

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER 2019 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****MRS P. DOUST****J. ANSELL****A. GOODMAN****A. GHADIALI****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****C. ROGERS****MISS G. ADDISON****J. CHURTON****T. LYNN****MRS. S. ROWLAND****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****L. COWLEY****R. PAIN****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) full council meeting dated 21st November 2019 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting none held December 2019.

3. OPEN FORUM

Phil Elliott from Stoke Fleming was in attendance as he had a planning application in for the change of use and conversion of Torcross Stores. He advised that Anne Dunlop had received no buyer interest for two years of trying to sell. He proposed reverting to two residential properties.

Gina Holland advised she had emailed as they owned the wooded part of the Permissive Path that had been diverted but noted that people were still walking it. She telephoned her insurers who advised they were not insured for walkers whilst this section was closed so their public liability insurance was void. Also with the recent weather not being good there were lots of tree branches and debris down and if people used this route they had no insurance for accidents. It was noted that a sign saying people were using this at their own risk would not assist as it invited people through. The Chairman noted the law of unintended consequences and Cllr Rogers noted their concerns and expressed the view that parish council were grateful to the owners for historically allowing this path. Parish Council would ensure that the gates were padlocked, and walkers were no longer allowed to use this route.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District and County were in purdah due to the forthcoming General Election so no decisions could be taken. The project for flood alleviation at the bottom of Coleridge Lane on the A379 had stalled but the Flood Alleviation Team had been out to provide some temporary apparatus and advice (ie flood gates) to assist residents. Legal matters relating to the proposed scheme were still being dealt with. The Chairman requested that Cllr Brazil contact the resident from Rose Cottage to explain the change to information imparted at the last meeting, which he agreed to do.

With reference to the removal of sandbags provided to residents from the Kingsbridge District depot Cllr Brazil was to have a meeting with an officer from District in Charleton Parish as they also wished these reinstated. He had asked when District Councillors had made the decision to stop the service of providing sandbags and it appeared that everyone pointed in a different direction so he was continuing to press for an answer.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 3658/19/HHO Householder application for enlargement of window on West elevation, replacement of window on North elevation with French door and Juliet balcony and addition of wood burning stove and flue Swans Nest, Torcross – Response 27th December – No comment.

Cllr Brazil arrived and gave his report as recorded above and then stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

- 3785/19/FUL Conversion into 2no. 3 bedroomed dwellings including partial change of use Start Bay Stores and Gifts, Torcross – Response 3rd January 2020 – Objection as parish council felt this was an opportunity for business premises to be continued and more importantly retained in this coastal community. As an adaptation officer was to be appointed to review and work on a Torcross plan in the New Year for when the A379 line was to go any usage change should await the outcome of this study. It was also noted that this property sat adjacent to the Coastal Change Management Area which stated new development should be restricted.
- 3821/19/HRN Hedgerow removal notice to create new 6m gateway to provide safe and suitable access for agricultural machinery Land at SX 794 430, Coleridge lane, Chillington – Objection as this proposal would remove six metres of ancient hedgerow which was well established and provided protection from further run off that could contribute to the problem with drainage and flooding down into the centre of Chillington village. The A379 floods at the junction with this lane (Coleridge Lane) and being a field accessing onto a narrow lane with gates situated higher up opposite other field gates it was felt that larger farm equipment could access through those points.

5. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

It was AGREED to give delegated authority to the Clerk to respond to planning applications received during the seasonal recess, to comply with planning response times, from observations provided by councillors.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The Plymouth and South West Devon Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was considered.

This was a long document of some 306 pages. It was felt that parts were contradictory, and this was therefore not a binding document as the word ‘should’ and not ‘would’ was used too frequently. Another reference was ‘...only in exceptional circumstances’ but no examples were

provided and for development in coastal, undeveloped, AONB there seemed too much wiggle room. If local need must be shown/illustrated for housing this should be done by the developers and there should be no change to the shop or butchers dev. Cllr Brazil noted that under DEV 24 there was an allocation policy for smaller centres, which Stokenham and Chillington were where there must be a local tie to bring applicants higher up the list to obtain an affordable property. DEV 8 also limited the number of bedrooms per dwelling.

It was AGREED to respond with the below comments by 6th January 2020.

