

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

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****J. ANSELL****T. LYNN****A. GOODMAN****MRS P. DOUST****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****C. ROGERS****L. COWLEY****MRS. S. ROWLAND****J. GARDNER****MRS T DAYMENT****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****W. FLETCHER-NEAL****R. JACKSON**

The Chairman noted that due to personal reasons Colleen Pearce had resigned.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting none held November 2017.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Toby Russell Devon Air Ambulance was in attendance with regard to a proposed community night landing site within the parish. Devon Air Ambulance had been operating night flights for a year with 55 sites live and another 150 in various stages of development. Since then they had attended 72 helicopter emergencies by night.

The daytime service continued as always with pilots landing as close as possible to an emergency but by night they must use registered sites. Therefore they were asking communities to put in place lighting as this covered two functions. Firstly it protected aviation with single pilots meaning that if the night goggles were to go wrong the pilot could still see the site. Secondly the lighting was more for on the ground and assisted patient care so that they could see where things were put down and deal with the patient. Outside of the lighting all sites were surveyed ahead of use so the pilot did not have to survey before landing whereas by day they do it ad hoc. It might mean they lost some flexibility but they would know they could get the aircraft and paramedics on the ground quicker sometimes saving 20 minutes.

Toby had been out and looked around potential areas at Chillington, Stokenham and Beesands but would only consider Chillington and Stokenham viable for night landing. Another question often posted was 'do we need a site in both communities'. Having one in one area would benefit the other community however in the ideal scenario all villages would have a landing site to get into the heart of the community quickly. The medical team could run 300 to 400 yards with the kit on their back but with this and if they were reliant on additional land transport this would slow things down. He acknowledged all the work that Anne Bowyer had done and agreed the best site was at the school playing field. He had written a report to the school governors who were supportive. He also met with Devon County Council with regard to the school and there were various things required which he felt would be best covered in a three way agreement. For lighting to be provided in unlit areas it just needed a small electronic box with a mobile phone sim card which performed other functions to let the pilot know the landing lights were on in a given area. The playing field at Stokenham would require a 10m high steel column (street light height) with a T bar pair of LED lights, controlled by the same switching unit.

The responsibility of buying the lighting kit would come down to the community. Last year Devon Air Ambulance received £1million and could pay for any equipment going in the ground. The cost effective solution would be for a single feed from the school and the school were willing to allow this. The total cost of £5723 for the provision of the system would include £2827 from Devon Air Ambulance as roughly 50% of costs and the remainder of funding from the community. Most of the 200 communities where these were set up or being developed Devon Air Ambulance had worked with Town and Parish Councils. There was however a conversation now to be had with the school. If parish council paid for the equipment Toby advised they could reclaim the VAT but an agreement would set out who owned and who insured and covered the public liability. He would write and set out to school the power requirements for switching the equipment live which would be about £6p.a. For both lights to be up and running for four hours it was approximately 15pence. So insurance was the main potential cost but in 10 years' time it might need replacing.

***Dist Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting.***

Anne Bowyer noted that funding for this was in place already if it was needed today. A planning application would have to be submitted and parish council could do this at half the usual cost. Toby would also create an information document for people in the community. Cllr Rogers enquired if the lights could be used for other things (i.e. school functions). The switching gear would sit at the supply end but there was a manual switch but the concern would be that other usage might affect the planning application. The plan was to install Stokenham first and then talk to Chillington with regard to a further site. Air Ambulance could cover any labour time for clearing the area of vegetation etc. Anne also gave thanks to Cllr Brazil for his £1000 grant which meant the Village Association had enough to cover the costs.

***Toby Russell left the meeting.***

Anne Bowyer and David Aldworth noted that the landowners, Rew, had resubmitted their plan for the Joint Local Plan to reduce the size/area. There had been a reduction in the size of the site from 30 houses to two batches of 10 and write up now indicated because it was two non major sites it was not a problem. County Highways had stated only with the inclusion of the top field for access were they satisfied so how could the landowner intend to gain access to the housing sites. Anne and David asked if this could be raised at the forthcoming enquiry in the New Year? The Chairman agreed that Stokenham Community Village Association could write to County Highways to ask this question. Cllr Cowley noted the District had extended the village boundary to include the lower fields but would need to redraw a boundary for the third field. Also the top field would impose on the skyline so maybe the change had been a recommendation.

