

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2017 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:**

P. SPENCE (Chairman)
MRS S. ROWLAND
MRS C. PEARCE
T. LYNN
J. ANSELL

L. COWLEY
A. GOODMAN
MRS P. DOUST
C. ROGERS

Also in attendance:

Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:

J. GARDNER
J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)

1. OPEN FORUM

Richard Jackson and Tracy Dayment were present as members of the public interested in becoming parish councillors.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil advised that County Council tax would rise by 5%. This was a 2% general rise with an extra 3% for Adult Social Care. The £33 per pupil cut was to go ahead to fund an overspend in Special Educational Needs but Devon MP's were threatening to rebel over the education settlement for Devon so there may be better news to come for Stokenham Primary School and Kingsbridge Community College in respect of proposed cuts.

With regard to District Council the tax was to rise by £5 per household (which was equivalent to about a 3.5% rise) and car parking charges were to rise by 2%.

The Green Park Way application had been deferred again and was now expected at the 15th March Development Management meeting but that was awaiting any further delays. An enforcement notice had been served on the development at Dunstone Cross. District Council would be debating the Joint Local Plan at a special Council meeting on 2nd March. There were allocated sites for housing within Stokenham Parish but he could not as yet divulge where they were until the Plan was published the following Monday 20th February. He did however note that there were not any surprises.

District would also discuss the demise of the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) and he hoped somebody might actually take responsibility for the current situation.

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. CO OPTION

The Chairman invited the applicants to give an outline of themselves noting that Chillington was the largest settlement within this parish which was currently under represented.

Richard Jackson explained that he had lived in Chillington for four years with his wife and three young children who attended Stokenham School. He had a landscape garden maintenance business which had run for 13 years previously being in hospitality. Through his wife he supported the Guides as well as other community groups. By virtue of using many of the local amenities he had an interest to become actively involved in this locality. Tracy Dayment had also attended the previous meeting and provided her resume.

It was AGREED to co-opt Tracy Dayment and Richard Jackson as a parish councillors and they were provided with the Acceptance of Office and would be given the Declaration of Interests to be completed before the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Rowland explained that when she first joined she needed to learn who everyone was and felt at this point it would be advantageous for everyone around the table to introduce themselves which they did.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 19th January 2017 were approved by all present and then duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting no meeting held February 2017.

5. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 2876/16/HHO READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Retrospective householder application for amendments to previously consented extension and alterations (53/0651/12/F)(resubmission of planning application 2304/16/HHO) Golden Meadow, Widewell – Objection. In consideration of the concerns raised by the objections registered online parish council requested that the building inspector be asked to confirm that this development as a whole accorded with the plans and review the suitability of parking provision. It was felt that this retrospective application did not appear to address the additional changes that had occurred over a period of time.
- 3787/16/HHO Householder application for formation of balcony to replace previously demolished balcony 2 Beachside Apartments, Torcross – No objection but concern was raised with regard to the structural integrity of the lower property belonging to another resident and whether this could be utilised.
- 0059/17/HHO Householder application for proposed alteration and extension to dwelling The Skerries, South Hallsands – No objection

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- 4115/16/TPO Proposal: T1: Sycamore - crown reduction 3 to 4 metres; T2: Sycamore - Crown reduction 4 to 5 metres; T3: Sycamore - Crown reduction by 4 to 5 metres, crown lift to 6 metres from ground level; T4: Sycamore - Crown reduction by 4 to 5 metres, crown lift to 6m from ground level; T5: Sycamore - Crown reduction by 4 - 5 metres; T6: Sycamore - Crown reduction by 4 to 5 metres, Crown lift to 6 metres from ground level; T7: Sycamore - Fell; T8: Sycamore - Crown reduction by 4 - 5 metres; T9: Sycamore -

Crown reduction by 4 to 5 metres, Crown lift to 3 metres from ground level to move away from BT cables; T10: Sycamore - Fell and replant with ash; T11: Sycamore - Fell and replant with ash; T12: Sycamore - Fell and replant with ash Sea Haze, Torcross – No objection. This was a fairly nondescript group of sycamores, probably self-seeded, that had grown beyond manageable size, some with a considerable angle of lean (they are rooted on uneven ground, some on a steep incline). It was felt this was a job for a professional, due to the steep ground which would necessitate climbing the trees and their close proximity to the main A379.

