

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD ON 20TH JULY 2017 IN THE  
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:**

**P. SPENCE (Chairman)**  
**J. ANSELL**  
**W. FLETCHER-NEAL**  
**T. LYNN**  
**A. GOODMAN**

**C. ROGERS**  
**L. COWLEY**  
**MRS P. DOUST**  
**MRS. S. ROWLAND**  
**J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)**

**Also in attendance:**

**Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon**

**APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:**

**J. GARDNER**  
**R. JACKSON**

**MRS C. PEARCE**  
**MRS T DAYMENT**

**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. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the:

- (a) Parish council meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**3. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

**DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Brazil advised he was also on the County audit committee.

With regard to District Council there had been a scrutiny meeting, followed by the Executive and then Audit Committee from which such matters would go to full council the following week. Invest to Earn was a proposal that District was looking at to invest £75million towards a total borrowing of £80million to pay for set up fees and was asking for the first tranche of £25million. This proposal went through scrutiny as acceptable and then Executive but the Audit Committee disagreed and felt the risks were too high so this would be considered next Thursday at District full council. The Chairman felt this just provided fees for brokers and asked what could parish council do.

The Audit Committee, Cllr Brazil explained, looked at risk and their view was that to borrow £80million and only get a return of £1/2million did not seem good business. Some District Councillors however were very keen to press ahead. He however felt this was an absolute

disgrace and the local newspapers would be out the following day so should be covered in the Totnes Times and Kingsbridge Gazette as they were at the meeting. Apparently lots of other councils had gone down this route but the South Hams District issue was the money would be invested outside the South Hams in say an office block in Birmingham or London business with a return value of 5-6%. If a recession hit or interest rates changed this was a huge risk.

With regard to the proposed merger with West Devon District Council this would mean that South Hams residents would be ‘forking out’ about £75 - £80 per annum more to bail out West Devon residents. South Hams would inherit a debt from West Devon and a big budget deficit. Cllr Brazil was asked what the outcome would be if they did not do it and he explained that West Devon would go to the wall but could have a referendum to increase their precept. Further thoughts were if South Hams then had to pick up the pieces for West Devon would they receive a lump sum to assist or would Government just send in a crash team and South Hams lose control. Discussion took place as to whether there was any way that West Devon could be seen to pay their way. Basically it was their decision and their crash but South Hams residents were being expected to pick up the tab and pay to maintain the shared officers and services. At full council on Thursday Cllr Brazil said the decision would be to go out to consultation with residents, County, MPs and businesses. However Scrutiny was nervous about how officers were presenting this proposal as if County, MPs or businesses agreed then District would offset this against the residents opinion even though they paid.

Cllr Brazil reiterated how concerned he was about South Hams District Council and West Devon being run by the same senior officers who invariably needed to safeguard their credibility and income. If council tax went up more than 2% it ordinarily triggered a referendum. Council tax for this District would increase by 50 to 60% under this merger/one council proposal. Normally there would be a referendum but by doing a merger/one council they could impose a 50-60% increase without going to referendum. It was questioned whether if Government came in to rescue the situation and gave West Devon to Plymouth that could be worse. However as South Hams bordered Plymouth this was a ransom strip as West Devon was not connected. Cllr Brazil noted that this scheme was not councillor led at all as there was no political lead at South Hams currently.

*Cllr Brazil left the meeting after giving his report.*

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

**The applications below were received for consideration and such observations forwarded to District Council.**

- 2152/17/HHO Householder application for provision of new entrance porch Spindrift, Holmleigh Road, Torcross – No objection.
- 2209/17/HHO Householder application for first floor extension over garage 10 Primrose Close, Chillington – No objection.

#### **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

Copy letter submitted with regard to the Appeal on Dunstone Cross Water Storage Tank site.

#### **5. DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO RESPOND TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Delegated authority to the Clerk to respond to planning applications received during the August recess following input from councillors was duly APPROVED. .

*Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting.*

#### **6. DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSETS IN PARISH**

Consideration was given assets owned by District that Parish Council might request to have transferred to them. Dist Cllr Brazil was asked to obtain a list from District as to land or assets they owned within Stokenham Parish.

Areas known of and highlighted in this meeting were:

- Torcross Butterfly Field
- Land behind Beesands public toilets.
- Village green in Beesands
- Public Toilets Torcross and Beesands
- Two other areas noted were the County owned highway verge at Carehouse Cross, Stokenham and DCH Homes owned Beeson Allotments.

It was AGREED to approach DCH Homes with regard to the area in Beeson to ask if they would consider providing allotments and await the District list before making any decision or request.

## **7. NEW DEVELOPMENT CLAUSE**

The Chairman gave a thorough overview of the St. Ives Neighbourhood Plan policy wherein he noted that they proposed that any new builds had to have a residential clause included and further stated that the properties built had to be lived in all year round. Various anomalies with regard to policy implementation via perhaps Section 106s and an increase in the price of the current housing stock due to such policy were discussed in detail.

Dist Cllr Brazil was asked to comment with regard to such a policy and he explained that a planning officer he spoke to was not receptive to a joint parish declaration with regard to second homes. Parishes would therefore need to do a Neighbourhood Plan to use such a policy. There was a way to provide affordable housing without building second homes as a community could provide an Exception Site or do Village Housing Initiatives. The emerging District Local Plan (the Joint Local Plan) had hooks for supplementary planning documents specifically about villages and he hoped that Stokenham Parish Council could assist and feed into this. It was asked whether Stokenham should band together with other villages and petition for some sort of attachment to the JLP. The SPDs should have coincided with the inspection in Autumn but had been set back. An idea would be to organise a workshop with Stokenham Parish and invite surrounding parishes along to talk to planning officers about rural housing issues. There were two District Councilors leading for South Hams who did not quite understand the dynamics of rural villages and planners needed to understand these problems as a result of the emerging JLP and how to mitigate such.

