

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****J. ANSELL****W. FLETCHER-NEAL****T. LYNN****A. GOODMAN****MRS T DAYMENT****C. ROGERS****L. COWLEY****MRS P. DOUST****MRS. S. ROWLAND****MRS C. PEARCE****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****J. GARDNER****R. JACKSON****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 20th July 2017 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting held 7th September 2017 were amended to note that Cllr Gardner had given his apologies and then duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Robin Rose-Price thanked the planning committee for giving residents of Torcross such a fair hearing with regard to the housing application down there. Most he noted were worried about drainage.

His concern in was in attendance for was with regard to village parking as he personally had tenants down at the front and acknowledged that holiday letting businesses would find it difficult to persuade customers to park down at the tank car park. Concerns were noted with regard to security and weather conditions that made the distance when the layby was empty unacceptable. Most understood District Council stating that all short term car parks must make as much money as possible so had removed permits but he felt the stretch along Torcross A379 was essential for tourism to stay in the village. Removal of this would make it harder to let holiday properties not to mention the residents. Locals knew that Herbert Whitley reserved a section of land for the village for their unhindered use but when Whitley Trust Simon Tomlinson left they passed all residents' questions back to District Council who said they could not locate old documents. Most

accepted they must now pay but needed this layby area for residents to park and wanted a change from short to long term and would pay for passes.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Fletcher-Neal, in his capacity as representative for Torcross, had put this issue to District Council in an email to Cathy Aubertin and his sentiments were endorsed by parish council. However he was not sure parish council had influence to act in this matter. This appeared one of those occasional, but now more frequent, revenue grabs by District Council.

Cllr Fletcher-Neal arrived at the meeting.

Cllr Fletcher-Neal noted that Cathy Aubertin had been on holiday. Robin Rose-Price reaffirmed that residents in Torcross would pay but needed to be able to park on the layby. Over this winter most would see that the layby parking area was empty so the amount of revenue would be nothing compared to the imposition on wellbeing of this small community. This has been a short term view without enough local input and strategic overview. The Chairman's proposal was to await a response from Cathy Aubertin and if there was no cooperation then further comments would be made. Cllr Mrs Doust asked if each ticket machine had the ability to offer readings as to usage. Cllr Fletcher-Neal noted that whilst this might aid any consideration the machines were often inoperable and District Council's response was that those using such could phone up and pay thus. However with no mobile phone reception for some networks this would mean someone releasing their parking space to go and pay for such and then perhaps returning to it being taken. The situation was a mess. It had been advised that Dist Cllr Gilbert was responsible for parking and these points would be raised directly with him.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil advised there was not much to report from either council due to the holiday period. The new highways contractors were in place and he noted the concern with regard to the recent closure at the top of Frogmore hill to replace a pipe/drain. The issues at this location that required complete closure were about the width of the road whilst works took place and he had spoken to the parish clerk when she raised concern that there had been neither notification nor chance to comment on the arrangements. Parish Council noted, at this meeting, that they felt the works could have been completed in two days. The closure commenced at 9.30a.m on Monday to allow rush hour traffic to go through (i.e. buses, school transport and commuter traffic). However the workmen started later, ended early and signs were put up to allow priority passing during the evening but no notification of such passage by evening and night was advised further down the closure. It was felt that the community consultation and advice had been scant if non-existent.

With regard to District Council raised he had raised the issue of short term parking in the layby at Torcross with Emma Widdicombe and Cathy Aubertin and he was chasing but they had not been in office. Cty Cllr Brazil advised that he agreed with the local opinion and would work on this concern. At Dunstone Cross the planning Appeal had been dismissed and he would press enforcement to act immediately. He noted some correspondence with regard to the access from Helmers Way for a disabled access from their side over the bridge. They had advised that parish council had agreed to this request. Cllr Brazil had noted this request but advised that parish council were not going to lead. The Chairman noted that these were long and complex issues with regard to this request but that the information provided was not in fact as stated. That said the parish council had been advised from a recent meeting that the Management Company was also not keen due to be involved due to the implied duty of care for a ramp and the bridge maintenance. If the Helmers Way group wished to pursue this ramp then that was their project.

Cllr Brazil advised that the main issue at District was their merger/One Council with West Devon and this consultation finished on 8th October. Cllr Brazil advised he was opposed to this. He continued to explain all the facts and figures that substantiated his concern and why he felt that the

figures bandied around in advice articles, media and emails did not convey the true picture. Parish Council was also just as concerned and took issue with many points.