- Copy of an email with concerns from a neighbour with regard to Trenear, Kellaton and works to Monterey Pines was provided. The information with regard to gradual removal of a stand of trees before the Tree Preservation Order was in place indicated that three were felled and the roots removed and that these work being proposed were not necessary. Parish Council felt there was nothing further to add as they had previously responded that any works should be carried out by a professional, if approved by the District Tree Officer, and thus this was noted.
- The Brooklea, Chillington development site was currently closed due to contract or financial concerns. Whilst people had been seen on site moving around it was proposed that parish council should query now whether the drainage had been completed along with the attenuation pond to protect against and alleviate flooding, from such engineering works carried out, within the village if works were unable to continue or no longer the responsibility of anyone. At this point a previous concern raised with regard to the perceived removal of an additional hedge not within the planning permission (a Devon bank) should be included. From historical knowledge it appeared that an opening had been created and a wall constructed to support the bank which gave open access to the fields behind. An aerial photo from before such works was available should further information be required by planning or enforcement.

6. PORTALOOS AT HALLSANDS

Cllr Mrs Pearce and Lynn advised that proposed sites for the installation of portaloos during the summer period had been discussed locally. The local farmer had refused siting on his land but one possible location was awaiting that resident to arriving down give approval. The Chairman explained that parish council would need assurance of the consensus of the village to this arrangement and the councillors advised they would obtain written confirmation from the management company agree this site. If this was not possible an alternative may be located by the fishermen's sheds. It was AGREED that the councillors would investigate and report back at the next meeting.

7. LAND COVENANT

It was NOTED that the parish council solicitor had provided a copy of the draft Release of Covenant which would be sent to the Helmers Trustees.

8. HELMERS PLAYING FIELD

In view of the signage from the A379 down to the hall it was AGREED that a moderate, well designed, wooden sign placed on the entrance car park could be installed by the Chillington Community Association.

Cllr Rogers explained that he had addressed the safety issues with regard to finger traps on the entrance gates by;

- adjusting and putting a bolt on the maintenance gate so it could be padlocked shut and only opened for maintenance use

- for the park gates whilst he could provide clearance for fingers a controlled shut was not possible.
- main gate from the Chillington end needed a new latching post to also give finger clearance.
- repairing the broken fence slats.

Cllr Rogers and the Chairman would attend the site and address solutions for other safety issues.

The Play Equipment Company Playdale agent had been contacted to comment on the requirements within the Play Inspection report (to include the safety matting) and his input and probable site visit was awaited.

With regard to the Community Association gas tank this was to be installed last Monday and Cllr Rogers had met with Greg Chambers and been advised that the hole was required to be 4.5m x 3.5m x 1.8m deep. The amount of spoil needed to be removed was large and had to be dug between the gate, ash tree and the first piece of play equipment. In Cllr Rogers opinion this would undermine trees roots and play equipment. He explained that the hole was requested to be big enough for the men to get into the hole to install the tank. Cllr Rogers had offered to carry out these works as a community gesture but in view of his expert concerns he had to refuse to take the work on. His advice was that this project would need to be relooked at during a drier period of weather but in view of the fact that such might undermine the stability of the play equipment perhaps further in the car park would be better. Cllr Lynn questioned whether a concrete base would need to be installed but apparently Calor Gas provided a preformed base. This matter was left with Greg Chambers to reconsider.

Parish Council drainage experts intended to commence carrying out drainage test installation on 28th February so that it was after half term and did not conflict with community use. The clerk had telephoned Neil Martin (CCA) to advise of such and not had any negative feedback so would confirm acceptance after this meeting.

Cllr Jackson left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed as he realised he would be attending this private event.

A request to place a marquee on the playing field land was outlined together with the dimensions of the marquee and flooring details. Parish Council insurers had advised the user would either need hirer's indemnity or be covered under the Community Association hall insurance or Hatch Marquee. It was noted that any permission for usage must advise that the user could not preclude the general public continuing to use the play equipment and surrounding playing field. No glass could be allowed outside the marquee but in order to use glasses within the marquee a further licence would be required.