It was AGREED that parish council would follow through and write to District and ask to be included in the Supplementary Planning Document discussions, suggesting a workshop, to make the JLP more robust with regard to second homes.

## **8. CHILLINGTON PLAYING FIELD**

A meeting had taken place at the field with regard to the survey results together with discussion about such works and costings. The estimate for remedial works was a conservative large number for professional work on third party terms. However locally based this could be significantly reduced. The proposal provided for a main drain and then laterals and the expert explained that a large amount of the cost for the survey was for drilling rigs and much of the work was pro bono. The expert had offered to guide further discussions and cost the works and in order to provide this more accurate scaled drawing were needed.

The Air Ambulance night landing spot had agreement from Stokenham School and Chillington playing field had been identified as suitable if works were carried out to trim perimeter trees upright, one goal post moved back and the three legged swing swivelled around. The height of the rugby/football post was being checked to ensure it was within landing limits.

It was AGREED;

- (a) to accept the report received from John Grimes Partnership with regard to drainage and approve payment of the professional charge of £3946.80 whilst local costings were being calculated to undertake the drainage works.
- (b) to advise Chillington Community Association in relation to the terms and charges policy for usage of the open space that they had misinterpreted Charity events. These were listed as free to hire but this would be made clearer by continuing the grid line across all columns. With regard to the £20 charge for small events to site a bouncy castle, ball pool etc on the field this would remain and it was noted that the CCA charge £75 for hire of the hall even for a charity event but parish council imposed no charge.
- (c) to provide a grant towards the purchase of goal posts for this open space up to a total cost of £1400 plus installation charge. This cost would be shared three ways between Parish Council, Chillington Community Association and Cllr Brazil.

***Cllr Brazil gave his report at this point***

## **9. REPORTS**

- It was noted that the Hallsands portaloos had been installed and were working well.
- The lifesaving buoy at Hallsands had gone missing and contact would be made by Cllr Lynn with the Harbour Master to obtain a replacement.
- Hallsands wished to provide a defibrillator and advice was given on taking this project forward.
- Beesands had been successful in obtaining funding for repairs to their slipways as had Hallsands with their bid both from the South Hams Coastal Funding and Channel Fisheries Funding.
- It was noted that the changes to parking charges at Torcross meant that any new applications for permits along the A379 layby would not apply. From 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 new permits for anyone with residents or business permits meant they could only park in the Torcross Tank Car Park. However residents could obtain a £40 permit and park at certain times which would mean people swapping spaces just to achieve this. The consultation never mentioned the removal of the layby car park from the permits and this should be highlighted to District Council.
- At Beeson British Telecom had placed a cable in the road but these works had filled all the cleared buddle holes. Cllr Rogers met with the contractors and they had since cleared these.
- The Sumerye Lane footpath closure signs had been erected at Chillington end and by the next morning they had been removed. Works would commence the following day and with the other section commencing the second week of August at Island Farm end.
- It was noted that further buddle holes had been cleared at Kellaton and the new highway contractors appeared to be clearing these watercourses to a better standard.
- The middle of Beesands Village Green had been taped off due to a water main which had burst.
- A talk had been provided by the Orchard Link funding project to the Stokenham Guides about moths. Nets had been set up the previous evening and the moths carefully collected for hands on discussion as to native moths and thereafter the girls went with the expert to Chillington Orchard and learnt about their habitats before releasing all the moths.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Anne Bowyer confirmed that Stokenham School Governors had approved the siting of a night landing area on the school grounds for Devon Air Ambulance. Further information and steps were awaited from Toby Russell of Devon Air Ambulance.
- An adjacent neighbourhood to the Orchard Way permissive path entrance advised that the shrubbery along this curtilage was overgrowing her garden and causing weeds. This area

needed addressing and the Helmers Playing Field contractor would be asked to carry out these works.

- An estimate had been received for repainting the bus shelters and further quotes would be sought before bringing this to parish council.
- Consultation released by District Council today with regard to Taxi Licensing Policy. Responses to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> August but many parishes had requested an extension due to no meetings in August. The Parish Clerk was to consider this policy to ascertain if any matters related directly to this parish.
- Email received from the owners of the section of permissive path between the field adjacent to Stokenham Church and the Caravan Club. It was noted that the current warden from the Caravan Club had been confrontational when asked to desist in using petrol cutting tools. The owners had complained to the Caravan Club and wished to know more about what had been reported to parish council. Further details were required from the person advising of this matter and parish council would offer to carry out any works to assist.

## 10. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

### *Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:*

Current £497.06  
 Savings (1) £59,838.96  
 Savings (2) £4,930.07  
 Transferred £6800.00

### *Received – Nil*

### *Payments:*

Greenscape – Mowing Tanpits June and July £220.00  
 Tozers Solicitors – Legal fees for Deed of Variation for Tanpits £719.00  
 HMRC – Tax & NI £186.40  
 Wages - £1095.25  
 Devon County Council – Peninsula Pension £346.44  
 Peter Shaw – Orchard Link Moth Talk for the Guides £100.00  
 Sue Gay – Orchard Link Bug house project with Stokenham School £100.00  
 John Grimes Partnership – Tanpits drainage report £3946.80  
 Claydon – Replacement Ink Cartridge x 2 council copier £39.00

### *Cheques: None*

## 11. NEXT MEETING

Parish council recess in August but a planning committee would be held if necessary. The next full council would be on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.30p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman      Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.