Definition of a major development referred to in the National Planning Policy Framework was different to the District Council statement. Dist Cllr Brazil noted it was not defined but NPPF 14 was specific about major developments and in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the default

was do not build unless there are exceptional circumstances. Now this proposed two minor developments. Stokenham Parish Council was booked to attend and speak at the enquiry but the date to request to do so had now closed. At this point the applicants appeared to have changed their submission and local/national mood was swinging to consider AONB designation and protection. Dist Cllr Brazil noted that they had recently had a couple of examples of single houses in an AONB where officers recommended approval and councillors threw out these applications and an inspector agreed with the councillors and awarded costs.

Moving on Anne Bowyer noted that the Apple Day was on the agenda and a vote of thanks was given to all who came along and helped. It was noted that a telephone call had been received with regard to some apple pulp left and this would be dealt with. Cllr Rogers thought it was a superb day but asked about hygiene and the washing of apples. He also explained that in future he would like to see duck boards/pallets put down to raise the electricity points out above the wet area. The Chairman noted that he had researched this point and that there was small risk for unpasteurised apple juice if someone was of a low immunity and they were exposed. In the USA it was recommended that a mild bleach solution be used to clean apples but was felt that this would be worse introducing such substance.

*Anne Bowyer and David Aldworth left the meeting.*

#### **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Brazil County had attended a scrutiny meeting with regard to provision for children. This meeting had been interesting and he had visited a couple of the offices where the social workers were based and discussed their jobs and what they did. As a result the meeting recommended introducing a proper career structure with built in training for social workers as there was a high turn over of staff because they felt undervalued as they could not progress to the next level. This in turn meant that County brought in contract workers which cost them more in the long run.

Whilst the increased schools funding final settlement had been made by Government a briefing from Devon County noted this £7.5 million did not cover non inflation increases (such as pensions, more children requiring special educational needs and transport). Therefore they were continuing to keep the pressure on Government. The Town and Parish fund application deadline was 15<sup>th</sup> December and he urged parish council to get something in.

As all knew the District Council merger did not go ahead and there was still unrest with West Devon Council, communication being strained at present. District Council must now future proof against taking on West Devon's financial burden as they would only balance their books if they borrowed £80million for their West Devon commercial venture. If South Hams then had to amalgamate and were told to take on any debt South Hams must ensure that everyone knew that the residents of West Devon must carry that debt. He had received an email that evening from Pat Whymer Head of Planning to say that staff were overwhelmed with planning applications and there would be delays.

Dist Cllr Brazil was pleased to note that the car park down at Torcross lay by had become a long stay car park allowing permits to be used within that area. The CEO Steve Jorden was leaving to go to Swindon and Adam Parnell Harbour Master to go Torbay.

*Julian Brazil left the meeting.*

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

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

- 3517/17/FUL Change of use from an agricultural barn to events venue including addition of wood framed slate roofed porch at the entrance, new window, a doorway and closure of covered parking space (resubmission of 1425/17/FUL) Lower Widdicombe Farm Stokenham – Objection due to concerns raised with regard to the proposed visibility splay

to the south which it was locally asserted would need to be wider for safe access and egress of this volume of vehicles. It was felt that the construction of the barn made it difficult to sound proof and by not providing toilets this was not seen as good design to provide weddings and low key functions in this sensitive area. Should access be satisfactorily dealt with it was requested that due to concerns raised by neighbours and agreed by parish council that the applicant should meet with Environmental Health for sound checks be carried out to provide reasonable proposals to mitigate the problem of noise being carried across and around this valley. Introduction of an automatic 90 decibel cut out should also be installed.

3661/17/FUL Alterations to external facade and first floor flat Gull Cottage, Torcross – No objection.

#### **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter objecting to application 3517/17/FUL already forwarded to all parish council.

#### **5. APPLE DAY**

The event this year had been a huge success and it was AGREED that future events be organised and thus the appropriate Licences and Apple Press booking be implemented for next year.

#### **6. OPEN SPACES SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY**

The draft document was provided for parish council to read and AGREED that any further additions or amendments to be sent to the Chairman.

#### **7. OPEN SPACE DRAINAGE**

The drainage surveyor required further reports to be obtained to allow costings for works to drain the playing field to be estimated to obtain a grant and that fee would be £650.00 and it was AGREED this would be paid out of the Section 106 monies held.