It was AGREED that a charge should be levied together with a deposit to be held and return and matters to be highlighted within terms of usage were;

- requirements with regard to no glass allowed on the playing field
- safeguard against noise nuisance,
- the need to clear the open space area after usage and
- any further licences needed.
- fully refundable deposit £250 with administrative charge £100.

9. GRANT

Following the Citizen Advice presentation by their representative and further information since provided it was AGREED to provide a grant of £250.00.

A letter sent by Devon Link-Up was read out as requested by the organisation outlining that they were a charity working with Devon & Cornwall Police and SAFE to co-ordinate the Safe Place Scheme in Devon. Their request was for support by way of funding but parish council questioned what they physically did noting their request was for a large sum for a parish council. This community was considerate of helping vulnerable people and more information was required of this group.

10. REPORTS

Various issues raised around the parish:

- Cllr Mrs Doust attended a CCA meeting at the end of January and topics discussed included placing equipment on the field (ie. Table tennis and inappropriate siting and tethering of a basketball hoop) which raised the requirement for insurance. Plastic lettering and signage on the hall was referred to but dismissed. Tarpaulin around the veranda was another proposal from Greg Chambers along with converting the current steps to a ramp from the bridge into Helmers land. The ramp had been previously discussed by CCA members and felt not appropriate but Greg had contacted Remus who had given permission for a ramp. However ongoing maintenance he felt should be parish council although Cllrs Mrs Doust raised concern of a conflict of interest in view of the fact he lived within Helmers.
- Cllr Mrs Doust then gave a report on all the recent activities the Guides had done or assisted with, which was vast. The Chairman requested photos of any apple picking and bird box installation for the Orchard Plan.
- Cllr Rogers had been reviewing parish buddle holes with a view to applying to grants available. He highlighted the areas of concern around the parish and noted that many needed clearing within fields and on the highway. Up at Coleridge Devon County were meant to be clearing a drain and it needed to be done urgently as it was flooded. His proposal and intention was to apply stating the size of this large parish and its road network and requesting £2000 to clear up flooding problems around Coleridge and a further £2000 more for around the parish. His reasoning was that parishes such as Slapton had just 3 roads and access to the same funding. It was agreed to go ahead and apply.
- Cllr Ansell apologised for his lack of communication recently due to his computer receiving but not sending emails. He noted that a resident requested the up to date Minutes be uploaded to the website.
- Cllr Cowley advised that the Local Government Pension contact had asked to update pension information held with regard to councillors they report to and all those currently in post were agreed with no changes.
- Cllrs Mrs Rowland attended Stokenham Parish Hall Committee who discussed the funding applied for the roof being between £40-£45000. They were grateful to parish council and a local surveyor for support in obtaining the funding. They were currently lacking a secretary as the chairman had been covering this position but he resigned from this post. They were intending paying an honorarium and on 13th March it would be the AGM. They were also planning a pig race evening on 25th February at £6.50 each.
- Cllrs Mrs Pearce thanked parish council for the Hallsands Commemoration bus grant. It had been a really successful day with 300 attending the evening service and a couple hundred at the pub supper. The following day she had expected it to be quiet but 106 people went through in 3 hours for the exhibition. They raised over £1500 to share between three charities. The Chairman congratulated everybody involved. Cllr Rogers asked if the exhibition would be on display again as he felt it should be and Cllr Lynn confirm that probably it would be up at Easter in the Chapel and then maybe around other venues. Cllr Lynn also felt they may continue the event in following years.

