

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2018 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:**

P. SPENCE (Chairman)
T. LYNN
MRS P. DOUST
MRS T DAYMENT
J. CHURTON

J. ANSELL
MRS. S. ROWLAND
C. ROGERS
R. JACKSON
J. GARDNER

Also in attendance:

Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:**COUNCILLORS:**

W. FLETCHER-NEAL
A. GOODMAN

L. COWLEY
J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)

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 15th February 2018
 - (b) Planning Committee meeting postponed and held 5th March 2018
- were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Gregg Poulter had a house in Beesands and was interested to know what could be done to support areas around the coast that had been hit hard during the storms. These villages had been going through a renaissance which was now tragic and what could be done with the coastal defences which he had read cost £5000 per metre to install. With 200 properties of an average value of £390,000 each this would be up to £80 million of property to be protected. As residents could they do anything as this was a different century since the South Hallsands village was washed away.

Another couple from Beesands were present to also understand what the parish council had to say on this matter and they lived at number 4 Beesands Cellars. It was a lovely community and the action taken by people at Cellars 20 years ago cost around £30,000 and these defences stopped erosion through the bank this year.

Cllr Rogers noted the parish council view would be to have a sea wall from Start Point to Strete but it was never going to happen. In the past authorities had defended the parts they felt they

should do and the history of Beesands, Torcross and Hallsands and how they had evolved with regard to decisions for protection was out there. He had assisted with the creation of the gabions down at Cellars and also defences for the caravans from Cellars wall to the playground and when the caravans went the maintenance stopped and erosion started. It came down to money. Gregg Poulter noted that if there was £70 million of property people would spend money to protect the asset value and could they contribute as owners. The Chairman noted that protecting a private asset and a public asset were different when it came to everyone else in the parish, district or county needing pay to protect private assets where they were exposed to risk. The authorities would put outlay back to the people.

Cllr Lynn explained that South Hallsands had previously done their own private repairs, they continued to recede and they had to be replaced every time. At other areas how much money would an authority risk putting forward for what their experts explained would be the return in saved assets? The Environment Agency had looked at the Coastline Management Plan and each bit of the coast had a designation and for North Beesands was to let the sea come into Widdicombe Ley and for Hallsands the same. However South Beesands should be protected by the sea wall and protection along the green with a managed retreat. It was the same at Torcross but for the A379 there was a report which had a 25 page executive summary explaining the whole argument which could assist residents in understanding what was happening throughout the entire length of Start Bay. The Chairman explained that the shingle was pivoting around a certain point and moved the shingle backwards and forwards for which they had photographs. The University of Plymouth had lectured on the coastal processes and this was a closed system where shingle moved around and it was totally unpredictable where it moved to. There could be 20 years of one way and then it flipped for 10 years another way. A south westerly was the worst when it was low and then an easterly hit and slammed into the wall or sheet piling and destroyed things.

It was complex but they were beginning to understand it now and agencies that looked after Slapton Line met regularly as the Slapton Line Partnership and they had come to the conclusion, after a lot of research, that the most practical and cost effective way to manage was to ship shingle around and recharge areas for as long as was practical. A report written in 2006 took the view that whilst a breach was not likely to happen before 50 to 100 years it was highly likely that the road would be affected. From what had happened recently it looked like the times were underestimated. There was greater energy in storms and the atmosphere so they were more violent and there had been four or five incidents of flash flooding in parish. The A379 line would be indefensible because if anyone looked at the link shingle it could only be realigned once more because of its narrowness. The seaward buffer was down to 2 metres so on the edge of feasibility. If the authorities repaired the road this time as the money had been vouched safe this was probably the last time they could do this physically on the strip there. Afterwards there would have to be a big rethink otherwise they were not being honest with people. This was an area of coastal change so it would change. Managed retreat was stated but it was not managed here. In Wales the local authority had spoken about sale and leaseback of houses to get around the idea of somebody not having to write off the value of their asset.

In Beesands the gabion baskets had held up well but not stopped flooding. The area would change but it was only the asset of a property on the area that caused problems. Cllr Lynn sympathised with residents present as he had felt the same after the Hallsands storms. Nothing would be done by the authorities at Cellars but they might extend the gabions down to the end house there if money was available. Most people who 30 years ago lived along the front at Torcross now lived behind.

