some time. He attended a couple of meetings the previous week with regard to the Slapton Line and was pleased that the diversion through the Torcross car park had been provided and noted all were hoping the car park and road would be open the following week. On a positive note at no stage was anyone talking about ‘is it worth it’ with regard to the reinstatement of the road? The fact that there was a breach was not a catastrophe as strangely there was now a more resilient defence with steel piling that could last 10 – 20 years at least.

District is trying to progress with a Local Authority controlled company and were out there on innovation as no other local authority had done it which Cllr Brazil felt was a bit like the planning software! If District then were going to try to sell their services as the product he felt with the current issues it could be problematical. The scheme was going through a feasibility study and senior officers were driving it forward and therefore it would take a lot of political ‘will’ to challenge this change through the democratic process.

As an income generator the paper provided today was encouraging and South Hams were looking to do some interesting and innovative projects to obtain capital receipts and generate income with the way forward to be decided on 7th April. Cllr Brazil did think this looked good news.

The Chairman noted concern with regard to planning enforcement. Cllr Brazil agreed and noted that an extra £133,000 had been put into enforcement to prop it up. Cllr Brazil had also reported areas in this parish (i.e. Dunstone Cross Water Tower) and he felt that senior management was so fixed on new ways for a new council they had lost sight of actually running a council. He had argued that in reality what the man in the street saw was a waste company that did a bit of planning on the side. South Hams District Council had won an Award but it was notable that the consultant they were using for their forward thinking was EC who was the award giver. Cllr Rogers noted that there were two caravans opposite the Water Tower enforcement area and one down in a field below. Having bought a piece of land people could put a caravan on it and if enforcement did not follow up quickly enough building would happen bit by bit as was evident here. All anyone wanted to ensure was that it was a fair and level playing field and any development went through the proper application channels so at least comments could be aired.

Cllr Ansell enquired if every school was to turn into an academy would County still run the school buses? Cllr Brazil replied that what appeared to happen was that authorities' privatised profit and nationalised liability so he could rest assured County would still be burdened with the buses as it cost £30million to provide and they received a grant of £8million. There was a problem at County in that backroom staff dealt with school issues so if they all went there would be less county staff.

He noted that there had been a Beesands Village Green meeting and that the parking issues had given way to coastal protection since the storms. A letter was to be sent, if parish council agreed, on parish council headed paper to the Chief Executive Steve Jorden at District to follow up on investigations that they were to have carried out in order that funding pots could be accessed. It was agreed that this letter could be sent and any further matters to be reported be picked up by Cllrs Rogers and Ansell who also attended.

Cllr Brazil left after this update.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) Full council meeting dated 18th February 2016 was approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting dated 3rd March 2016 was approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

- 0102/16/HHO Householder application for a proposed conversion of loft space 9 Chestnut Park, Beeson – Already considered last month.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further to table.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT

It was AGREED to request that the internal audit should review safeguards for online banking.

6. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

It was noted that all schools had received the same sample commemorative coins and it was AGREED that parish council would not provide a separate memento but consider any applications for grants for such.

Cllr Brazil arrived and provided his report above at this point.

7. POLICY PLANS

It was AGREED to:

- (a) note that the Orchard Link group would be getting together shortly to create a plan and put together arrangements for the Apple Day and that the apple press had been booked.
- (b) Parish Council needed to prepare for community consultation for the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Plan. The Chairman had organised the parish council list into four stages being Immediate, Funding required from elsewhere, Projects for future consideration (i.e. long term), Finally all things not eligible for funding. All agreed the list as it stood and that a meeting should take place with the Chillington Community Association to explain the rationale for the order of projects.

Any projects at Helmers were dependent upon drainage and sewage so that the area was usable. If the toilets with showers were to be extended the current soakaway would not cope so a proper solution was needed now. It was believed that no one had ever emptied the settlement tank would be around 25 years. Cllr Rogers felt there were gaps in the project area scope and with regard to the Stokenham Village Green he would like to think this could be progressed but noted the monies required were great so this would be long term. Cllr Mrs O'Dwyer was not sure if allotments were suitable at Helmers Way on the strip of land to be transferred and it was advised that all draft projects were down to community consideration during consultation.