With regard to procedure the consultation closed and thereafter District Council would have a meeting on 31st October to decide whether to progress with this proposal. If agreed they write to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would decide whether South Hams would stagger their payment to reach West Devons equalisation over a certain amount of years or whether they would be equalised now. There would be boundary changes again but more so in West Devon and the 'District' elections would be delayed by a year to 2020. Government would in fact rubber stamp what the district said and Cllr Brazil believed that only a massive anti reaction would affect Government's consideration of this consultation. Dist Cllr Brazil personally believed that in the future a unitary unit was a much more sensible way to run cost effective services. Locally, across the South Hams, people had not responded and Cllr Mrs Pearce felt that if people were not told how this would affect them no one would take time to respond. Most present felt that the District Council consultation led the respondent in a certain way and the phone survey was appalling conducted. Those conducting the phone survey had no idea what "services" were and when asking the questions could not input in a way that the respondent could give a factual response.

Cllr Brazil was asked in relation to the Appeal Dismissal at Dunstone what would stop people placing a caravan there and staying under the 28 day rule. Cllr Brazil acknowledged this concern and assured that he would ask enforcement to act swiftly but noted that the Joint Local Plan must be made more robust to deal with such situations.

A member of the public was in attendance as he had found the One Council consultation uninspiring to say the least and therefore attended this meeting as he wanted to hear what the parish were saying. He felt that financially District should have more of choice on what they did but he was interested to hear the parish council discussion and stayed to listen more.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 2805/17/FUL Conversion of barn to dwelling Barn at SX 808 427, opposite Church House Inn, Stokenham – Support. However the ongoing retention of the permissive path was appreciated and of significant community wellbeing and it would be preferred if it's new position could run adjacent to the highway to lessen any need for further alterations. The orchard planting was welcomed and the preference would be for the property access and egress to route through the church car park and maintain the village rural wall boundary and possible run off onto the A379.
- 2842/17/HHO Householder application for alteration of existing lean-to and new single storey extension to side of existing dwelling Quicks End, Beeson - Objection: This proposal called for the felling of a large number of mature trees, which provided an important habitat and a haven for local wildlife – on the morning of parish council's site visit they were seen to be full of young robins and finches. In particular, the plans call for the felling of a magnificent, near-fully mature Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) some 18-20 metres tall and with a girth of nearly 3m, quite the best example of this species in the Parish. This extraordinary specimen is denoted on the plans as "species unknown," which tends to undermine the credibility of the tree survey.

Cllr Brazil arrived.

- 2942/17/HHO Householder application for off road parking area 6 Florence Cottage, Torcross – No objection to this change in materials to be used but permeable surfacing would be required due to problems in neighbouring areas with flooding. It was suggested

that due consideration should be given to any such engineering works required in view of surface water and whether a retaining wall and SUDS compatible soakaway was required adjacent to this watercourse and main A road and an engineer's report would provide such assurance.

- 3010//17/HHO Householder application for replacement of existing flat roof with new pitched roof, new fenestration to existing garages / store rooms and rebuilding of 'lean-to' store room Well Farm, Chillington – No objection. However parish council dislike the perception that this application was presented as a conversion to ancillary housing being provided when this was a change of use of garages. There was no wildlife report provided just an ecology statement but this was called for due to works to the roof and cladding board. Parish Council request the planning officer to explain the statement within the application form of his recommendation as to why this application took this route.

Robin Rose-Price left the meeting.

Cllr Brazil provided his report above at this point and thereafter left the meeting.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- 3059/17/TPO T1: Wych Elm - Fell, too big for location, threat to adjacent dwellings and users of adjacent road 15 Robins Field, Chillington – In view of the recently confirmed Tree Preservation Order designation parish council would rely on the Tree Officer's recommendation.

APPEAL DECISION

- 3811/16/FUL Appeal Ref: APP/K1128/W/17/3173720 Dunstone Cross Water Storage Tank, Dunstone Cross, Stokenham. Appeal dismissed.

5. DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSETS IN PARISH

It was AGREED to ask District Council for details with regard to parish council taking over all the assets within this parish.

Member of the public left the meeting.

6. WEBSITE

The content had been reviewed and discussion took place with regard to increasing the information provided and a policy for allowing businesses to advertise as follows:

- Cllr Fletcher-Neal offered to collect local information to be uploaded to the site against a template provided by Cllr Spence.
- Advertising of local, in parish, businesses would be created in a directory format with no additional gimmicks other than a link to a business site if the link remained within the parish.

