

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2016 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****J. ANSELL****A. GOODMAN****MRS C. PEARCE****T. LYNN****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****MRS S. ROWLAND****L. COWLEY****J. GARDNER****MRS P. DOUST****C. ROGERS****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****MRS C. PACK – Personal reasons****MRS S. O'DWYER**

The Chairman advised that due to family commitments Sue Bladon had tendered her resignation with immediate effect.

1. OPEN FORUM

Anne Bowyer attended to thank all councillors who helped at the Apple Fayre and advised she had put an article in the Parish Magazine to thank everyone. The project had been a success and broken even though there was still the sale and return alcohol to return. Cheryl Watkins from the Old Exchange office mentioned installing a gate into the field. Anne felt that this was a worthwhile use and they might give some of the profit to help install a gate into the Village Green for future events. She advised that leftover donated cakes went down to Beesands Chapel for sale at Sunday teas. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Anne for all her hard work along with Pete Moore of Forest and Beach.

He continued that he had heard nothing but compliments from across the parish and noted over 200 attended with 150 bottles of apple juice taken away plus many other containers as they pressed so much juice. The Chairman felt the community ought to make it an annual event and with better weather and no dodgy macerator they could have done so much more juice. It was noted that the people who booked the macerator after Stokenham exchanged it for a new one. Cllr Rogers attended and thought it was superb and what the parish council was all about, providing grass roots fun days. There were more than just residents around the Village Green that attended and the weekend before half term was a good choice and in time ready for apples.

Anne Bowyer left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil provided this report when it was noted he arrived later in the meeting. He advised Scanska was to take over Highway maintenance from April next year having won the contract. There was a Slapton Line/Torcross meeting which he was unable to attend but the Chairman did and would report later. Cllr Brazil noted he was asked to delegate planning permission and although the tank car park would be shut for four months the works were needed. The following

Wednesday would be the Coleridge Association meeting of which he was now Chair and attending would be the Clinical South Devon and Torbay group to give a presentation about the new proposals. Questions would be raised as to them closing Dartmouth Hospital and minor injuries unit and transferring some of this provision to Townstall and other parts to Totnes. It was advised that there were revenue savings from closing hospitals and investing in more community nurses. Hopefully people in hospital beds could in future be looked after at home. It was a public meeting but he would be restricting it to parish councillors only to speak as he explained that otherwise they would never get down to important questions.

With regard to District Council the Beesands contractors were currently carrying out works. The slipway has a hole in it and District and the fishermen were doing some remedial works but the forecast was for easterlies next week.

Any grant applications could be sent to him and he noted that the roof on Stokenham Parish Hall needed in the region of £30,000 to make it weatherproof and this was outside his gift. Dist Cllr Brazil suggested that the parish council could bid into the Community Reinvestment Fund. Torcross Chapel also required electrical work and updating but this would probably come within his funding once estimates were received.

He had attended a myth busting exercise on devolution but felt the group were no further forward. With changes at the top of Government this appeared to have gone luke warm. A question was raised with regard to the change from Ivybridge Local Service Group and he hoped that there would be more feedback from Skanska on potholes teams/works and the parish council then monitor.

The parish clerk had advised of a residents concern with regard to the slipway and was asked to respond that District would not contact the Environment Agency on this matter. If they delayed the current works awaiting the EA they would need to wait for another fortnight for tides. Asked who made the decision to do the current works he responded Dan Field District Council and EA. Cllrs Mrs Pearce and Lynn discussed their opinions about coastal defence. Cllr Lynn noted that the defence fabric/material was being chewed up by the sea and coming out of Beesands being washed up at Hallsands and going out to sea and therefore was a marine hazard. The Chairman noted the Symposium on the 27th November at Slapton Field Centre where there would be a talk by a professor presented with regard to the bay. All were urged to book and attend if they were interested in the coastline.

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. Cllr Gardner declared a work related interest in the matter relating to legal advice and left the meeting for discussion on this matter.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 15th September 2016 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

- (b) Planning Committee meeting Minutes held 6th October were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 2825/16/HHO Householder application for alterations and rear dormer extension to private dwelling 30 Beesands, Beesands – No objection but parish council hoped that if by reason of this extension any future fencing was erected it would not obscure any view from the coast path.
- 3055/16/HHO Householder application for proposed single storey rear extension 1 March Cottages, Chillington – No objection to extension but concerned with regard to the plan label stating ‘new surface’. It is requested that this surface be impermeable and not hard so as not to generate runoff and increase flooding for neighbours.
- 3290/16/LBC Listed building consent for replacement optics, Start Point Lighthouse, Hallsands – Support.

WORKS TO TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA

- 3109/16/TCA Location Fairview, Chillington Proposal to fell Leylandii. No objection.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- Whilst no particular matters were discussed within the meeting it was noted that old enforcement cases were being closed due to permitted development. It was felt that some of these matters did not fully understand previous concerns and could now set a precedent that the parish council were not easy with.

Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting.