Cllr Rogers noted he had walked around the playing field and noted the bottom hedge was growing vigorously and this along with the inside hedge needed serious cutting back. A volunteer group of Cllr Rogers, the Chairman and others would deal with this early in the New Year.

#### **8. REPORTS**

##### **CHILLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Cllr Mrs Rowland should have attended but due to personal commitments was not able to. She had however been contacted with regard to the field drainage and gas tank which is was noted were all tied in together with the surveyor reports but would be sorted over winter.

##### **STOKENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE**

They were holding various fund raisers for the hall maintenance along with a bingo 28<sup>th</sup> November, Pig Race March 11<sup>th</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup> quiz. Cllr Mrs Rowland wanted to show support for such efforts and those present agreed to make up a table for the Pig Race evening.

#### **VALIDATION OF PLANNING DOCUMENTS CONSULTATION**

Cllr Cowley noted that these were difficult documents to go through but advised that the drainage regulation link was worth looking at. This information would be a lot clearer on what planning expected and would address many concerns in the locality.

#### **HELMERS WAY**

Cllr Gardner noted that some documents in relation to this development had again been updated only in August this year. It appeared to be the Section 106 document and may well be a document held by District legal that had now been made public.

### **INCONSIDERATE PARKING**

Cllr Mrs Doust advised that a resident was concerned as the few metres at the entrance to the Fairfield Estates had leaves covering the yellow lines so they could not be seen. This resident wished to know if anything could be done about stopping people parking inconsiderately and basically hampering others trying to get in and out. It was noted that the police were no longer able to ticket and that Devon County enforcement had no reason to visit the area. Concerns had also been raised from Helmers Way residents regarding the footbridge and proposed ramp on the estate side following an email received advising of work proposed to be carried out. As the management company had not advised residents directly they felt ill informed as to liability.

### **HIGHWAYS CONFERENCE**

Cllr Rogers had attended and the first presentation was an introduction from Skanska, the new County Contractors and from this he was unsure that Devon County had a good relationship with them. The Asset Management Plan followed and then Cllr Rogers gave a presentation on how Stokenham Parish Council spent their highway grant fund. There were three breakout sessions in the afternoon which contained a Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund explanation. The Snow Warden Scheme was in place and all sorts of works had been undertaken but it was noted that previous salt provision to the parishes had gone hard so that it would not go through spreaders that some parishes had purchased from their grants. There was a request to update the Snow Warden policy and provide names of volunteers for insurance but this had already been done by the parish clerk. With regard to pothole repairs Cllr Rogers had begun to feel that maybe parish council should start to think about implementing this but having heard from others at this conference he was definite parish should not. County would not fund a contractor for works but seemed content to allow people of pension age to stand in the middle of a road doing works with little more than a red flag.

Everybody appeared to be getting on board with clearing their own parish buddles and highways were now saying 'if we can get water of the road into fields we get less damage on the roads' so they now seemed responsive to what Stokenham were already doing. Previously they wished the work carried out before funding but were now looking to pay up front! Devon County provided a list of all the buddle holes in the area and stated that they cleared every buddle hole on the map once a year. Cllr Rogers totally disagreed with this statement and challenged this within the meeting as with the days allocated to the Lengthsmen this would not even be possible. County was also designing a highways safety awareness course on e-learning as a taster of what Chapter 8 was about. The Community Maintenance Highways Fund could also pay for spraying courses and then volunteers could do spraying.

### **SLAPTON LINE PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP**

The Chairman attended the final meeting of the group before the draft Beach Management Plan was to go out for consultation. This was attended by high level organisations and he felt it was interesting how the original view had mutated and changed and was now termed minimal intervention. This would include managed realignment of the road and there was a realisation shift that trying to hold it back was doing no one any good as if saying that there was a way to stop natural events. The Chairman had urged those present that they must be open with local people and start talking openly now about the inevitability of change in the near future. This was to come to the public early January/February 2018.

### **REMRBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Chairman had attended the church service along with a few others councillors and laid the parish wreath.