7. ONE COUNCIL CONSULTATION

The consultation documents had been circulated previously and it was AGREED to put forward a response to District Council by 8th October following attendance by a group of parish councillors at the Coleridge Association meeting to be attended by John Tucker District Leader and Simon Wright Deputy Leader.

8. DAPC AGM

It was AGREED that Cllr Rogers would represent Stokenham at the Devon Association of Local Councils conference and AGM to be held on Tuesday 10th October at Exeter Racecourse at a cost of £25 per person.

9. EVENTS SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Consideration was given and it was AGREED that;

(a) the points parish council wished raised were that too many people attending a sporting event were directed to park in the area with not enough room and no viable place to direct them to. Therefore they blocked residential roads when areas/fields around the parish could be made available/paid for. As this was a profitable event it was felt that parking on residential roads was not acceptable and a suggestion was to approach South Hams District Council for a permit to park all day at Torcross Car Park. Parish Council did not wish to have to ask that irresponsibly or badly parked cars be towed away.

It was also requested that the organisers indemnify Devon County and others with regard to coastal and inland footpath usage for any damage from this event due to its increasing entrants. It should be said on a positive note that the early season usage of these paths does serve to clear passage and at present there have not been any formal complaints for reparation but an acknowledgement and dialogue on this should be included.

(b) Cllr Mrs Doust should attend to feed this information into the meeting being held on the 12th October.

10. AIR AMBULANCE

It was AGREED that;

(a) the terms of a grant in the region of £2850 from the Air Ambulance towards the labour costs to install the electrics and remote switch for floodlit night time landing area were accepted as written

(b) parish council would apply, when requested, and pay for a planning application for the landing area within Stokenham Primary School grounds at a cost of £90.00

11. OPEN SPACES SPORT AND RECREATION (OSSR)

An initial draft layout and content for the OSSR document prepared by Cllr Mrs Pearce was noted and it was AGREED that the work already carried had taken this to a point where a working party comprising Cllrs Mrs Pearce, Cowley, Mrs Doust and Spence could meet and complete the gaps before putting the document out to all organisations to comment upon.

12. AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT

Noted that a grant had been received from the Lottery funding towards works on the Beeson Telephone box and AGREED that such payments for repairs and installation of a defibrillator would be paid when invoices were provided.

13. REPORTS

- Cllr Lynn thanked colleagues for the support in installing the portaloos at Hallsands. This facility had been well used, had no vandalism and was well received and dealt with the previous year problem. Cllr Mrs Pearce would request that the Hallsands newsletter ask for feedback as to whether this facility was appreciated locally and needed in future years.
- Cllr Lynn also suggested that parish council needed to encourage District Council to allocate more car parks since upwards of 50 – 60 spaces had been lost through coastal erosion in the middle car park at Torcross. With this loss together with Beesands parking those visiting could not be accommodated in this parish.
- Lorries had attempted to get down via Bickerton to Hallsands and were getting jammed and a width restriction sign was requested. Due to lack of County funds an approach was to be made to Cty Cllr Brazil from his County budget.