With enforcement clearing through uPVC windows in a barn had been permitted as Cllr Brazil felt that it could be appealed and won, so pragmatism was whether it was expedient to pursue. Barn conversion rules had evolved where previously any changes used to have to look like a barn. Now if people were living in a barn this was not the view because it was now a residence so that rule had changed. Consideration was now given more to ‘How much does it stand out’ and if not then it went through. It was felt by the meeting that there was unwillingness by enforcement to enforce and this was worrying. The parish clerk was asked to request Enforcement to explain a breach decision and express the parish council’s disquiet on some decisions.

- Further communication had been sent by the CHAT group with regard to changes to the Green Park Way application although these were discussions between the Planning Authority and Developers not requesting further parish council input.

Cllr Gardner left the meeting whilst the following matter was discussed due to his employers providing a quotation.

5. LEGAL ADVICE

It was AGREED to attempt to obtain a Deed of Release to rectify the dimensions of the building through the parish council solicitors, Tozers, at a charge of between £400 - £600.

6. TRAINING, UPDATING AND CONFERENCES

Attendance at the following conferences was AGREED as:

- Devon Communities Resilience during floods and other emergencies 9th November 10 – 4p.m. No charge shown. Cllrs Lynn and Spence to attend.

- Devon Highways Parish and Town Conference at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on 16th November 9.30 – 2.30p.m. Two attendees allowed, free. Cllr Rogers to attend.

7. BT TELEPHONE

It was AGREED that as no further approaches from the community had been made this time against removal of underused telephone boxes that no response would be made other than to note the removal. Other uses such as a hub for a defibrillator or 999 phone call ability within were discussed.

Kellaton 0 calls in a year – Cllr Ansell would ask in the village but felt it could go.

Chillington 16 – Suggested that this could be kept due to amount of calls and increase in housing.

Stokenham 5 – Parish Clerk to ask Village Association

Torcross 1 – Notice to be placed in Torcross Post Office.

Beeson 1 – Cllr Rogers to ask if villagers would maintain but otherwise remove.

8. ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

It was AGREED having considered the options for inspection of the play equipment at Helmers Field to instruct Playground Inspection for quarterly checks and reports at a cost of £205p.a.

Cllr Brazil gave his report at this point after which he left the meeting.

9. MAINTENANCE

The condition of the bus shelters, noticeboards, highway signs and weed growth on pavements was discussed and the following was AGREED:

- Bus shelters – Consider their condition and perhaps leave for another year
- Noticeboards – All apart from Stokenham board should be removed with a sign in the other places to say where such parish information could be obtained, Stokenham and the website.
- Highway signs – To request quotes.
- Weed growth – Request a quote from District Council as the permissive path down to Torcross also needed to be sprayed.

10. REPORTS

Various issues raised around the parish:

- The Hallsands Group now had a timetable of events for the commemoration.
- The resident's wall at the Orchard Way to Helmers Way permissive path had been completed but not going to be rendered. The vegetation had also been cut back but could do with more cutting back in due course.
- Cllr Goodman noted that Stokenham Primary School, in answer to parents worried about crossing over from the footpath at the roundabout, was talking about writing to the MP and doing a traffic survey. Parish Council considered this matter and discussed it in detail but suggested that a clearer more visible place to cross would be along by the bus shelter. An extra school crossing sign could be requested this side as would be clearly seen when approaching. Other than this it was felt that the roundabout would have slowed vehicles.
- Cllr Rogers had repaired the gatepost on the opening just by Brooking Wood for the third time as farm vehicles kept knocking it. He had also regraded below Fairfield path so it was now passable. There continued to be a padlock problem at Chillington Playground and whilst he merely felt the first one was sabotaged and second had clearly been prised off with a crowbar.
- A further cut of the grass along the permissive path would be carried out. Footpath signage from the caravan site at Island Farm down the lane to Summerye Lane was new

signage informing of the route to Coleridge Cross and this was provided by Devon County.

- It was noted that Summerye Lane was in a bad condition and it was quite clear it needed another drain but funding of this was awaited from County although an application would be made for Community Reinvestment funds towards buddle clearance.

CHILLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Another member had joined the CCA and expressed his thoughts that he felt parish council had done nothing about dog faeces in the park and that they never did anything. Greg Chambers and Neil Martin of CCA advised that the toddler group reported if there was a concern and they had not. Cllr Mrs Doust noted she always invited Chillington people who were concerned to attend and speak at parish council but none had done so.

Cllr Gardner advised that the CCA had bought new nets and were painting the football posts.

SALCOMBE AND KINGSBRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

Cllr Lynn attended this meeting along with Cllrs Gardner and Ansell. New glue had been used to affix the 'yellow fish' which raised awareness of drains leading to the estuary and advised people not to dump liquid. Red tides were being traced back up the estuary and it was noted they stopped at Snapes Corner and this was being monitored. Rubbish created by use of balloons was raised as even if using biodegradable ones they were not degrading. The Harbour Master wanted to ban balloons along the estuary. Gordon Waterhouse it was noted had counted and tracked birds using the estuary over 30 years.

SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

The Chairman acknowledged that all knew about the A379 closure of the car park and he highlighted the special arrangements for Remembrance Service etc. The piling for the sea defence had already arrived and they were starting mid-November with 3 – 4 months for construction. The cost was £2.9million. All measurements put in place had detected no further movement in the sea wall and this new design brief was to reduce vibrations into the houses behind. They were considering extending the sheet piling further north along Torcross wall but at present there was no budget but they were exploring if the three authorities could obtain further monies. Residents had explored resilience planning with shutters, slat tile deflectors etc all to help during storm surges. The agencies were not going to rebuild the sand bastions along from the middle monument as they previously believed the bastions had a certain calming effect in being washed down but after studying them it does not make any difference. The Beach Management plan to manage the entire coastline had gone out to its first stage of tender and a huge number of processes were read out indicating it could take 5 years before work started on a plan for consideration of circulation in the bay and what to do about the beach long term. It was also noted that Beesands and Hallsands should be included in the Beach Management Plan and those involved had gone back to see if they could get extra funding to do this as they were all part of the same system shingle wise. Multi million pound funds would be needed from EA and these were not guaranteed.

Cllr Lyn advised that the scientists had been down Hallsands with drones circling around measuring.

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Cllr Mrs Pearce attended the AGM wherein John Hart Leader of County Council spoke in the morning about devolution which was interesting but did not de-mystify. NALC representatives then spoke but more about all their good work. She then attended a workshop about Neighbourhood Planning which confused her but the parish clerk had then explained. All in all it was useful to talk to other parish councillors and see how things were done but she was not sure how much she learnt but good networking.

APPLE FAYRE

The Open Spaces Sport and Recreation board was also taken to the Apple Fayre and comments requested. However no one completed the volunteer list for maintenance of the Orchards and of the four comments on projects two were with regard to orchards and the other two with regard to dog mess at Chillington Play Area and play equipment at Stokenham VG. One other comment stated 'On flat ground please – offer memorial'. It was explained that this referred to benches being provided on flat ground funded from donations with memorial plaques.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Coleridge Association of Parish Councils to take place on 26th October and Cllr Brazil advised that the new secretary would be sending out the agenda.
- The current and further reducing years Rates Support Grant from District Council had been made available by District.
- A problem had been advised from District Council with regard to faulty defibrillators LIFEPAK CR Plus and LIFEPAK EXPRESS Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). All were asked to check the make of defibs they knew of.
- A Beesand resident advised of an issue with the slipway boards being damaged in the recent weather. Dan Field at District had liaised along with Helen Hardwicke Localities Officer and replacement boards and metal stays were being installed. District had also asked the contractor currently working on the defences down there to place some of the smaller rocks there in order to fill the void.
- Saturday 19th November the Stokenham Village Community Association was to have a Craft Fair and all were asked to publicise this.
- Letter received from Coleridge Bus address to all parishes to highlight concern with regard to overgrown hedges and how this pushes the bus into oncoming traffic. Parish Clerk had asked for clarification as to exact areas.
- Various Road Closure Notices from Devon County with regard to pre surface dressing patching in and around Stokenham. Dates and diversions crossed over so parish council considered whether they would conflict.
- District Council converting dog control orders into Public Space Protection Orders and thus must advertise that they are going to do this. The Orders criteria were noted and clarification was requested as to whether dogs in Helmers playing field should be kept on a lead or even a sign saying no dogs.
- Citizens Advice South Hams annual report provided together with a request for a grant.
- Kingsbridge Town Council wished to take part in training from Ruth Rockley, Communities Prepared for Flood Warden Training. The topics covered were: Understanding flood risks, Flood Risk Awareness, Emergency Response, Personal Protective Equipment, Role Profiles & Use of Sandbags. The Communities Prepared training was usually held over a series of two evenings, dates to be decided between everybody and was free and Kingsbridge TC wished to know if Stokenham would like to share. Cllrs Lynn and Gardner agreed to attend.

- NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning launched a wide-ranging consultation and engagement with the public on 7 October over proposals to improve the way elderly and frail people are cared for in the Eastern locality of Devon. They had requested advice on where to publicise the consultation information in the parish to reach people and how many copies.

11 FINANCE AND CHEQUES AUDIT MARCH 2016

Parish Council were advised of the comments from the Auditor. Some clerk travel costs were included in 'box 6 – all other payments' but the auditor advised this should be in staff costs. Previously it had been advised that casual use travel was other payments but this appeared to now be different. Members allowance was within staff costs and this should now be in 'other payments'.

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

Current £810.77

Savings (1) £65509.55

Savings (2) £4928.22

Transferred £1400.00

Received – SHDC reimbursement for Helmers Playing Field fence £484.20
SHDC half yearly precept £17101.50

Payments to be made in October:

Wages £1077.76

HMRC £190.83

DCC Pension Fund – Pension payment £334.11

Eclipse – Internet £14.40

DALC – AGM Conference fee £20.00

12. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 17th November 2016. A planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in November 2016, if necessary, due to plans being received that required an earlier response. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 10.05p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 17th November 2016.