## CLERK'S REPORT

- A meeting took place with Paul Allen and his colleagues from Woodland Trust together with Nigel Mortimer and Cllr Spence to discuss works within the woodland. Nigel Mortimer wished to set up a group to do minor cutting back and create woodland habitats and corridors. The Woodland Trust was in agreement with this and would support this by having larger pathway clearance rides done by trained tree cutters. Pete Moore had offered to assist in the local cuts as he could use these twigs for building forest hides etc in his centre. Cllr Spence would try to get another group together to carry out annual works to the orchard. Funding would be sought to provide a better entrance surface into the woods to encourage more community use.
- Attended meeting with Cllr Mrs Rowland, Cathy Aubertin and Honey Foskett to discuss the concern that the weed spraying had not worked. Neither prior advice of works being carried out nor schedule of roads sprayed had been provided but Honey Foskett advised that the operative carried out such works from 4a.m. onwards when the area was quiet. Only the kerbs could be sprayed and not the pavements which were covered in moss. With no street sweeper or road sweeping machine going around afterwards none of the detritus had therefore been removed. As a gesture of goodwill Cathy Aubertin stated that there would be no charge for the initial spray but this would be followed up with a further spray in the next week or so. Honey Foskett would provide a map of the areas covered and also the dates when works would take place. A review of the service that could be provided in the future would be made as if the pavements were not cleared then the treatment was not going to work.
- District Planning Local Planning Validation Checklist consultation received for response 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (2018 - 2022) Consultation received for response by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.
- South Hams Community Voluntary Service on Thursday 7th December for a South Hams (Western) and West Devon would be holding a workshop to be delivered by Devon Voluntary Action and held in Okehampton: West Devon CVS and Alzheimer's Society to explore options for improving support to those with dementia, their carers and their families.
- No formal notification of the Examination programme had been received by Stokenham at present but it was known that they had been selected to speak. The programme received elsewhere stated that Stokenham would talk to the following sessions:  
Housing – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018  
Smaller Towns and Key Villages – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
Policy Area Strategies: Thriving Town and Villages – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
No other local groups appeared from the lists to be booked to speak.
- Elizabeth Kurton Graduate Engineer Flood Risk Management, Environment Group Devon County Council had advised of two flood alleviation schemes to be carried out in Frogmore and Chillington which were due to take place in late February and early March 2018. Each of these schemes would include elements of work which would involve installing pipework beneath the A379, and hence would require a closure of the A379 road. Since this would cause significant disruption to road users, efforts would be made to keep the duration of these road closures to an absolute minimum, and they would not be in force at both locations at the same time. The possibility of night working was also being considered, if this would help to reduce the level of disruption and comments from parish council invited at this point. A response with regard to the February half term in this tourism area had been raised and a request for further information.

- The Stokenham Bug Hotel was entered into the Devon Local nature Partnership's Build for Bees competition and whilst they were not the winners a bag of Wild Flower Mix had been sent as a thank you for entering.
- The organisers of the Community Orchard Project had provided a Community Orchards Handbook as a thank you for taking part.
- Dr Jak McCarroll Research Fellow, Coastal Processes Research Group School of Biological and Marine Sciences at the University of Plymouth had made contact to advise of their proposed scientific instrument deployment along from Beesands January-March 2018 and parish council had responded with landowner contacts and to offer support and request feedback after the study had been completed.
- An invitation had been received by the parish clerk to attend an arts interactive event in Totnes run by Chrysalis. Attendance was not possible due to other commitments but contact would be made to ascertain why Torcross/Stokenham had been invited/included.
- Greenspace was requested to power wash Stokenham Bus Shelter at a cost of £50 due to its untidy condition.
- The church secretary had advised of bags of apple pulp left on the village green after the apple day and Cllr Mrs Rowland would look into removing some. The branches over the highway by the pub there were also causing problems and a team would look at this.

## 9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

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

Current £2,044.41

Savings (1) £77,066.86

Savings (2) £4,930.89

***Received:*** Devon County Council – Cty Cllr Brazil Community Enhancement Fund Grant towards footpaths works £1000.

### ***Payments in November***

Noted that the British Telecom quarterly charge was to increase by £0.60p (exc VAT) per quarter.

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal £18.50

HMRC – Tax & NI £186.20

DCC – Pension £346.44

Wages - £1095.45

Claydon – Workshop sundries and accounts folders £2.50

### ***Cheques:***

2282 Thornhayes Nursery Ltd – Fruit trees (Orchard Grant) £205.00

2283 Information Commissioner – Data Protection Registration subs £35.00

## 10. NEXT MEETING

The next full council would be on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. There would be no planning committee held on the first Thursday in December due to full council being one week earlier. Meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.45p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman      Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.