Stokenham Parish Council welcomed the chance to consider the draft SPD and looked forward to these policies being applied rigorously in consideration of future applications in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There was concern however that the wildlife and ecological aspects were not felt to have been addressed and the policy interpretation firm enough.

7. DISTRICT PARKING PERMITS

A request for comments to put forward for the District report which would propose changing the structure, purchase of permits and charging rates was acknowledged. It was AGREED that most motorists obtained permits because they were needed, and this proposal would not alleviate the problem of parking. At present a permit paid for gave no guarantee that a space would be available.

8. EMERGENCY PLAN

It was AGREED that Cllrs Goodman, Spence and Lynn would meet up as a working party to consider changes and further information required to update this plan and return to full council with recommendations.

9. COUNTY HIGHWAY CUTS

County offered a contribution of £519 last year towards maintenance of highway visibility splays but parish council pay £987 to keep the level of service required. County had advised that due to financial constraints this year would remain the same with a 3% inflation increase. It was AGREED parish council wished to continue with this arrangement.

10. REPORTS

- Cllr Ansell – Had attended the Field Studies Council meeting. There had been plenty of good sessions with one about cuckoo bees in Devon. Information was provided on beaver introduction around the Otter in North Devon. What had happened in this little valley was excellent work and those presenting seemed to think it stopped flooding. There was now an Environmental DNA test for water to ascertain what was living in it - what fish etc. The Donkey Sanctuary representative talked about how critical donkeys were to economics in the developing world and there was a section on wellbeing and curriculum studies. A woman from Bodmin who started a forest school was now providing meals for people outdoors at a campfire event. Entire families who previously would not attend such from embarrassment of not having basic essentials came together and this lady was providing an inclusive innovative idea and was a social whirlwind. There was an item on mud and seagrass from Prof Malcolm Hart regarding calcified seaweed and how they were dredging into Weymouth. Live seaweed was harvested and then put back in but did not survive as it was too deep with no light. There was to be a talk on the Skerries and effects of the coastal tide, but this was changed to measuring the shingle from Google Earth pictures as the depth of shingle can be seen.
- Cllr Miss Addison – On the footpath from Home Close to Chillington Woods the fence had rotted so that it had fallen into the field. An ash tree had fallen on the fence and Cllr Rogers was asked to take this up with Paul McFadden, County Footpaths.
- Cllr Lynn – At the Channel Fishing meeting it was advised that the local fishermen were not now being provided with the life jackets. These fishermen would source their own.

Commercial Lifeboat from Brixham had nominated Cllr Lynn on 26th January to go to Poole and be put through a simulated Force 9 gale scenario to see how long they would last.

- Cllr Rogers – Advised that the permissive path deviation signs were up along with further County footpath signage.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Cllr Churton had agreed to act as a parish council representative on the Stokenham Parish Hall Committee and John Cadman had acknowledged that he would advise the committee that Cllrs Ansell and Churton would be joining them.
- A further communication had been received from District Planning that an additional fifteen units had been identified with regard to British Telecom proposals to remove telephone boxes and these now included Beesands and Hallsands. It was stated that Hallsands had not had any calls made from it in a year and Beesands had two. Responses to be received by 19th January 2020.
- Five signs had been created, made and delivered to indicate the change in route for the Permissive Path from 1st December. Communication was received from the vendor solicitors regarding parish council writing to confirm that this route was no longer in use from 1st December and a letter had been provided.
- One landowner had requested that the gates to the diverted section of Permissive Path be locked due to people ignoring the notices. The reason for this is due to the path being diverted at present their insurance would not cover the use. These landowners attended open forum and three padlocks and chains would be purchased and put in place.

11. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £928.38

Savings £92,654.07

Received – None.

Payments:

HMRC – Tax & NI £181.93

Wages – £1149.87

DCC – Pension £360.43

Greenspace – Highway cuts £987.00

Adrian Hollands – Defib training sustenance and donation £150.00

Charles Rogers Building Contractor – Permissive Path signage and cuts £306.00

Charles Rogers – Travel and Invoice for padlock and chains £52.87

P. Spence – Chairman's Allowance £145.90

British Telecom – Telephone line £191.96

Cheques: None

12. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on Thursday 16th January 2020 with no planning committee being meeting held on the first Thursday in January 2020. Meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 9th December 2019.