Consideration was given to how to consult and Survey Monkey suggested but this was felt too narrow a scope for residents of this area. The school could bring the children over during consultation in the Parish Hall and online ideas could be expressed on the website and people could respond with their views. The fields adjacent to Chillington Hall car park and towards the orchard were noted as a further suggestion. Parish Council working group to meet to finalise consultation ideas on Wednesday 21st March at 2p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room.

8. REPORTS

Various matters around the parish:

- County Footpaths Paul McFadden had organised the erection of new kissing gates on the path from Widdicombe to Mattiscombe and this had been completed.

BEESANDS VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

Cllr Rogers noted further that there was nowhere now for camper vans to park but with the Parking Order in place there was no overnight parking from 8am-8p.m. so penalties could be enforced and early dog walkers would receive tickets.

A meeting took place and Joe Johnston advised that District CEO Steve Jordan together with Chris Brook engineer had met with him at Beesands. This was following his letter to David Cameron MP, who passed such to Defra and then to Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP. The outcome being that the meeting with District took place and Steve Jordan agreed that District would seek a ground investigation and then apply for funding from the EA. The parish clerk was requested at this meeting to write to Steve Jordan setting out these points and seeking feedback.

CHILLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Association had an extra ordinary meeting following when Parish Council informed them they were not in charge of the field only the hall. The group then had a pre meeting to a meeting that Cllr Mrs Doust attended wherein they decided to remain called CCA instead of The Village Hall Committee, this was due to any change being burdensome with banking arrangements et al. Cllr Mrs Doust was advised by Greg Chambers Chairman that parish council could approach them and

they would take over the land as well as the hall. Chris Hyson disputed that the hall measurement was not agreed in the Lease and it was noted there was to be a new constitution prepared. Cllr Mrs Doust then advised all present of further points raised and the misunderstanding that had occurred by a belief that parish council had blocked the installation of a MUGA.

The Chairman noted he had details from Sport England on design and specification for schools and councils for MUGAs and they were very specific. Pre-emptive work had to be carried out as it was a special surface with drainage and the structure had to be at least a tree height away from the trees with root trenches dug down to a metre of concrete and therefore it was a nonstarter without drainage. Chris Hyson did say that she thought the original idea for a MUGA was because the land was so wet and the committee thought this would be solution and she felt if it was drained the field could be used for a variety of uses. It was suggested that if contractors were digging drainage they could use the digger to assist with the placing of a tank but the committee needed to have planning permission and all arrangements in place.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Request by Dist Cllr Bramble to attend the 21st April parish council meeting. Due to current topics and actions it was not felt that attendance at a meeting could be accommodated.
- Response from the Environment Agency noted that the Helmers Playing Field was not within the flood plain and thus would not need their permission to drain such. Septic tanks and other structures probably would need input from the Environment Agency, Sustainable Places Team together with comments from County SuDs.
- Annual Parish Council meeting arrangements were being looked into by the Chairman with regard to a speaker.
- Planning training would be sought during Mid May or Early June.
- Notified that there had been a wall erected along the pavement between Grist Mill and Fairfield Estate turn off. This change however appeared to be raising of the frontage lip and County were unsure as to whether this was private land or not. Any follow up on this concern would require knowledge of the land title rights.
- Oddicombe Corner most hedges from Kingsbridge side were cut but the first section on the Chillington side seemed to be left each year and it was this that concerned concern. Parish Clerk to raise with County Highways.
- Audit papers received with due date for annual return of 10th June 2016.

9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided:

Current £2891.51

Savings (1) £44905.56

Savings (2) £4926.76

Transferred £1500.00

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

HMRC – Tax & NI £158.42

Wages – £1072.93

Devon County Council – Peninsula Pension £330.81

Eclipse Internet – Council internet £14.40

Greenspace – Helmers Cuts December and March £110.00

BT Business Bill – Telephone £299.14

Concorde I Copiers – Maintenance £6.05

002249 – 2258 All Eligible Councillors Allowance £906.40

002259 G. Claydon – Electricity meter cash and postage £82.23

002260 M.J. Hallett – Hedge trimming Torcross and Chillington Hall £156.00

10. NEXT MEETING

Planning Committee would be held the first Thursday in March if applications are received that could not wait until full council. The next full parish council meeting would be held on the 21st April 2016. Both meetings to commence at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.25pm.

Signed Chairman Dated: 21st April 2016.