- At Kellaton the HGV sign had also gone and Cllr Ansell was asked to consider whether a replacement was required. It was suggested by parish council that there should be a fee added to planning to force developers to pay for construction signage to stop HGVs trying to access these small lanes.
- At Beeson pool the pothole had arrived again and locally it was felt that BT needed to install a drain into the ditch to stop this reoccurring.
- Cllr Mrs Doust had received a complaint that the property adjacent to the telephone box in Chillington, called The Ridge, had shrubs going up the telephone poles. This was the duty of the landowner to keep clear but BT could be approached to deal with this matter.
- Cllr Doust also congratulated Charles Rogers on his drainage works on Sumerye Lane which were so good she was able to walk without wellingtons. He explained the further concrete bund at the end with three concrete sleepers so water could not come down.
- Middlecombe Lane was the problem of the property owner but was not passable by a horse rider. Cllr Mrs Rowland noted that she had recently been able to access this route by horse and that she had spoken to the various property owners' gardeners. As this section was not on the Definitive Map further work to secure the designation and usage of this path was needed.
- Cllr Mrs Rowland attended the Chillington Community Association meeting and whilst she was supported by fellow Cllr Jackson due to the negativity of some at the meeting she raised the point that they were all volunteers and should work together as a team. She had told the representatives from Chillington Community Association to attend parish council meetings if they had an issue rather than making comments at the committee meetings.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Cllr Jackson although not at the meeting had advised that the Chillington Community Association family day seemed to go reasonably well considering the weather and the Guides did well raising nearly £100 on the day. He also noted that there had been some complaints from users about the pot holes in the entrance slope to the village hall car park which needed addressing immediately. Cllr Rogers and Lynn would look at this issue in the short term and again when drainage works were carried out for a more long term solution.
- Dave Alworth of Stokenham Community Village Association gave apologies but due to his cold was not able to attend. He had been asked by the Chairman to enquire if Parish Council intended to contribute towards the Night Landing Sites at Stokenham and Chillington and if so how much would they contribute. This he noted may be reliant on the funding raised by the Apple Day but it was also asked that if the payments could be made for the sites via the Parish Council so could they reclaim the VAT? In principle parish council would contribute towards this but they needed to discuss installation and ownership with the school before deciding. The VAT issue was complex and would need to be addressed depending on who took ownership, where funding came from and who paid.
- It was advised by District that the weed spraying had taken place but nowhere appeared to have died back. This was to be raised with District maintenance.
- Apple day was to take place on Saturday 14th October. Any assistance for the press was requested and Cllr Spence would draw up a roster. Cllr Lynn would assist with transporting the apple bags and Cllr Goodman had agreed to collect the apples picked by the Guides.
- Kingsbridge Gazette had requested that they now receive all agenda and minutes and had advised that they hoped to cover more parish council meetings.

- Office Copy received from the Land Registry with all details corrected for the land at Chillington with regard to the Covenant.
- Temporary Event Notice applied for and received for the Apple Day at a cost of £21.
- Community Reinvestment Fund had been launched for this financial year. Applications for funding must be above £5000 and meet the following five criteria; Had community need, Had community support, Would provide or improve community infrastructure (e.g. projects involving community buildings, sports facilities, play areas, community allotments / gardens / orchards), Was deliverable, Provided value for money and Had a lasting impact. 8th January 2018 was the application deadline. Projects suggested so far were hard surface/tarmacking for Chillington Playing Field car park and improving Chillington woodland footpaths.
- Reported that Thursday 19th October at Follaton House Citizens Advice had their AGM at 3p.m. to showcase their work.
- A report on the status of Section 106 contributions per parish was now available online and for Stokenham indicated the Grist Mill development contribution.
- At Orchard Way the clearance of the vegetation beside the permissive path had been carried out. There remained some bushes which it was suggested should be cut a foot from the bottom so that they could send up more shoots and hold the bank together but be manageable.

14. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

AUDIT

All audit papers received back unqualified. Notification of completion of audit was yet to be posted. Additional comments were that the notice dates allowed too much time for the public to exercise their rights and this was amended by the auditor.

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £1,104.73

Savings (1) £77,648.67

Savings (2) £4,930.49

Received

August

Section 106 Grant – Ground Investigation works Chillington Playing Field £3946.80

Community Reinvestment Fund – Initial payment Parish Hall Roof £29068.75

Town and Parish Fund – Contribution to Hallsands Portaloos £500.00

September

Community Reinvestment Fund – Final payment Parish Hall Roof £10406.95

Community contributions to Beeson telephone box refurb and defib £1020

Orchard Link project part funding £1354.80

2nd Precept 2017/18 £18048.50

Payments in August:

Wages – August £1095.25

HMRC –Tax & NI August £186.40

Devon County Council – Pension £346.44

Payments in September

Stokenham Parish Hall – Second payment grant for Roof £15868.75

A. Hollands – Payment of materials from BT –X2 Connect Ltd. For materials £1406.25
BT Ltd – Parish phone and broadband £145.44
Greenspace – Chillington Playing Field July – Sept £295.00, highway cuts £156.00, Orchard Way
bank clearance £70 = £521.00
Grant Thornton – 2017 Audit £240.00
Land Registry map of Orchard Way land ownership £3.00
South Hams District Council – Temporary Event Notice for Apple Day £21.00
Devon Communities Together – Annual Subs £50.00
Hawthorns Account Sers Ltd – Payroll May – Sept £42.50
Play Inspection Company – Quarterly report on Chillington £60.00

Cheques: None

15. NEXT MEETING

The next full council would be on 19th October 2017 with a planning committee held on the first Thursday in October if applications were received that could not wait till full council. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 22.10p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 19th October 2017.