- Cllr Lynn reported the cliff fall at the end of the Beesands to Hallsands public path where it met the beach and advised there was an 8foot drop. This would be reported to the Footpath Officer.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Parish Council Kyocera copier had been taken to commercial waste and a replacement Brother copier purchased.
- DCH housing agency made contact to advise that they ran a community reinvestment programme whereby they funded assistance for training/employment (sometimes paying a grant to train) and small grants for community projects. Asked them to research their piece of land at Beeson with regard to providing allotments.
- Promoting Independence Devon County consultation/conferences during March. Any representatives to attend to discuss their chosen key principles and how they will be applied.
- Beesands fishermen had advised that the boards at the top of the slipway had been lifted by the storm and smashed. An enquiry to District to request replacements was not responded to as the officer was off sick but on reflection it is felt that maybe the boards are not fit for purpose.
- Consultation on Dog Control Orders. Parish council had reviewed this information and were content with the status quo with some having responded personally online to District Council.
- Devon County Access Forum requested applications for new forum representatives to be sent by 22nd February.
- Torcross wall defence works were on time with the concreting due to finish week commencing 7th March. They would still be on site until the end of March.
- Beeson had expressed a wish to take on their old telephone box. It was understood that Hallsands had already done this but it appears not. A Beeson resident had tried to take the adoption further but been told as they were not a charity or parish council they could not. The clerk had emailed a contact at BT provided by Nadine Trout District Council on 8th February but to date no response had been received.
- On the 7th February the Chairman attended Slapton Line Steering Group to discuss the Beach Management Plan which was required to be in place before funds could be obtained for coastal works. This document would feed into the Shoreline Management Plan that in turn fed into the Coastal Management Plan. The Beach Management Plan related only to Torcross to Stretgate although all generally agreed that the system in the bay encompassed Beesands and Hallsands also but the plan was only looking at this section. CH2M Engineers and Environmentalists would consult, survey, hold public consultation during the summer and at the end of summer present a plan to show how they would manage the beach. The plan then had to go to for funding/costing. Unfortunately the public consultation was timed for the middle of the summer holidays but nothing would change this. Those involved were keen to ensure that everyone knew the survey and plan was going on and they would possibly do a public presentation at Stokenham Hal. The information gathered would be provided to parish council to also disseminate but all seemed vague at present although the Chairman noted there were some serious players involved. It was acknowledged within the meeting that mainly this focused on the preservation of the road as of paramount importance as a route and was more an access management plan. On the positive side a large expanse of beach had returned up the line since the recent storm and all beaches were up high.
- It was felt that the recent Endurance Life event caused problems due to inconsiderate parking within Stokenham Parish. Cllr Lynn noted that with regard to the Hallsands event

he did not know the number attending and authorities could not stop them proceeding but advised them not to carry on. People turned up in their 100s. However this Endurance Life event brought 1000s of people running around all over the cliff edge and was increasing each year and many felt it was getting out of hand. The local relationship had been governed on the premise that the organisers believed they would bring tourists into the area but some involvement with the community was now required. It was noted there were signs at Green Park Way and Kiln Lane indicating 'parking here' with no control over how vehicles were left. At Cotmore Way a car could squeeze through but no emergency or delivery vehicles could get to Cotmore Close and Way because they were completely blocked with no marshalling provided. They were even parking on the main road. Those present felt that Prawle and other neighbouring parishes should be brought together to discuss concerns and future needs. Basically it was felt that this event was now disorganised for such outer elements with regard to arrangements and those involved took parish council for granted. Future provision needed integration with locals as they were not even informing people it was happening. The Parish Clerk was asked to write to the organisers and request them to advise, out of courtesy, what their arrangements were for next year with regard to directing traffic, parking and routing vehicles to parking provision following this feedback from the community.

11. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below were noted and agreed for transfer or signature:

Current £569.63

Instant savers (1) £57,379.92

Instant savers (2) £4,929.04

Transferred £3000.00

Received – Nil

Payments to be made in February:

Staples – Copier paper £17.95

Brother MFC-J6920DW A3 Colour Inkjet Copier £183.34

Amazon – Brother LC123 Value Pack Inks £46.47

Screwfix – Padlock for Helmers Maintenance gate £24.17

Wages £1077.96

Annual payment of Councillors Allowance x 9 £824

HMRC £252.43

DCC Pension Fund – Pension payment £334.11

Concorde Copiers – Photocopy final payment before removing copier £6.19

Charles Rogers Building Contractor – 4 x cuts permissive path £144.00

R.C. Rogers – Travel expenses and parking Buckfastleigh Highways Conference £25.50

12. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on Thursday 16th March 2017. A planning committee would be held on the first Thursday in March 2017 if applications were received that required consideration before next full council. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 10p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 16th March 2017.