Parish Council objected to the large houses given planning permission in Hallsands but District still continued to grant planning. Perhaps the owners should seek legal advice for the contradiction of district view on coastal change and yet allowing new building. All new development in vulnerable coast areas, parish council felt, should be banned because it imposed an implied duty to defend when parish council knew it was not defensible. People also went to Appeal for planning applications and an engineer report might say it would work but engineers' reports often came in and said there was no record of flooding in this area.

Cllr Churton noted that a few years ago there was a big storm in the bay and Hallsands was badly damaged. People in the houses clubbed together and decided they would try and do something themselves for sea defences and installed a concrete edge along the road and spent approximately £17,000 and three weeks later it was gone. Sympathies were there but without the proper engineering works this money could be well intentioned but in the long run it was no good. Cellars area did not get gusts of wind so recharging did assist.

Privately the property owners could talk to District Councillor engineers to seek planning permission and get them on side but it would be expensive work and probably poor value in the medium term. As to whether District would spend any more money the Chairman had no idea but authorities were starved of funds and were allowing old people's homes etc to run out of cash. It was doubtful that anything other than a sop would be given. The section in the middle was always going to get hit and was vulnerable and would go first. Having read about Slapton Line the Chairman noted that the long term prognosis was that over the course of time there would be small inlets along the shingle bar and the way the shingle moves land reformed did not necessarily mean it would have an erosive effect along the line. Storm Emma was worse than the 1979 storm being the biggest storm for 60 years.

With less money available and a sense of realism about the ability to stop nature taking its course it might seem hardnosed but was more thoughtful on where the 'bang for buck' should be spent. There must be more transitional actual management that could be undertaken.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil sent a report by email as he would either be late or not able to make the meeting. He advised that with regard to Torcross and the line it was positive news about the funding but he had no information as to when the realignment would begin but the permissions were in place. The tank car park would be opened imminently as resurfacing was taking place today. What was left of the memorial car park would be opened in the next week. At Beesands remedial works were beginning there. The fishermen's compound was to have surface works and the car park would be cleared from the following Monday. He understood that the play equipment had already been removed. District Council was awaiting a response from the Environment Agency in respect of the Cellars end of the village. It was good to see that the works from 2016 around Beesands village green appeared to have been successful. With regard to Hallsands local residents had carried out some clearing and rock armour movement but neither authority was planning any works. The South West Coastal path would be re-aligned.

People should have received their Council Tax bills by now and County Council had gone up by 5% split into 3% for general revenue and 2% ring fenced for adult social care. The good news was there was an extra £6 million for road maintenance.

District Council had gone up by the maximum £5 (3.2%) and other than that it was a bit of a shambles as per usual.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

The applications below were received for consideration and such observations forwarded to District Council – None received.

5. PARISH MAINTENANCE

The current arrangements were discussed with the following amendments or additions for the forthcoming year:

Grass and vegetation

- Helmers cutting programme to remain with same contractor.
- Chillington Play area hedging team – in next two weeks Cllrs Spence, Ansell, Rogers and Jackson would deal with.
- Torcross footpath needed to be strimmed a couple more times a year one metre either side of the permissive path and a quote would be sought from Greenspace to include on the current contract.
- Play area checks – Cllr Mrs Doust had these in hand and would report back to the next meeting.
- Permissive path access point Orchard Way – To be included in Greenspace maintenance.
- Stokenham Church to Stokeley Caravan site had been cut five times last year and would continue with same contract.
- Torcross permissive path - in a year would need to push back the grass to ensure 1.6m width.
- Parish pavement weeds – Further quotes would be sought (i.e. Weedbuster) due to the District contract not dealing with the problem

Other

- Reparation of the Chillington Hall car park entrance would be done after the drainage works had been carried out in order that they did not cause further damage.
- Roadsign cleaning would be left this year and carried out every other year.
- Sumerye Lane back towards White House hotel was boggy and Cllr Rogers agreed to lay some more road planings.
- Great Hill Wood – Woodland Trust feedback awaited for path works

6. STORM REPORTS

Reports of damage around the parish following the recent snow and storms were made as follows: Cllr Lynn advised that Hallsands was 90% cleaned up. However water was coming out of the higher ley. They had lost their litter bin from down at Hallsands beach. He had also carried out all the gritting around the parish in readiness for the snow.

He asked that two people be written to Mr Tolchard to be thanked for digging out so residents could access through the snow and Jay Oakley for digging people and their vehicles out during the storm.

On 18th/19th April Plymouth University had indicated that they wish to come back to report on their study of the storm and beach movements.

Cllr Churton noted his email to District with regard to the planning permission at Seagulls, Hallsands. A response had been received but indicated that other departments were responsible

and he would deal with this succinctly. During the building works the sea took the Devon hedge and an SV notice found beside the road was not a hydrant but was a sluice valve which should be reported to ascertain whether anything needed to be done.

Cllr Gardner – Thanked the Chairman for turning out and attending during the storms. He advised that the blue light services were not aware of the Emergency Plan and when it should be activated needed consideration. Cllr Rogers noted that most relied on neighbours and family during the winter but an emergency in summer would probably need emergency plan accommodation. Cllr Lynn suggested there should be a telephone tree that could advise of the situation along the coast. Cllr Rogers advised that he had never received Environment Agency training for the Torcross and Beesands gates and did not hold a key. Of note the end gate at Beesands was faulty.

Cllr Ansell advised that Kellaton was alright but snowed in. A partially blocked drain under a property that flooded the yard was discovered when jetted. The County officer report did not contain anything further and he questioned some of the observations as 50% of the water incursion not included.

Cllr Mrs Rowland noted that out around Kernborough people got together and cleared up.

Cllr Mrs Doust reported that the village shop needed to close in Chillington as there was no post getting through and thought they managed for one day after that there were no deliveries. However they were back up and running before the local supermarkets managed to fully.

Cllr Rogers noted that Torcross had been cleared. They were now at Beesands tidying up but residents had been told not to put shingle on beach because it was polluted, but they had. District Council had removed the play area equipment and there was a temporary footpath between the football green wall and gorse. The footpath from Torcross apartments to Cliff House via chapel steps had gone and diversions were being put up and they would board this access up.

The Chairman felt that informally the parish coped perfectly with good neighbourliness and no injuries as far as was known. The gabions by installed by Landmarc at Beesands had held up fantastically and Dan Field District engineer was pleased.

7. REPORTS

Cllr Mrs Doust noted a request for a flashing speed sign in the centre of Chillington village by the Methodist church. She also noted the Chillington History Society presentation was well attended.

With regard the survey work at Chillington Playing Field Cllr Lynn noted that the engineer was attending next Saturday week and had been delayed due to the weather conditions.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Kellaton flooding report advised that a smaller County jetter could be used in the village drains and offer for grants to property owners to make their houses resilient to flooding of up to £5000.
- Torcross residents had requested assistance with clearing the area around the ley following the storm by provision of skips. District council not provide such unless they were manned to ensure no contamination and nor could commercial wheelie waste bins be left for the same reason. A community minded skip Hire Company had offered to place two skips with no charge for carriage and just the cost of the weight of the refuse taken to the quarry and therefore this offer had been accepted for payment by parish council.

- Road closure currently in place due to a hole in the road down to South Hallsands which was believed to have a void below.
- Attended the General Data Protection Regulations training. The implications of what must be put in place appear quite onerous with regard to holding information and obtaining permission to hold such. Also the Data Controller cannot be the Parish Clerk nor a Councillor as they must be independent and if the company providing the training was used for such it would cost in the region of £600p.a.

8. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £2230.74

Savings (1) £ 68,703.93

Savings (2) £208.70

Received: Nil

Payments in March

HMRC – Tax & NI £186.20

DCC – Pension £346.44

Wages - £1095.45

P. Spence – Ordnance Map for submission with night landing planning £12.00

SHDC – Weed spraying around parish £126.00

Hawthorns Account Sers. Ltd – Payroll £119.00

Orchard Link – Annual Subscription £12.00

Cheques:

M.J. Hallet – Hedgetrimming £192.00

9. NEXT MEETING

Any planning applications received that cannot await full council would be considered at a planning committee to be held on the first Thursday in April. The next full council would be on 19th April 2018. Meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 21.31p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 19th April 2018.